



Administrative Efficiencies and National Comparisons

The following charts indicate that the costs associated with operating Maine's public universities and the University of Maine System itself compare favorably against national averages.

This information differs from some of the statements contained in the recent Brookings Institution report. Because of those inconsistencies, the University of Maine System conducted a preliminary analysis of data upon which the Brookings Report is based. As a result of that analysis, the University System determined the nature of those discrepancies:

- The Brookings Report used U.S. Census Bureau data, which aggregates all data for all public universities and colleges in each state to provide a single, all-encompassing depiction of higher education. The numbers used to express Maine's status do not present the individual data of Maine's three public higher education entities: the Maine Community College System; Maine Maritime Academy; and the University of Maine System.
- Based on our own reporting error, the Brookings Report data under-represented the University of Maine System's part-time instructional staff. As a result, it negatively skews the ratio of instructional employees (i.e., full-time and part-time faculty) to non-instructional employees.
- Though no doubt unintentional, the report's assessment of the University System misrepresents certain data when it states that Maine leads the nation "with \$2.13 going to non-instructional payroll for every dollar going to instructional payroll." This statement appears to be based – at least in part – on the above-mentioned reporting error.
- After fixing the reporting error for 2007, the University of Maine System spends \$1.09 on non-instructional payroll for every dollar going to instructional payroll. This system wide figure is below the 2006 national average of spending \$1.11 on non-instructional staff for every dollar spent on instructional staff.
- The terms "non-instructional employee" and "non-instructional payroll" have been interpreted by some readers of the report as representing "administrators." While administrators are, indeed, non-instructional employees, the category also includes a wide variety of essential non-teaching staff members, such as librarians, public safety officers, custodians, and clerical workers. As of 2006, university administrators constituted 3.4% of all UMS employees.
- Even with those corrections, Maine will tend to exceed the national ratio of non-instructional employees to instructional employees for several reasons:
 - By statute and by practice, Maine's higher education structure places a heavy emphasis on geographic access to post-secondary opportunities.
 - We have three distinct public higher education systems, each with specific missions.
 - Each institution within those systems requires certain core levels of services, facilities, and functions.

In fact, the University of Maine System ranks favorably in administrative efficiency when comparing student-to-administrator and faculty-to-administrator ratios, as demonstrated in the table below.

UMS FTE Student/Faculty to Administrator Ratios

		Student/ Administrator	Faculty/ Administrator
1999	UMS	108:1	8:1
	US Average	70:1	5:1
2001	UMS	126:1	10:1
	US Average	79:1	5:1
2003	UMS	127:1	9:1
	US Average	69:1	4:1

Source: National data - NCES; UMS - HR

Note: The larger number represents a higher level of efficiency.

It also ranks favorably when comparing the ratio of students to non-instructional faculty. When analyzing this chart, one must take into consideration other university-based programs and services that may skew ratios. The most conspicuous examples would include the hundreds of non-instructional university employees paid through grants and contracts to work on research projects; their inclusion would exaggerate the ratio of non-instructional employees to students.

University of Maine System Student / All-Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratios (FTE) 2001 - 2005

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UM	FTE Students	8,335	8,665	8,923	9,054	9,204
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	1,634	1,567	1,630	1,642	1,666
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		5:1	6:1	5:1	6:1	6:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UMA	FTE Students	2,690	2,769	2,936	2,806	2,759
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	181	182	191	199	196
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		15:1	15:1	15:1	14:1	14:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UMF	FTE Students	2,117	2,093	2,116	2,087	2,149
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	225	213	216	227	222
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		9:1	10:1	10:1	9:1	10:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UMFK	FTE Students	694	708	779	907	919
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	74	77	78	81	80
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		9:1	9:1	10:1	11:1	11:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UMM	FTE Students	653	680	754	666	626
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	76	67	64	60	65
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		9:1	10:1	12:1	11:1	10:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UMPI	FTE Students	1,058	1,158	1,207	1,293	1,242
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	110	104	102	109	106
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		10:1	11:1	12:1	12:1	12:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
USM	FTE Students	6,844	7,296	7,223	7,305	7,348
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	967	1,005	1,069	1,062	1,102
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		7:1	7:1	7:1	7:1	7:1

		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
UMS*	FTE Students	22,391	23,369	23,938	24,118	24,247
	FTE Personnel (Non-faculty)	3,457	3,401	3,552	3,592	3,645
Student/Personnel (Non-Faculty) Ratio		6:1	7:1	7:1	7:1	7:1

*UMS total FTE non-faculty personnel include system-wide services and University College Outreach.