

## Issue Brief – UCAT Enrollment Growth

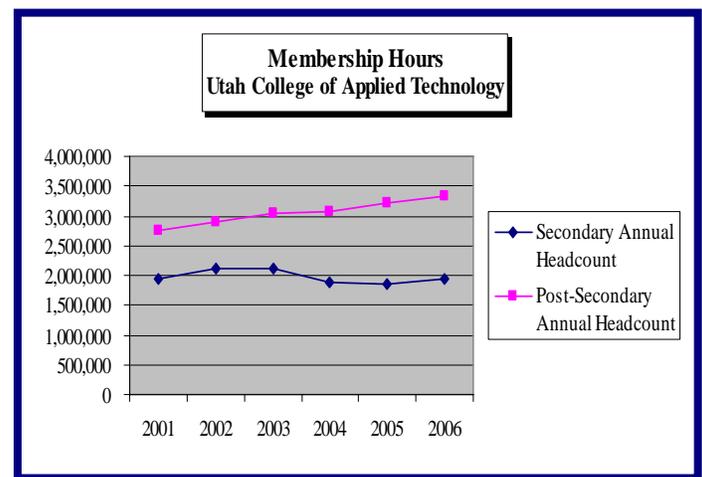
NUMBER UCAT-01

### SUMMARY

The Analyst recommends an appropriation of \$1,351,700 for FY 2008 to cover the enrollment growth experienced during FY 2006 at the nine Utah College of Applied Technology (UCAT) campuses. State funding (\$1,197,800) and dedicated credits (\$153,900) for enrollment growth allows the UCAT campuses to continue to provide applied technology education to students throughout the state while enhancing program offerings to meet industry needs.

### OBJECTIVE

The mission of UCAT is to provide applied technology education (ATE) to ensure a skilled and educated workforce. UCAT campuses offer open-entry/open-exit, high quality, competency based training for secondary and post-secondary students including certificates of completion, associate of applied technology degrees, and competency-based high school diplomas. During the 2005-2006 year, UCAT provided training of nearly 5.3 million membership hours, an increase of 207,000 over the 2004-2005 year. Enrollment funding is a critical component to UCAT campuses so they have the capacity to provide access to students. The chart to the right shows the history of UCAT enrollments.



### DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

When ATE was under the State Board of Education, the enrollment growth funding for the Applied Technology Centers (ATCs) and Applied Technology Center Service Regions (ATCSRs) was calculated by increasing the base funding of each entity by a system-wide average enrollment growth factor. This approach did not fund institutions based on actual enrollment growth. It also failed to account for varying costs of instruction between campuses and programs. Certain programs are equipment intensive, while others require an instructor with specialized credentials. There is also the challenge of certain curriculum limiting access due to faculty/student ratio requirements or availability of space because of equipment constraints.

#### *Method of Allocation of Enrollment Growth Funding*

For FY 2008, the funding request from the UCAT Board of Trustees is based on the incremental enrollment growth experienced during the 2005-2006 year of 207,000 membership hours. The calculation is based on an average direct cost of instruction of \$6.53 per hour, which is partially offset by tuition collected from post-secondary students (\$1.25 per hour). The total request for funding the new students is \$1,351,700.

The following table shows the secondary and post-secondary growth at the specific campuses and the corresponding funding needed:

**UCAT Enrollment Growth**  
Membership Hours and Funding

	<u>Projected Change in Membership Hours</u>			<u>LFA Recommended Funding</u>		
	Secondary	Post- Secondary	Total	Total Cost	Dedicated Credits (Tuition)	State Funds
Bridgerland ATC	22,970	5,617	28,587	\$186,700	\$7,000	\$179,700
Davis ATC	17,444	9,524	26,968	176,100	11,900	164,200
Dixie ATC	(12,151)	49,519	37,368	244,000	61,900	182,100
Mountainland ATC	13,256	46,981	60,237	393,200	58,700	334,500
Ogden/Weber ATC	17,784	(40,961)	(23,177)	(151,300)	(51,200)	(100,100)
Salt Lake/Tooele ATC	(4,226)	57,201	52,975	345,900	71,500	274,400
Southeast ATC	(1,892)	(29,906)	(31,798)	(207,600)	(37,400)	(170,200)
Southwest ATC	12,348	2,208	14,556	95,100	2,800	92,300
Unitah Basin ATC	18,353	22,932	41,285	269,600	28,700	240,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,886</b>	<b>123,115</b>	<b>207,001</b>	<b>\$1,351,700</b>	<b>\$153,900</b>	<b>\$1,197,800</b>

In previous years, funding for enrollment growth has been allocated to the individual UCAT campus' line item. For FY 2008, the UCAT Administration is requesting that the funding be appropriated to the Central Administration which will then distribute it to the various campuses. This would be a change from how the enrollment growth funding has been appropriated in the past.

The Analyst recommends funding for enrollment growth in the amount of \$1,197,800 for FY 2008. The Legislature will need to determine whether the funding goes directly to the campus' line item or to the Central Administration.