



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

HB16-1083

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0660 **Date:** June 10, 2016
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Brown; Hamner **Bill Status:** Signed into Law
 Sen. Donovan; Grantham **Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: WESTERN STATE COLORADO UNIVERSITY ROLE AND MISSION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue	See State Revenue and Expenditures Section.	
State Expenditures		
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Potential increase or decrease in revenue and expenditures.		

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, Western State Colorado University's (WSCU) admission standard is "moderately selective." This bill changes the admission standard for WSCU to "selective." The bill also removes the authorization for the university to offer teacher preparation and business degree programs, and replaces it with authorization to offer broader professional degree programs.

Background

To determine admission standards, institutions currently use "index scores," which are computed based on the 3-year average of the median high school grade point average and the median college entrance exam score of students admitted, with the median high school grade point average more heavily weighted.

State Revenue and Expenditures

To the extent that changing WSCU's admission standard to "selective" makes the institution more attractive to potential students without excluding any students who currently choose to attend, the bill will increase revenue and expenditures for WSCU. An increase in enrollment will increase both tuition revenue and expenditures to educate those students, as well as the number of College Opportunity Fund stipends that WSCU receives. To the extent that a higher admission standard reduces enrollment, compared with current law, the bill will decrease revenue and expenditures for WSCU. Any adjustment in appropriations needed to reconcile enrollment changes resulting from the bill will be addressed through the annual budget process.

Allowing WSCU to offer a broader range of professional degree programs is not expected to impact revenues or expenditures. Rather, it aligns statute with WSCU's current offerings and provides the flexibility to adjust degree offerings in the future. There are no current plans to expand degree offerings.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on April 1, 2016, and takes effect August 10, 2016, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education Information Technology

Research Note Available

An LCS Research Note for HB16-1083 is available online and through the iLegislate app. Research notes provide additional policy and background information about the bill and summarize action taken by the General Assembly concerning the bill.