

# **Yukon University Accountability Framework**

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*This mutually agreed upon document is the manual that provides Yukon University and Yukon government, Department of Education with the guidelines for the Accountability Framework and resulting reporting.*

## Legislative Context

The Yukon University Accountability Framework (“the Framework”) is a collection of accountability and performance measures selected to fulfil the requirements of s.55(1) of the *Yukon University Act*:

### *S.55 Accountability and performance measures*

- (1) *The Minister must, in consultation with each Yukon First Nation and the board, establish accountability and performance measures by which to assess*
  - (a) *the university’s performance in carrying out its purposes; and*
  - (b) *the effectiveness of the strategies developed by the university to carry out its purposes.*

The Purposes of the University are defined in s.3 of the *Yukon University Act* as:

### *s.3 Purposes of university*

- (1) *The purposes of the university are*
  - (a) *to offer a balance of the following educational programs:*
    - (i) *baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degree programs,*
    - (ii) *certificate and diploma programs, including apprentice and trades programs,*
    - (iii) *continuing education and adult basic education; and*
  - (b) *to undertake and maintain research, scholarly activities, and other learning and training activities for the purposes set out in paragraph*
- (2) *In carrying out its purposes, the university must do the following:*
  - (a) *advance training, learning and the dissemination of knowledge for the betterment of society*
  - (b) *enhance the environmental, cultural, social and economic well-being of Yukon by offering a balance of services, activities, training and educational programs that meet the needs of Yukoners;*
  - (c) *provide educational programming and undertake research that is rooted in the northern environment, culture, society and economy;*
  - (d) *honour and support*
    - (i) *reconciliation with Yukon First Nations,*
    - (ii) *the jurisdiction of Yukon First Nations under final agreements and self-government agreements, and*
    - (iii) *the implementation of those agreements by building capacity through education and research for and with Yukon First Nations;*
  - (e) *include, respect and honour Yukon First Nations’ knowledge, worldviews, cultural and traditional practices and educational priorities in the university’s educational programming, training, research, services, governance, administration, policies and facilities;*
  - (f) *consider the needs of Canadian students from outside Yukon and international students attending the university*
  - (g) *so far as and to the full extent that its resources permit*
    - (i) *provide educational programs that serve the needs of Yukon communities, and*
    - (ii) *strive to serve educational and training needs of Yukon that may be specified by the Commissioner in Executive Council.*

## Objectives

The Yukon University Accountability Framework, and resulting reports, are intended to:

- Assist government and the university with assessing the effectiveness of the university's performance in carrying out its legislated purposes
- Assist government and the university with assessing the effectiveness of the strategies developed to carry them out.<sup>1</sup>
- Increase transparency and advance a shared understanding of how, and to what extent, the University is meeting its purposes; and
- Serve as a resource in support of institutional learning and development.

The Yukon University Accountability Framework, and resulting reports, are intended to hold relevance and utility to the following audiences:

- The Government of Yukon, as the party responsible for Yukon University's enabling legislation, primary funders of the university, and guardians of the public interest;
- Yukon First Nations, as rightsholders in Yukon education;
- Yukon University ("the university");
- Yukon citizens and other individuals with a direct interest in the offerings and function of the university;
- Prospective Yukon University students, both those within Yukon communities and those residing outside of Yukon Territory;
- Yukon employers who may rely in part on the university for labour market supply;
- Current and prospective employees of the University; and
- Donors to University-affiliated charities.

## Goals

This framework sets out the following goals for higher education in the Yukon and Yukon University's role in achieving these goals:

GOAL	STATEMENT
ACCESSIBILITY	All Yukoners should have the opportunity to advance their education beyond secondary school and to achieve their potential.
QUALITY	Higher education should prepare learners to succeed in their personal and professional lives through programs of high quality in keeping with national and international standards.
RESEARCH & INNOVATION	Yukon should maintain and strengthen its capacity to undertake research that is rooted in the northern environment, society and economy.

<sup>1</sup> [Yukon University Act. 2019. s. 55\(1\)](#)

COLLABORATION WITH YUKON FIRST NATIONS	Yukon should achieve its goals in a way that supports Yukon First Nations, honours the jurisdiction of the Yukon First Nations under final agreements and self-government agreements, and builds capacity through education and research for and with Yukon First Nations.
COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITIES AND THEIR COMMUNITY CAMPUSES	Yukon should achieve its goals for higher education in a way that is collaborative with Yukon communities and their Community Campuses.
FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY	Yukon should achieve its goals for higher education in a way that is financially sustainable and fiscally responsible.

## Duration, Review and Renewal

The Accountability Framework seeks to be sensitive to the anticipated extent, maturity, and capacity of Yukon University data collection, analysis, and reporting systems. Recognizing that additional investment in data development and analytical capacity is required, this Accountability Framework will be reviewed and updated after the initial 2 years and then every 5 years afterwards.

Any update to the performance and accountability measures within the Accountability Framework will be completed subject to s.55 (2) of the *Yukon University Act*:

*Before performance modifying measures the under subsection (1), the Minister must consult with each Yukon First Nation and the board.*

## Reporting

### *Performance measures*

To demonstrate advancement against the Yukon's higher education goals, this Accountability Framework includes a series of performance measures. When reported on annually, these performance measures will serve to demonstrate the university's performance relative to its legislated requirements and stated objectives, as well as its contribution to Yukon's higher education goals.

To demonstrate the accountability of Yukon University against the stated objectives, this Accountability Framework includes 6 categories for performance measures that mirror the goals for Yukon's higher education. These measures will uphold the performance objectives for Yukon University and so demonstrate how Yukon University is advancing the goals for Yukon's higher education. These performance measures focus on outcomes. Additional narrative highlighting the impacts of these outcomes will be provided through the university's annual report.

In developing these performance measures, Yukon University and Yukon government mined engagement feedback from a number of activities, including consultation on legislation development and engagement on the university's Strategic and Academic plans. Yukon government

consulted with Yukon First Nations to seek input on a draft version of this framework. Preparation of these performance measures also included studying performance measures in accountability frameworks in other jurisdictions in Canada and considering approaches taken internationally (particularly in New Zealand), taking into account recommendations included in a consulting report commissioned by Yukon Government, and considering Yukon University's Strategic and Academic Plans. The university's Reconciliation Framework, which was released following Yukon First Nation engagement on a draft version of the accountability framework, will inform future iterations of the framework and its performance measures.

#### *Accountability Framework and Yukon University's Annual Report*

This Accountability Framework and Yukon University's Annual Report are two tools the university will use to demonstrate its accountabilities to Yukon First Nations and Yukon government. Both are required by legislation.

The performance measures in the Accountability Framework are largely quantitative and will be reported on through templates for each measure.

The university's Annual Report provides an opportunity to share stories of impact the university has achieved in the course of meeting the metrics of the Accountability Framework in a narrative format. Importantly, the Annual Report also includes audited financial statements.

Each year, Yukon University's reporting against the performance measures in the Accountability Framework and the university's Annual Report should be viewed in concert, as two parts of a whole. Together, the Accountability Framework and the Annual Report demonstrate the university's accountability to Yukon First Nations and Yukon government through a balance of quantitative metrics and narrative, sharing stories of impact.

### **Performance Measures - their evolution over time**

The following Performance Measures are the measures that Yukon University will be reporting on for the first two years of this Accountability Framework process, specifically the 2026/27 and 2027/28 academic years.

Before the next iteration of the Accountability Framework, a new updated set of Performance Measures will be agreed upon for a 5-year period, specifically 2028/29 to 2032/33 academic years.

After this, the Accountability Framework Performance Measures will be revisited once in every 5-year cycle.

## Performance Measures

<b>Goal:</b> Accessibility
<b>Objective:</b> All Yukoners should have the opportunity to advance their education beyond secondary school and achieve their potential.
<b>2026-2028 Performance Measures:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Total enrolment (credit and non-credit)</li><li>2. Indigenous student enrolment (credit and non-credit)</li><li>3. Number of students that have completed certificate, diploma, degree or milestone trades credential</li><li>4. Number of Indigenous students completing certificate, diploma, degree or milestone trades credential</li><li>5. Number and type of courses available for dual credit and the number students enrolled in them</li><li>6. Number of continuing education courses offered and delivered and number of participants</li><li>7. Number of Indigenous students applying and number being accepted into each program area</li><li>8. Number of Yukon First Nation applications for YukonU Campus Housing received</li><li>9. Number of Yukon First Nation students living in YukonU Campus Housing</li><li>10. Number of students who complete the equivalent of one year of full-time study (30 credit-hours)</li><li>11. Number of students who complete the equivalent of two years of full-time study (60 credit-hours)</li><li>12. Number of students who complete the equivalent of three years of full-time study (90 credit-hours)</li></ol>
<b>Performance measures to be added in 2028/29:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Current credit programs available in the rural communities and the format that they are available in (online, in person, hybrid).</li><li>2. Number of Yukon First Nation students for performance measures 2, 4 and 7</li></ol>
<b>Other accountability indicators to be reported on through the YukonU Annual Report:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Supports in place serving Yukon First Nation students</li></ol>

<p><b>Goal:</b> Quality</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Higher education should prepare learners to succeed in their personal and professional lives through programs of high quality in keeping with national and international standards.</p> <p><b>2026-2028 Performance Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total number of degrees and degree majors</li> <li>2. Student satisfaction with learning experience</li> <li>3. Number of program reviews completed</li> <li>4. Number of program reviews that included Yukon First Nations</li> </ol> <p><b>Performance measures to be added in 2028/29:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of students that pursue additional post-secondary education after completing a credential at YukonU</li> </ol> <p><b>Other accountability indicators to be reported on through the YukonU Annual Report:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Number of credit and non-credit offerings developed in response to labour market needs</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Goal:</b> Research and Innovation</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Yukon should maintain and strengthen its capacity to undertake research that is rooted in the northern environment, society and economy.</p> <p><b>2026-2028 Performance Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Total research and innovation income from all sources</li> <li>2. Proportion of research and/or innovation projects co-created with, partnered with or led by Yukon First Nations</li> <li>3. Number of paid student researchers</li> <li>4. Number of research and/or innovation projects with activities occurring on Yukon First Nation traditional territories</li> </ol> <p><b>Other accountability indicators to be reported on through the YukonU Annual Report:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Examples of research and/or innovation projects that demonstrate Indigenization of research including projects co-created with, partnered with, or led by Yukon First Nations</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Goal:</b> Collaboration with Yukon First Nations</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Yukon University should achieve its goals in a way that supports reconciliation with Yukon First Nations, honours the jurisdictions of the Yukon First Nations under final and self-government agreements, and builds capacity through education and research for and with Yukon First Nations.</p>
<p><b>2026-2028 Performance Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proportion of credit and non-credit pathway programs co-created with Yukon First Nations.</li> <li>2. Proportion of credit and non-credit pathway programs co-delivered with Yukon First Nations.</li> </ol> <p><b>Other accountability indicators to be reported on through the YukonU Annual Report:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Description of YukonU institutional planning documents and planning activities that Yukon First Nations have been involved in, including plan creation and review, and the nature of that involvement</li> <li>2. Number of, and examples demonstrating, YukonU policies that have been revised to incorporate Yukon First Nation worldviews</li> <li>3. Annual budget supporting Reconciliation and Indigenization</li> <li>4. Annual report to Yukon First Nation documenting progress on the implementation of the Reconciliation Framework</li> </ol>

<p><b>Goal:</b> Collaboration with Yukon Communities and their Community Campuses</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> Yukon should achieve its goals for higher education in a way that is collaborative with all Yukon communities and their community campuses.</p>
<p><b>Performance Measures:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proportion of credit and non-credit pathway programs co-created with Yukon community partners.</li> <li>2. Proportion of credit and non-credit pathway programs co-delivered with Yukon community partners.</li> <li>3. Number of currently available credit and non-credit courses available and delivered in person and by distance at each community campus</li> <li>4. Number of community campus permanent staff, and % who are Yukon First Nation</li> <li>5. Accessibility metrics for all the community campuses</li> </ol>

**Other accountability indicators to be reported on through the YukonU Annual Report:**

1. Description of collaboration with communities at each community campus

**Goal:** Financial Sustainability

**Objective:** Yukon should achieve its goals for higher education in a way that is financially sustainable and fiscally responsible.

**2026-28 Performance Measures:**

1. Total Yukon government Department of Education funding per full-time equivalent student
2. Financial cost by program

**Other accountability indicators to be reported on through the YukonU Annual Report:**

1. YukonU audited financial statements including:
  - Amount of funding raised by YukonU Foundation
  - Total liabilities of YukonU
  - Primary reserve account
  - Interest burden ratio, debt viability ratio
  - Net income ratio, net operating revenues ratio
  - Total Liabilities as a Share of Total Assets
2. Description of YukonU's plans to introduce new degrees