

**Narrative for the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE) FY 2020
Annual Report**
(July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020)

General Information

WICHE has no administrative staff or director. Administrative support for the agency is provided through staffing at the College of Health Sciences in the University of Wyoming.

Agency Contact

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Year Established

The Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education was established by statute in 1953.

Statutory References

Wyoming Statutes, Title 21, Chapter 16, Article 2.

Number of Authorized Personnel

There are three WICHE commissioners appointed by the Governor. In FY 2020, Wyoming's representatives were UW College of Health Sciences Dean David Jones, Laramie; Senator Fred Baldwin, Kemmerer; and Western Wyoming Community College President Kim Dale, Rock Springs.

Organization Structure

WICHE is a separate operating entity funded by state legislative appropriation. The functions of the agency are performed by personnel within the University of Wyoming under the umbrella of the College of Health Sciences.

Clients Served

WICHE serves Wyoming residents from the undergraduate level through graduate and professional programs.

Budget Information

FY 2020 General Fund Expenditures: \$2,552,810

Meeting frequency

The WICHE Commission meets twice per year. WICHE Certifying Officers meet once a year.

Mission and philosophy

The mission of WICHE, based upon its enabling legislation, is to provide residents within Wyoming and the other western states within the compact an opportunity to obtain high-quality, cost-effective education without replicating programs in every state.

Major Accomplishments/Efficiencies

The annual report published by the WICHE office is available on the web at: <http://www.wiche.edu>. Wyoming highlights are available at <http://wiche.edu/state-highlights/wyoming>.

Professional Student Exchange Program

Through WICHE’s Professional Student Exchange Program (PSEP), Wyoming sent 82 students to out-of-state programs in 2019-20 in 8 different fields.

| Field | # of Wyoming students |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Dentistry | 6 |
| Medicine | 10 |
| Occupational Therapy | 4 |
| Optometry | 4 |
| Osteopathic Medicine | 4 |
| Physical Therapy | 18 |
| Physician Assistant | 7 |
| Veterinary Medicine | 29 |
| TOTAL | 82 |

Western Regional Graduate Program

Wyoming sent 56 students to out-of-state institutions via the Western Regional Graduate Program, while receiving 5.

Western Undergraduate Exchange

1,025 Wyoming students participated in Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE), attending schools in other WICHE states while 1,843 WUE students attended Wyoming institutions from other WICHE states.

Internet Course Exchange

The University of Wyoming is a member of WICHE's Internet Course Exchange (ICE), an alliance of member institutions and systems that share distance delivered courses among two- and four-year institutions in the 16-state/island WICHE region.

Interstate Passport Program

The Interstate Passport program to block transfer lower division general education courses is under development and will facilitate transfer of students from other Passport institutions.