# Commonwealth University Mansfield Campus Frequently Asked Questions

**Why is winding down operations at the CU-Mansfield campus necessary?**
It is necessary to take action to preserve the long-term success of Commonwealth University and the State System as a whole. The purpose is to bring the university's expenses in line with revenue so it can continue providing a rigorous, relevant education at the lowest possible cost to students. The CU-Mansfield campus no longer has enough students to cover its operating costs. Enrollment has declined 71.6% since 2009 and is expected to decline another 20% by 2028 as the region is projected to have fewer high school graduates in the coming years. Additionally, the campus recorded a $7.72 million deficit in 2025-26 ($7,825 per full-time equivalent student), and an independent assessment identified $233 million in current and future building needs.

**When would the CU-Mansfield campus cease operations?**
The chancellor has directed Commonwealth University to develop a framework for the orderly wind-down of operations by June 30, 2028, subject to the required authorization of the Board of Governors.

**Can’t PASSHE get more state funding for CU-Mansfield?**
The State System continues to request additional state funding to keep higher education affordable for students at all 10 PASSHE universities. Despite increased state funding and additional and significant one-time funding for Commonwealth University, the prolonged decline in enrollment and financial deficits at the Mansfield campus have persisted.

**Can the State System provide additional funding to operate the Mansfield Campus?**
No. Redirecting additional funding to the CU-Mansfield campus would have to come from the other PASSHE universities, which have their own needs and must invest in their students and futures.

**Did the integration of Mansfield with Bloomsburg and Lock Haven cause this?**
No, Mansfield's enrollment decline began long before integration. Fall headcount fell from 3,569 in 2009 to 1,803 in 2021, a decrease of nearly 50%. Since integration, Commonwealth University has received considerable financial support from the state and PASSHE. Funding from the state is distributed using a formula primarily driven by enrollment.

- **Annual funding increased by 21%.** Prior to integration, the three separate universities received $80.5 million per year (as of 2020-21). Today, Commonwealth receives $97.6 million per year, an increase of $17 million as enrollment declined.
- **$75 million in one-time state funding** was provided to eliminate Mansfield’s debt and reduce Bloomsburg's debt.

- **$21 million in loans for Mansfield was transferred to the State System.**
- **$17.5 million in one-time funding** was provided for integration, including the new student information system.

The combination of enrollment declines, shifting demographics, continued financial deficits and headwinds throughout higher education makes the continued operation of the Mansfield campus unsustainable.

## Students and Employees

**Will CU-Mansfield students be able to complete their degrees at Commonwealth University?**
The framework will outline how current students at the Mansfield campus can complete their education at Commonwealth University. It will address academic advising, financial aid, housing, athletics and other arrangements for students. Prospective students considering CU-Mansfield will be connected with admissions staff to explore options at CU-Bloomsburg and CU-Lock Haven.

**Will there be employee layoffs at the CU-Mansfield campus?**
Because more than 70% of Commonwealth University's budget goes toward employee costs, workforce reductions are anticipated, although decisions about specific positions have not been made. Commonwealth University, with support from the State System, will work to minimize the impact on university employees. The collective bargaining agreements with the various unions outline the specific requirements for making decisions about workforce changes, which the university will follow.

PASSHE recognizes that, while this action is intended to protect Commonwealth University's long-term success, the CU-Mansfield campus has a proud history and that this will have a deep personal impact on the community. The faculty and staff are not responsible for the enrollment declines, shifting demographics or the resulting decrease in tuition revenue, and each person will be treated with dignity and respect as the process moves forward.

**What does this mean for CU-Bloomsburg and CU-Lock Haven?**
The purpose of this action is to strengthen Commonwealth University's financial stability and preserve its ability to provide a high-quality, affordable education for years to come. CU-Bloomsburg and CU-Lock Haven will remain open and continue serving students. They will also provide opportunities for CU-Mansfield students to continue their education at Commonwealth University.

## Next Steps

**What authority does the Board of Governors have in the process?**
In most situations, a PASSHE university president can decide whether to wind down operations at a branch campus. Due to the specific process of the 2021 integration, the Board of Governors must authorize the closure of the Mansfield campus at a future

public meeting.

**What will happen to the buildings and infrastructure at the Mansfield campus?**
Commonwealth University's wind-down framework will describe a process for working with state agencies and the local community to determine next steps for the property. The goal is to identify options for the adaptive reuse of the campus by other public agencies, nonprofits, or business entities.