

**Day 12: Did you know about the fiscal, physical, and technology resources that support CMU's operations?**

**[HLC Criterion 5.A.1] Fiscal resources and physical and technological infrastructure to support educational operations.**

**Fiscal Resources.** Since the appointment of a governing board whose responsibilities focus solely on Colorado Mesa University, the institution has continued to strengthen its fiscal position as shown in the [financial audits](#) and the [financial dashboards](#) prepared for the Board of Trustees for Fiscal Years 2011 through 2016. Despite fluctuations in [state appropriations](#) over the last decade, CMU has grown in [enrollment](#), as well as [controlled expenses and increased its asset base](#) to ensure its financial viability.

Based on a summary of financials for calculating the [Composite Financial Index](#) (CFI), the University's financial position has strengthened over time, and planning has strategically placed less emphasis on state appropriations to better prepare for the institution's financial future. Its CFI has consistently been "above the zone" as defined by HLC for public institutions, having been no lower than 2.4 over the past five years and having risen as high as 3.2.

Annually, CMU reviews several financial performance measures with attention toward long-term trends. In addition to the standard CFI measures, The University also evaluates other measures including the current ratio, working capital ratio, and net income ratio. Adjustments are made as part of the annual budgeting process to ensure continued long-term financial viability and stability, and to support strategic investments. The institution's credit rating is A2 underlying and Aa2 enhanced for the planned \$22 million CMU Series 2016 Enterprise Revenue Bond, with the [rating outlook](#) stable.

**Information Technology.** CMU has a strong commitment to technology and provides sufficient resources to manage the technology systems and services that support the University's mission and [strategic goals](#) (Goal 3, Objective 3C, Strategy 1). The centralized management of IT systems and services is in part how the University continues to maintain lower individual department operating budgets and is successful in securing information and streamlining technology implementations. Thus, by strategically deploying technology, IT contributes to the University's role and mission.

CMU continues to invest in Information Technology by increasing its annual operating budgets, funding technology sustainability, and hiring professional staff to ensure currency of all aspects of information technology and added support for a growing institution. CMU's [full-time equivalent student \(FTEs\) increase](#) has been more modest since FY 2012-13 (2.7%), but the enrollment gain over the four years prior to that timeframe ballooned from 5,098 FTEs in FY 2007-08 to 7,290 by FY 2011-12. To support this growth, the [number of smart classrooms and open student computers](#) increased by 26% and 36% respectively. The University's technology sustainability is currently [funded at \\$1.4M](#) to maintain the investment in computer and

classroom equipment. The IT operating and technology sustainability budgets have increased by 32.6% and 19.8% respectively between FY 2012-13 and FY 2016-17.

IT is responsible for overseeing campus-wide technology budgets and projects, and through rigorous purchasing processes, has set campus standards for most hardware. Current IT operational funding is \$4.4 million, and since FY 2012-13, the IT department has grown from 24 to 27 FTE. Three positions were added in the areas of computer support, instructional technology (media services), and application programming. Likewise, the [support staff for distance education](#) and online courses has also increased to three in FY 2016-17, up from one in FY 2011-12. These investments demonstrate CMU's commitment to its core mission of teaching, as well as supporting students and instructors with delivery of on-campus and online learning.

**Physical Facilities and Capital Construction.** Colorado Mesa University provides its students and employees a functional, comfortable and aesthetically pleasing environment. Recently completed projects include [academic spaces](#), such as [Escalante Hall](#), in 2014 and the remodel and expansion of 26,808 square feet to [Tomlinson Library](#) in 2015. Two other significant projects are currently underway: a new 68,700 square foot building that will house [Engineering](#) programs and the Math & Science Center, and 34,000 square feet of new and/or remodeled construction on property for [Health Sciences](#) programs that was recently acquired from Community Hospital. Three new [student housing](#) projects were built - Orchard Avenue Apartments (2012), Garfield Hall Phase I in 2013, and Garfield Hall Phase II in 2014 - and the [University Center](#) was expanded and remodeled in 2013. Additionally, CMU routinely [budgets](#) to regularly maintain and upgrade its existing [buildings](#) and [grounds](#) as needed.

In addition to enlarging and improving the main campus, CMU has made significant investments to improve its [Montrose and Bishop \(WCCC\) Campuses](#). Over the past five years, a \$1.5 million renovation of the Montrose instructional facility was completed in 2012, and with the acquisition of the Davis Building in 2013, career and technical education courses, such as Welding, were added. The Branscome Center and quad area were added in 2014. The 5,800 square foot center houses a student support service office suite for student advising, career services, testing and financial aid, a room for clubs and organizations, and a student lounge that includes an area for tutoring. Most recently, a 450 square foot classroom at the Montrose campus was renovated to accommodate three hospital beds in a realistic hospital setting that better prepares Nursing students for their careers.

Similarly, facilities supporting career and technical programs at the Bishop (WCCC) Campus have been renovated or expanded. In 2011, the Poma Building was acquired for the Manufacturing program, to be shared with Mechanical Engineering and Construction Management. CMU then remodeled the building and property at 2501 Blichmann Avenue in 2011, with approximately one-third of the building to accommodate the Medical Preparation, Medical Office Assistant, and Certified Nurse Assistant programs. To better support the Integrated Multimedia Design and Technology Integration programs and the CISCO Networking Academy, Building B on campus was renovated with a dedicated server room and classroom

space that models a real-world, information technology environment. The general culinary lab and baking lab were added in 2013, and with Perkins funding, the Transportation Services lab was renovated the same year. Finally, in 2015, the [WCCC Student Services](#) office suites were remodeled.

**To learn more,** log into MAVzone and click on the document link found in the CMU Assurance Argument for HLC channel (top left on the Home tab) for the full text of CMU's Assurance Argument. Links to supporting evidence are identified by underlined words but are not available through the PDF version.

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