

2025-30 Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4)

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
27 KINGS COLLEGE CIRCLE
TORONTO, ON
M5S 1A1

**Ministry of Colleges, Universities,
Research Excellence and Security**



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SMA4 Interim Agreement – To be Signed by March 31, 2025

2025-30 Strategic Mandate Agreement

Between

University of Toronto

and the

Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

Signed for and on behalf of the Ministry
of Colleges, Universities, Research
Excellence and Security by:



David Wai
Deputy Minister

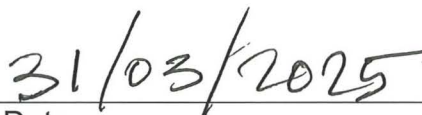
Signed for and on behalf of University of
Toronto by:



Dr. Meric Gertler
President

April 3, 2025

Date



Date

This agreement focuses on accountabilities for funding related to the 2025-30 Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA4), including corridor funding under the Enrolment Envelope, performance-based funding under the Differentiation Envelope, and STEM allocations. Special purpose/other institutional grants are not included as part of this agreement.

Once signed, the institution commits to work with the Ministry to finalize institutional technical appendices by June 2025. The signed technical appendices will be appended to this agreement. The ministry will conduct a thorough review of the postsecondary funding model ahead of SMA4 Year 3 (2027-28).

The agreement may be amended in the event of substantive economic or policy changes that would significantly affect the SMA deliverables. Any such amendment would be mutually agreed to in writing, dated, and signed by both parties. SMAs, including this agreement, represent a joint expression of the parties' intentions and expectations. SMAs do not establish a contractual relationship or legally enforceable obligations.

Preamble

Strategic Mandate Agreements (SMA) are bilateral agreements between the ministry and the province's publicly assisted colleges and universities. SMAs are a key component of the Ontario government's accountability framework for the postsecondary education system. This agreement is between the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security and University of Toronto.

SMA4 will run through the fiscal period from April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2030 and has been designed to advance three strategic objectives:

- 1) Improve education and economic outcomes of students,
- 2) Improve outcomes for communities, and
- 3) Support sector stability and accountability.

SMA-Related Funding

Through SMAs, the ministry incentivizes stable domestic enrolment and accountability for student and community outcomes. The ministry agrees to fund a particular enrolment level of 204,837.33 Weighted Grant Units (WGU).

A portion of this SMA funding is linked to performance on 8 metrics. SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26) and Year 2 (2026-27) will maintain the 25% proportion of total ongoing operating funding for performance-based funding that was reached in SMA3 Year 5 (2024-25). The proportion is expected to grow by 5% starting in SMA4 Year 3 (2027-28) reaching 40% by SMA4 Year 5 (2029-30). This proportion may be revised based on the results of the funding model review prior to SMA4 Year 3 (2027-28).

Total "SMA-Related Funding" in SMA4 will be broken down into:

1. Enrolment Envelope: based on a corridor midpoint measured in WGUs to incentivize stable domestic enrolment; (for details see Appendix 1)
2. Differentiation Envelope (which includes Performance-Based Funding): to support accountability for student and community outcomes (for details on eight SMA4 metrics see Appendices 2-3); and
3. Priority Funding: STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Funding related to the additional weighted enrolment units added to the corridor midpoint dedicated to the continued delivery and enhancement of STEM programs.

Additional STEM WGUs and Adjusted SMA4 Midpoints

For SMA4, the ministry will provide funding to support the continued delivery and enhancement of STEM programs at Ontario's publicly assisted colleges and universities. This funding supports institutions to deliver high-quality STEM programs to

prepare students for in-demand careers and maintain a robust pipeline of STEM graduates in key industries such as advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence and the life sciences.

Funding will be implemented through an adjustment to corridor midpoint for the five-year period of SMA4 and will be subject to the annual reporting requirements as outlined in Appendix 4 “STEM Accountabilities”.

University of Toronto will have 727.02 WGUs added to its existing corridor midpoint for STEM enrolments. The resulting SMA4 midpoint will be 204,837.33 WGUs. With a per WGU funding rate of \$3,164.70, this represents a total of \$2,300,800 in STEM funding allocation for each year of SMA4.¹

For communication purposes, the ministry and the institution agree that this funding represents support for **197.88 STEM learners per year** at the institution, based on the ministry’s historical funding rates.²

Accountability Requirements

For the duration of SMA4, five per cent of an institution’s total operating grant will be linked to accountabilities that will support the government’s objective of improving sustainability, and increasing accountability, efficiency and transparency in Ontario’s postsecondary education system.

This five per cent excludes time-limited funding and will be assessed annually as part of SMA4.

Accountabilities will focus on timely reporting of the identified data and activities and annual attestation related to key activities. For the full list of reporting accountabilities, please see Appendix 5 “Accountability Requirements”.

¹ Funding for 2028-29 and 2029-30 to be confirmed by the ministry through future multi-year planning exercises.

² To estimate the number of STEM learners supported, the ministry first estimated the institutional number of weighted enrolment units resulting from the STEM funding using the standard funding rates. The ministry then converted the number of weighted enrolment units to Full-Time equivalent (FTE) for universities and to full-time headcounts for colleges using historical enrolment to weighted enrolment units ratios. The ratios were calculated based on the average of the latest five years of data (2019-20 to 2023-24) and were institution-specific. Data is derived from USER and CSER enrolment submissions.

SMA4 Technical Appendices

Signed Between

University of Toronto

and

Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security

Signed for and on behalf of the Ministry
of Colleges, Universities, Research
Excellence and Security by:



David Wai
Deputy Minister

Signed for and on behalf of University of
Toronto by:



Dr. Meric Gertler
President

June 30, 2025

Date

17 June 2025

Date

Appendix 1. Enrolment Corridor Adjustments

Corridor Ceiling: The ceiling will remain at 3% above the corridor midpoint and will be held constant for University of Toronto at 210,982.45 WGUs throughout the SMA4 cycle.

Corridor Floor: The corridor floor for SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26) will be lowered by institution's historical 5-year average STEM enrolment¹ lagged by one year and will be set for University of Toronto at 120,085.66 WGUs. In SMA4 Year 2 (2026-27), the corridor floor will be lowered by an updated rolling average of STEM enrolment² if the institution submits a domestic enrolment target and meets this target.

The corridor floor will revert to the SMA3 level in SMA Year 3 (2027-28) to Year 5 (2029-30).

University of Toronto	SMA3 2024-25	SMA4				
		2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Corridor Ceiling	210,233.62	210,982.45	210,982.45	210,982.45	210,982.45	210,982.45
Corridor Midpoint	204,110.31	204,837.33	204,837.33	204,837.33	204,837.33	204,837.33
Corridor Floor	197,987	120,085.66	TBD	197,987	197,987	197,987
Enrolment Target (Headcount)		66,789				

Note: Institutions that do not establish domestic enrolment targets will not see their corridor floor adjusted in Year 2 (2026-27), reverting to the SMA3 corridor floor.

The ministry will review the corridor and performance-based funding model prior to SMA4 Year 3 (2027-28) which may result in changes to the corridor midpoint level in 2027-28. If no changes are communicated as part of that review, the corridor midpoint, ceiling and floor will be extended through to 2029-30 as outlined above.

¹ For SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26) the relevant years for the Corridor STEM adjustment will be 2019-20 to 2023-24.

² For SMA4 Year 2 (2026-27) STEM enrolment rolling average will be based on 2020-21 to 2024-25.

Appendix 2. Performance-Based Funding and SMA4 Metrics

Performance-Based Funding in SMA4 is provided based on targets set for eight metrics in two priority areas:

- Student and Graduate Outcomes: 1) Graduate Employment Rate in a Related Field; 2) Graduation Rate; 3) Graduate Employment Earnings; and 4) Experiential Learning
- Community and Economic Outcomes: 5) Community/Local Impact; 6) Institutional Strength/Focus; 7) Investment and Innovation-Related; and 8) Institution-Specific.

These metrics are largely consistent with those used in SMA3, ensuring stability and predictability. They are also broad enough to recognize institutions' individual strengths and distinct mandates, as well as the role institutions play in their local communities and economies. Narratives below are intended to describe how the institution's activities and initiatives support metric performance.

Appendix 3a. Institutional Profile

The ministry recognizes the importance of supporting a differentiated system and building on institutional strengths to enhance efficiencies in the postsecondary education sector.

The Institutional Profile is intended to describe how an institution's mission and strategic goals support the priority areas of the Ontario government, as identified in this agreement.

University of Toronto (UofT) is proud of its differentiated role in the Ontario post-secondary system as Canada's flagship university. With three campuses in the Greater Toronto Area, UofT is ranked number one in Canada in [all the major rankings](#) and is frequently ranked among the top 10 public universities in the world (e.g., Times Higher Education World University Rankings, QS World University Rankings, National Taiwan University Rankings).

UofT's [Towards 2030](#) framework outlines the University's distinctive role as a research-intensive institution, with a global reputation for generating new and transformative discoveries. The framework notes the two key strengths of the University are (a) its breadth of disciplines and (b) its close relationship with, and contributions to, the prosperity of the Toronto region, Ontario, and Canada. UofT is [ranked in the top 50 globally in 46 subject categories, more than any other university in the world](#). UofT's activities generate significant economic benefit for Ontario and Canada, and our [graduates are highly employable](#), thanks to their world-class educational experience.

UofT brings together top minds from every background and discipline to collaborate on the world's toughest challenges. UofT and affiliated hospitals lead in [regenerative medicine](#) and precision medicine. In Arts & Humanities, where UofT ranks 10th in the world, the [Jackman Humanities Institute](#) supports interdisciplinary ways to understand human experience. UofT's experts in artificial intelligence and machine learning include [Nobel laureate Geoffrey Hinton](#). Over 200 faculty focus on urban issues, providing insights on how to [improve](#) and [redesign](#) cities. Students and trainees at all degree levels have opportunities to engage with these challenges—89% of UofT's accomplished scholars teach undergraduates.

Rooted in and reflecting its diverse city region, UofT is committed to inclusive excellence, supporting a rich environment for research, teaching, innovation, and social impact:

- 38% of first-year undergraduates accessing OSAP come from families with a household income of <\$50,000 (MCURES OSAP data)
- 73% of first-year students identify as racialized and/or Indigenous (National Survey of Student Engagement, 2020)

- 23.9% of U of T students are part of the first generation in their families to attend university ([U of T Student Equity Census](#))

UofT makes a difference in the community. More than 13,000 students take part in co-curricular experiential and service learning. UofT's entrepreneurs have secured more than \$3 billion in investment and [created more than 650 startup companies over the past decade](#). Entrepreneurial hubs [across three campuses](#) assist more than 400 student-led startup teams annually. The student-run dentistry clinic receives more than 78,000 patient visits each year and the [Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health](#) (SAMIH), with its local partners, will address the shortage of family physicians and specialists. Ranked [1st in the world for sustainability](#), UofT has built the largest urban geoechange system in Canada; [all three UofT campuses will become climate positive by 2050](#).

Appendix 3b. Metric Narratives

Student and Graduate Outcomes

Metric Name: Graduate Employment Rate in a Related Field

Metric Definition: Proportion of domestic graduates employed full-time in jobs related to skills acquired in their program of study, two years after graduation

Data Source: Ontario University Graduate Survey (OUGS)

Narrative

UofT places a strong emphasis on the employment outcomes of graduates across a wide range of fields, disciplines, and careers. The graduate employment rate (2 years after graduation) remains above 90%. In its latest ranking of graduate employability, [Times Higher Education](#) placed UofT 14th globally and eighth among public universities. UofT was also the top-ranked public university in North America. Based on a University of Toronto Alumni Survey, 97.6% of UofT alumni are employed, compared with [93.6% of the total Canadian workforce](#)³.

Alumni mentoring programs, career services, and curricular and co-curricular experiential learning opportunities are accessible to students through a [single portal](#). UofT continues to offer its signature [Backpack to Briefcase \(b2B\)](#) program at the Faculty of Arts & Science. Networking events such as b2B industry nights enable students to learn about the experiences of alumni in industry and academia, explore career prospects, and gain insights about how their degree can launch into a variety of exciting professions and pathways. Resources such as [Career Navigator](#), [Program](#)

³ The comparable estimated employment rate for the Canadian workforce is the inverse of the 2017 unemployment rate of 6.4% as published by Statistics Canada for the 15+ Canadian workforce.

[Pathways](#) and [Program Plans](#) help students on all three campuses explore future careers as part of their academic journey.

The Career Outcomes Study provides a snapshot of employment outcomes (as of 2022) for UofT PhD graduates. It follows up on the 10,000 PhDs project, which found that (as of 2018) about 60% of graduates worked in academia, with roughly one-third in tenure stream positions. The 2022 study found that, while almost half of PhD graduates work in the postsecondary sector, one-quarter are now working in the private sector—an increase from 2018. This shift is more pronounced in the physical and life sciences where more than 40% of PhD graduates are now working in for-profit industry roles. Companies such as Google, Intel, RBC, Sanofi, Roche, and Amazon are among top employers of UofT graduates, who are translating their research into job-creating and life-improving products and services for Ontarians.

Metric Name: Graduation Rate

Metric Definition: Proportion of domestic and international students who graduated within a certain period of time

Data Source: University Statistical Enrolment Report (USER)

Narrative

UofT is committed to providing students with an environment in which they can thrive. Student graduation rates are measures of student success. For the entering cohort in 2017, the graduation rate reached 80.1%. UofT graduation rates continue to improve year over year and continue to exceed the Ontario graduation rate. Key data initiatives such as the Academic Analytics (AA) project support strategic enrolment planning, program design and program review, and assist in reducing barriers to academic success by enabling analysis of key milestones within students' academic journeys. Student advising systems and processes are also being transformed across multiple divisions to better support students from admission to graduation.

Data, including survey responses, have informed the evolution of key supports for student success. For example, UofT's accessibility offices support the success of students with mental health conditions and physical, sensory, and learning disabilities. Over the past decade, the number of students registered with Accessibility Services has increased by 143%. Surveys conducted between 2019 and 2022 prompted the creation of new resources such as the Disclosure and Accommodation Strategies for the Workplace guide, and new roles such as the Indigenous Accessibility Advisor, Experiential Accommodations Coordinator, and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Support Coordinator.

To support the academic and personal success of students, UofT continues to implement the recommendations of the Presidential and Provostial Task Force on Student Mental Health. This work aims to create a caring campus and safe environment, guided by UofT's partnership with the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH). Investments in research initiatives such as [Inlight](#) produce high-quality, impactful research and drive scalable research innovations to improve student

mental health and wellness outcomes. An improved [continuum of mental health supports for students](#) has led to a 49% increase in mental health service interactions and visits since 2019-20 and the elimination of waitlists.

Metric Name: Graduate Employment Earnings

Metric Definition: Median employment earnings of domestic graduates, two years after graduation

Data Source: T1 Family File tax data and Postsecondary Student Information System (PSIS) (linked via Statistics Canada's Education and Labour Market Longitudinal Platform (ELMLP))

Narrative

UofT has consistently ranked among the top 15 globally in the [Times Higher Education](#) employability ranking over the past decade, placing 14th overall and eighth among public universities in its latest ranking. Students choose from 700+ programs with access to worldwide industry partnerships, cutting-edge labs and studios, and opportunities for research collaboration. Unique program combinations – including innovative minors and certificates – support competencies in leadership, global fluency, data analytics, business fundamentals, and interdisciplinary areas such as sustainability. UofT graduates are equipped with a world-class degree and the skills, experiences, and connections for a lifetime of career possibilities.

To facilitate their success as measured by earnings and other factors, UofT has initiatives on all three campuses aimed at jump-starting students' careers shortly after graduation. For example, [UTSC's Partners in Leadership Mentorship program](#) combines one-on-one mentoring with in-person and online events connecting UTSC alumni with graduating students to help them transition to their chosen paths after university. [UTM's Get Hired Fair](#) connects students with employers from for-profit, government, not-for-profit, and startup organizations from all industries and sectors. [Leadership for Grads](#) provides graduate students across hundreds of programs with opportunities to develop skills to lead with impact in diverse contexts.

UofT has continued to grow its [Career Learning Network](#) (CLNx), which helps students find pathways to meaningful work by matching them with jobs, providing skills development tools, and connecting them to industry partners to build their professional networks. The number of companies registered with the CLNx has more than doubled since SMA3, and currently features 16,000 industry partners who are actively seeking new hires, engaging in campus events such as career fairs and information sessions, and providing job shadowing opportunities to our students. Through the CLNx, UofT students have access to more than 13,000 job postings, both local and global, which frequently evolve into long-term careers.

Metric Name: Experiential Learning

Metric Definition: Proportion of domestic students who had experiential learning/work-integrated learning opportunities as part of their program of study

Data Source: Institutional Data

Narrative

Experiential learning enables students to acquire new skills, understand workplace practices, and explore how academic experiences contribute to the broader community. Expanding access to these high-impact practices is a priority for UofT. From 2018 to 2022, there was a 36% increase in graduates who took courses with experiential learning components.

The recently launched [UofT Co-op](#) supports the UofT Co-op Portal, which connects employers with students from over 100 disciplines across programs on three campuses. The programs include:

- UofT Scarborough: Arts & Science Co-op and Management Co-op (>4,000 students registered in 2023-24)
- Engineering Professional Experience Year (PEY) Co-op, St. George campus (>80% of 3rd year engineering students participated in 2023-24)
- Arts & Science Internship Program (ASIP), St. George campus (launched Fall 2021; >1,000 students registered in 2023-24)
- UofT Mississauga Co-op Internship Program (launched Fall 2024)

UofT's fully-, associate-, and community-affiliated hospitals and health-care sites offer teaching and research experiences for health-sciences students that are among the best in North America. In addition, the University offers many individual courses with experiential learning opportunities. UofT's three campuses allow students to take part in work-integrated learning throughout one of the world's most diverse urban environments. Over 13,000 students engage in [co-curricular experiential and service learning](#) through work-study, mentorship, leadership opportunities, international experiences, research opportunities, personal and professional development, course unions, clubs, University-affiliated volunteer experiences, and student life programs.

As the world becomes more globally interconnected, there is a growing emphasis on meaningful international experiences for students, whether through student exchange programs, study abroad programs, international work placements, or courses conducted with international field trips. In 2022-2023, 5,116 undergraduate and graduate students participated in course, research and professional international experiences through learning abroad, including 1,648 [global at home](#) activities (virtual) and 3,468 in-person activities. UofT has set aside nearly \$3 million in annual needs-based funding to reduce barriers and increase access to these programs.

Community and Economic Outcomes

Metric Name: Institutional Strength/Focus

Metric Definition: Proportion of domestic enrolment in an institution's self-identified program area(s) of strength to the total institutional domestic enrolment

Area of Strength: Enrolment in Broad Arts & Science Disciplines, including Emerging Data Science Fields

Data Source: University Statistical Enrolment Report (USER)

Narrative

The extraordinary breadth and depth of academic excellence across UofT's three campuses and fourteen fully affiliated hospitals reflect the excellence of the University's faculty, graduate and undergraduate students as well as their partnerships with leading researchers and institutions worldwide. The impact of this critical mass of world-leading, multidisciplinary expertise in important emerging research and education fields is reflected in the results of [subject rankings](#). In 2023, UofT was one of six universities ranked in the top 30 of all 11 subjects in the [Times Higher Education subject rankings](#). UofT is ranked in the top 50 for 46 subjects in the [QS rankings](#), more than any other university in the world.

UofT's strategic focus is built on this breadth and depth, which attracts large numbers of high-quality students, both domestically and internationally. New academic programs, collaborations, and research opportunities help undergraduate students benefit from the wide variety of expertise across UofT.

Within its current funded domestic enrolment corridor, UofT will continue to focus on the subset of programs identified under SMA3 – a combination of the humanities, social sciences, and the sciences – plus areas of emerging demand in STEM-related fields. UofT expects to continue its targeted growth in data sciences in particular, leveraging its strengths in this interdisciplinary area, from machine learning to environmental sciences. UofT is prepared to expand STEM-related programs including engineering if additional funded spaces are made available.

Academic excellence in these areas enables cross-disciplinary exploration of complex challenges, including:

- [Artificial intelligence](#): from governance and ethics, to fraud detection, cybersecurity, and big data analysis.
- [Clean technology](#): from global energy systems and decarbonization, to access to energy, and measuring policy and technology impact.
- [Children's health and development](#): from empathy and bullying, to child welfare and children's education, and human development.

Funded expansion growth for the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH), and additional spaces in the MD, physician assistant, nursing, and other health sciences programs will extend the impact of recognized institutional strengths to more students and more communities.

Metric Name: Community/Local Impact

Metric Definition: Proportion of domestic enrolment in the population of the city (cities)/town(s) in which the institution is located

Data Source: University Statistical Enrolment Report (USER)

Narrative

UofT is fortunate to be based in one of the world's most open, culturally vibrant, and economically dynamic city-regions. All three campuses foster relationships with local partners to have a meaningful and positive impact.

The student-run dentistry clinic provides quality dental care to 78,000 underserved community members each year. Downtown Legal Services, a poverty law clinic and clinical education program operated by the Faculty of Law, offers free legal services to around 2,000 clients annually, with 140 law students working under expert supervision. At the Waakebiness Institute for Indigenous Health, researchers and educators from across UofT work with community partners and Indigenous Peoples to address the complex factors that underlie disparities in health between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Lifelong learning programming reaches tens of thousands of learners each year, with many divisions working directly with community and industry partners to support re- and up-skilling certificates and microcredentials.

UofT's commitment to access means that, in addition to financial support available through government loan and grant programs like OSAP, undergraduate and graduate students have access to need- and merit-based aid. In 2024-25, UofT set aside \$380 million in financial aid for students, providing the average student well above the Ontario average, and recently also established a minimum funding level of \$40,000 per year for doctoral students. With about 10,500 student housing spaces across its three campuses, the university has a housing guarantee for students entering their first year, and has about 1,250 additional spaces under construction that will come online over the next few years. Recognizing the continuing strong demand for student housing, the University plans to build another 3,000 to 5,000 spaces over the next decade.

Globally, over 700,000 UofT alumni contribute to civil society in more than 200 countries and territories, creating 3.7 million jobs and generating \$368 billion in annual revenues (UofT [Alumni Impact Survey](#)). Alumni-founded ventures demonstrate the value of international partnerships, providing students and graduates with opportunities relevant to our increasingly global economy.

Metric Name: Investment and Innovation Related – Total Sponsored Research Revenue

Metric Definition: All research activities and contract research funded from restricted sources such as government, private industry and donors.

Data Source: Council of Ontario Finance Officers (COFO), Table 2, Column H, consolidated and non-consolidated entities.

Narrative

Between 2020 and 2022, UofT scholars collaborated with peers from over 1,200 academic institutions around the world. Only Harvard, University College London, and Oxford have more extensive global collaboration networks. UofT's [Institutional Strategic Initiatives](#) enable collaborations across disciplines and networks to advance large-scale, high impact research to solve multi-faceted challenges in Ontario and beyond.

UofT is consistently ranked in the top five globally for research citations, in the company of Harvard, Stanford, University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and University College London. The National Taiwan University Ranking, which ranks universities according to the performance of scientific papers, [places UofT fourth globally](#).

UofT's international leadership in generating influential evidence-based knowledge attracts competitive research funding. In 2022-23, UofT led Canadian universities with \$497 million in overall received investment and \$1.49 billion when combined with partner hospitals. 61% of funding came from federal granting agencies. In April 2023, UofT received the largest federal research grant ever awarded to a Canadian university. The \$200 million Canada First Research Excellence (CFREF) grant awarded to UofT's [Acceleration Consortium](#) has already revolutionized the speed of materials discovery. UofT continues to diversify funding sources through research collaborations, industry partnerships and other international opportunities. These comprised 20% of UofT's total research funds in 2022-23.

UofT researchers receive numerous accolades, leading in prestigious Canadian and international honours, including nine Nobel laureates. UofT faculty secure a significant share of national prizes for research, including 30% of Killam Prizes, CIHR prizes, and NSERC prizes over 10 years. UofT faculty received 20% of Royal Society of Canada Awards and Medals over the past 10 years. At 330, UofT and Toronto hospitals' allocation of Canada Research Chairs (CRCs) is the largest in the country. Our researchers received 49% of major international awards awarded to faculty at Canadian universities in the past two years.

Metric Name: Institution-Specific: University of Toronto Supported Start-ups

Metric Definition: The number of start-ups being actively supported by incubators and campus-led accelerators across the University's three campuses.

Data Source: Annual survey of the University's incubators and Campus Led Accelerators (CLA)

Narrative

UofT's entrepreneurship community is Canada's leading engine for research-based startups and a global leader in transforming ideas into vital products and services. Over the past decade, UofT researchers, clinicians and students have launched 650

startups, created over 9,000 jobs, and generated more than \$3 billion in investment, outpacing every other Canadian university. In 2023, [UBI Global](#) ranked UofT in the top 5 University-managed business incubators in the world, providing entrepreneurs with access to 12 accelerators across our three campuses. In 2024, UofT was the [top Canadian university in the Ignition ranking](#) of institutions transforming entrepreneurship.

In addition to start-up companies based on research, UofT also provides support to students and faculty through incubation programs for both incorporated entities focused on innovation, as well as students and faculty working towards incorporation:

- 1,000+ patent applications filed in the last 10 years
- 80% of inventions name a student or post-doc as an inventor
- Entrepreneurial hubs across 3 campuses assist more than 400 student-led startup teams each year
- More than 200 entrepreneurship-related courses attracting over 10,000 registrants

UofT hosts many programs and initiatives that provide mentorship, expertise, resources, and strategic connections to entrepreneurs at all stages of their journey. Training and growth opportunities for start-ups include:

- Black Founders Network (BFN) Smart Start Awards, supported by KPMG, provide financial and nonfinancial support to early-stage Black entrepreneurs.
- Indigenous Entrepreneurship Program, hosted in partnership with UTM's ICUBE and UTSC's BRIDGE along with training consultant RedBird Circle, offers a 14-week entrepreneurship program based on traditional knowledge, created in collaboration with Indigenous experts.
- FemSTEM Program, hosted by Health Innovation Hub (H2i), offers events designed to inspire, engage, and celebrate women entrepreneurs.

The new Schwartz Reisman Innovation Campus anchors UofT's world-leading artificial intelligence scientists and startups in the heart of Toronto's Discovery District. It represents a transformative opportunity for UofT to further catalyze development of Canada's leading innovation ecosystem.

Appendix 4. STEM Accountabilities

Projections of Domestic STEM Enrolment

Below is University of Toronto's projection of domestic STEM enrolment over the SMA4 period as of May 2025.

University of Toronto	STEM Enrolment (Domestic Full-time Equivalent, Eligible for Funding)					
	Preliminary	Projections				
	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
STEM	28,556	28,748	28,901	29,078	29,156	29,244

University of Toronto will strive to meet or exceed STEM enrolment as projected above.

2024-25 Corridor Recoveries One-time Suspension (if applicable)

For 2024-25, the ministry will suspend funding corridor recoveries for institutions that have fallen below their corridor floor. The funding is intended to be used to retain this level of STEM enrolment.

Accountability Requirements for Additional STEM WGUs

To ensure accountability for STEM funding, the ministry will monitor annually institutional data on STEM enrolment, number of STEM programs and STEM program graduate outcomes. The depth of report-backs required will be calibrated based on the amount of STEM funding received. Universities receiving less than \$500,000 can provide higher-level report backs and may omit other elements identified below.

University of Toronto will be asked to review and add to data populated by the ministry through the SMA4 annual evaluation process, provide a narrative explanation of key trends related to STEM enrolments, programs, and labour market demand and attest on working with the ministry to develop and report on commercialization metrics through the SMA4 Annual Evaluation Process.

Institutional Data and Outcomes

To be populated by the Ministry

- STEM enrolment (count in FTEs and share of total)
- STEM programs (count and share of total)
- Employment Earnings of STEM domestic graduates two years after graduation
- Graduation Rate of STEM domestic graduates
- Graduate Employment Rate of STEM domestic graduates (two years after graduation)

To be populated by the University

- Experiential Learning in STEM programs

Narrative

Institutions will include an annual narrative with an explanation of how STEM funding supports the continued delivery or enhancement of STEM programs at the institution, such as maintaining enrolment and program offerings or providing more experiential learning (EL) opportunities. The narrative will include the following elements:

- The list and breakdown of the use of funds by expenditure categories to support STEM program costs: salaries and wages, student services, program delivery, equipment / supplies, communications, and technology / IT services. Unused funds that were not used to support STEM costs in these areas may be recovered by the ministry in the following year.
- If STEM enrolment is less than projected in a given SMA4 year or there is a reduction in STEM programming, the institution must provide an explanation and outline its plan to rebuild STEM enrolments.

Required only if allocation is above \$500,000:

- Supporting information on STEM faculty/staff and STEM cost per student:
 - For example, STEM faculty and staff: number and share to total of full-time faculty and administrative staff in STEM program departments.
 - STEM program cost per student⁴: estimate of total, direct and indirect, costs per student to deliver STEM programs at the institution.

Attestation Related to Commercialization Metrics

Since 2023-24, the ministry has been requiring institutions to submit qualitative annual commercialization plans (ACPs) outlining their activities. Starting in 2025-26, reporting will shift to include a standard set of quantitative IP and commercialization metrics. To align the work being done on ACP system performance metrics with SMA4, encourage sector adoption of commercialization metrics and drive overall improvements for Commercialization and STEM programs, University of Toronto will commit annually to:

SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26) and Year 2 (2026-27): Engaging with the ministry, as called upon, to refine the ACP metrics and streamlining the list of commercialization metrics to a shortlist of common sector metrics that may be appropriate for inclusion as a performance-based funding in a future SMA cycle. Institutions will also attest to

⁴ Direct costs include at minimum instructional costs related to salaries, wages and benefits (for both academic and support staff such as lab technicians or teaching assistants) and other direct costs as deemed necessary (e.g., materials and supplies; furniture and equipment purchases). Indirect costs include the costs of space, student services, administration and other campus-wide costs. Methodology details will be confirmed during the SMA4 Annual Evaluation Process in further consultation with the sector.

submitting their ACPs, meeting the expectation of the ministry for information and data requests and working to resolve data collection issues.

Remaining years of SMA4: Attesting to reporting the agreed-upon commercialization metric(s) annually through the ACP.

Note that commercialization metrics will not be linked to funding in SMA4, unless an institution has chosen a commercialization metric as one of its 8 metrics tied to performance-based funding.

Failure to report on the STEM accountabilities elements as described above, may trigger a recovery of STEM funding by the ministry in the fiscal year following the Annual Evaluation process.

Appendix 5. Key Data Reporting and Attestations

For the duration of SMA4, five per cent of an institution's total operating grant will be linked to accountabilities and if any one element of the accountability requirements is not met, five per cent of total operating funding will be deducted. This deduction will operate on a slip-year such that if accountabilities are not met in 2025-26, for example, the funding reduction will take place in 2026-27.

This five per cent excludes time-limited funding and will be assessed annually as part of SMA4.

Data Reporting

University of Toronto will submit on time the following annual reports:

- Audited Enrolment Report by December 31 of each year
- Graduate Record File by February 15 of each year
- University Financial Accountability Framework: Due dates for risk rating reporting requirements following ministry memo released each year to all universities. Institutions will submit their responses within the timeline articulated in the ministry memo and the most recent financial accountability guidelines sent out to the sector.

The accountability relates to the fiscal year of submission, not the year of underlying data. For example, in SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26) the accountability will relate to the submission of audited enrolment for 2024-25 which is due on December 31, 2025.

Attestations

University of Toronto will attest annually on:

1. Research Security

SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26): As called upon, institution will attend meetings and collaborate with the ministry to develop the approach for institutional research security plans. Institutions will also submit disclosure of their international agreements as requested by the Ministry.

Remaining years for SMA4: Requirements for the annual attestation will be communicated to the sector each year in March in advance of the next fiscal.

2. Efficiency Metrics

SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26): Institutions will agree to engage with the ministry, as called upon, to develop efficiency metrics that use consistent and verifiable data and benchmarks that will help find efficiencies in the sector. The institutions also attest to

meeting expectations of information requests communicated, or to work with the ministry to resolve any issues with respect to data collection.

Remaining years for SMA4: Requirements for the annual attestation will be communicated to the sector each year in March in advance of the next fiscal.

3. Skills and Competencies Assessment

SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26): As called upon and in collaboration with MCURES, institution will participate in a sector Working Group related to scoping and developing an implementation approach for the skills and competencies assessment.

Remaining years for SMA4: Requirements for the annual attestation will be communicated to the sector each year in March in advance of the next fiscal.

The ministry will confirm attestation requirements through each Annual Evaluation cycle ahead of the next fiscal year.

Accountability requirements implementation will be monitored through Metric and Data Workbooks and will be confirmed by the institution during the SMA4 Annual Evaluation Process.

If an institution anticipates delays in submitting any of the reporting items, the institution must request an extension with a reason for delay and the institution's proposed new submission date by emailing the ministry contacts as listed in the technical manual, in advance of the deadline. Ministry approval of the extension is required.

Appendix 6. Federated and Affiliated Institutions

SMA4s are established with the colleges and universities in Ontario receiving direct operating funding support from the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research Excellence and Security.

For the purposes of these agreements federated/affiliated institutions in Ontario are considered part of the primary institution and will not have their own standalone agreement.

As part of this agreement, the ministry encourages all primary institutions to discuss the impacts of SMA4 and performance-based funding with federated and affiliated institutions.

The ministry is requesting that institutions confirm that they have discussed SMA4 with affiliated/federated institutions.

Attestation Signature

Information regarding the 2025-30 Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA4) has been discussed with applicable affiliated or federated institutions:

- University of St. Michael's College
- University of Trinity College
- Victoria University
- Toronto School of Theology (for Emmanuel College, Knox College, Regis College, St. Augustine's Seminary, Wycliffe College)



Dr. Méric Gertler
President



Date

Appendix 7. Projected Financial Information

Funding Envelope ⁵	SMA4 Year 1 (2025-26)	SMA4 Year 2 (2026-27)	SMA4 Year 3 (2027-28)	SMA4 Year 4 (2028-29)	SMA4 Year 5 (2029-30)
1. Enrolment Envelope	\$223,492,625	\$223,492,625	\$223,492,625	\$223,492,625	\$223,492,625
2. Performance-Based Grant ⁶	\$167,962,782	\$167,962,782	\$201,555,338	\$235,147,894	\$268,740,451
3. Differentiation Envelope (Remainder) ⁷	\$278,607,719	\$278,607,719	\$245,015,163	\$211,422,607	\$177,830,050
4. STEM Funding	\$2,300,800	\$2,300,800	\$2,300,800	\$2,300,800	\$2,300,800
Total SMA-Related Funding (1+2+3+4)	\$672,363,926	\$672,363,926	\$672,363,926	\$672,363,926	\$672,363,926
Performance-Based Grant At Risk ⁸	\$8,398,139	\$8,398,139	\$10,077,767	\$11,757,395	\$13,437,023
Accountability Funding At Risk ⁹	\$33,592,556	\$33,592,556	\$33,592,556	\$33,592,556	\$33,592,556

In addition to “SMA-related funding” the ministry also provides funding via Special Purpose Grants (SPGs) and the Postsecondary Education Sustainability Fund (PSESF).

⁵Further details on calculations are available in Ontario's Performance-Based Funding Technical Manual. Funding data presented for SMA4 Years 1-5 are estimates based on the 2024-25 final operating grant totals. This table will be updated on the Ontario.ca Open Data portal. Updates in Years 3-5 will be based on a broader funding review, decisions on performance-based funding proportions, and metric performance. As the SMA-related funding does not include SPGs, the ministry holds these figures constant, for modelling purposes, based on the latest final operating grant totals.

⁶The Performance-Based Grant has been capped at the system-average annual proportion of 25% in SMA4 Year 1 and Year 2, with potential increase by 5% each year up to 40% in Year 5, pending a broader funding review ahead of Year 3.

⁷ The Differentiation Envelope (Total) has been kept at the system-average proportion of 60% of total operating funding in SMA4 Year 1 and Year 2 (proportion for Years 3 to 5 pending broader funding review ahead of Year 3). The Differentiation Envelope (Remainder) in this table reflects Differentiation Envelope without the Performance-based Funding Grant.

⁸The total amount of performance-based grant at risk is five per cent of the total performance-based grant due to the Stop-Loss Mechanism, which caps metric losses at five per cent.

⁹ Five per cent of an institution's total operating funding would be clawed back if the institution does not meet all accountability requirements.

Appendix 8. Data, Targets, and Results

Metric	2025-26 APT	2025-26 Actual	2026-27 APT	2026-27 Actual	2027-28 APT	2027-28 Actual	2028-29 APT	2028-29 Actual	2029-30 APT	2029-30 Actual
Graduate Employment Rate in a Related Field	87.96%									
Graduation Rate	80.18%									
Graduate Employment Earnings	\$61,138									
Experiential Learning	67.89%									
Community/ Local Impact	2.86%									
Institutional Strength/ Focus	39.70%									
Investment and Innovation Related	\$1,324,77 2,714									
Institution- Specific	391									

Note: Data for 2025-26 APT may be updated as part of the Annual Evaluation Process, as the ministry continues working with the institutions on data validation. "2025-26 Actual" refers to the year in which the evaluation takes place and not (necessarily) the year of the data. Data for out-years will be updated on Ontario.ca and in the SMA4 Dashboard in Open SIMs every year after the completion of Annual Evaluation Process.

Appendix 9. Weighting Strategy

Metric	2025-26 Weighting (Min 5%, Max 25%)	2025-26 Notional Allocation	2026-27 Weighting (Min 5%, Max 25%)	2026-27 Notional Allocation	2027-28 Weighting (Min 5%, Max 25%)	2027-28 Notional Allocation	2028-29 Weighting (Min 5%, Max 25%)	2028-29 Notional Allocation	2029-30 Weighting (Min 5%, Max 25%)	2029-30 Notional Allocation
Graduate Employment Rate in a Related Field	10%	\$16,796,278	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Graduation Rate	10%	\$16,796,278	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Graduate Employment Earnings	10%	\$16,796,278	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Experiential Learning	10%	\$16,796,278	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Community/Loc al Impact	10%	\$16,796,278	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Institutional Strength/ Focus	10%	\$16,796,278	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Investment and Innovation Related	25%	\$41,990,695	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$
Institution- Specific	15%	\$25,194,417	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$

Note: This table includes weightings and notional allocations for only 2025-26. Data for out-years will be updated on Ontario.ca every year after the completion of the Annual Evaluation Process.