

ועד ראשי
המכללות
האקדמיות
הציבוריות



Public Academic Colleges

Objectives

Vision

Goals and Activities

Public College Vision

To provide higher education with a special emphasis on academic quality, while expanding the opportunities and reaching people at the periphery – both geographical and social. Higher education institutions greatly contribute to the pedagogical field, as well as to the academic research, economy and advancement of Israeli society in general and in the areas of their location, in particular.

The Board of Public Academic College

Established in 2005, this umbrella organization brings together all funded public academic colleges, represents their common interests before various government agencies and promotes colleges' vision, constantly developing and establishing their position within the Israeli society and higher education system without neglecting the unique identity and autonomous operation of each college.

Facts & Figures – School Year 2015-2016 - forecast

Numbers of Students in public academic colleges:

Undergraduate students	55,798
M.A. students	2,762
Total number of students	58,560

In the school year 2015-2016, a total of 306,370 students expect to study in Israel , including all degrees and academic institutions, among which is the Open University:

233,200 Undergraduate students

60,700 M.A. students

10,970 Ph.D. students

1,500 Certification Program students

Distribution of higher education students, School Year 2014-2015

63 Higher Education Institutions:

8 Universities

1 Open University

22 Public Academic Colleges

13 Extra-budgetary Academic Colleges

19 Academic Colleges of Education (Funded by the Ministry of Education)

196,603 undergraduate students (44,010 students, excluding the Open University)

Institution	Students	Total undergraduate students
Universities	75,183	38%
Public Academic Colleges	58,434	30%
Extra-budgetary Academic Colleges	38,590	20%
Academic Colleges of Education	24,396	12%

Equal Opportunities in Higher Education

Undergraduate students' characteristics

- 55,000 undergraduate students are a total of 30% of all undergraduate students in Israel.
- 14 Academic Preparatory Programs allow many young people to be accepted into higher education institutions.
- Accessibility for the Arab population – 30% (the highest percentage) of all the Arab undergraduate students study in public academic colleges in the periphery
- Accessibility for the ultra-orthodox population – in the school year 5774 (2013-2014), approx. 7,700 ultra-orthodoxes studied in the higher education institutions and 2,000 of them studied in funded academic colleges.

Report evaluating the quality of higher education in terms of labor market value, states as follows:

"Currently, academic colleges are attended by a a greater amount of students representing various populations that have previously shown lesser scale of higher education students. Such populations include the Arabs, residents of the periphery and vocational education graduates. Therefore, the evident is the expanding demand and accessibility for higher education, which is currently among the highest in the Western World". (Forthcoming, Arum et al.)

Continued:

"Such statistics prove that public colleges have indeed improved the higher education accessibility for the lower class, while private colleges attracted the upper class."

Zussman, Furman, Caplan, Romanov (2006). "The Quality of Israeli Academic Institutions: What the Wages of Graduates Tell about It?" Samuel Neaman Institution for Advanced Studies in Science and Technology. Haifa, Israel: Technion– Israel Institute of Technology.

Students' distribution by study disciplines

Undergraduate degree

Engineering and Architecture	Agriculture	Life Science	Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science	Paramedical Studies	Law	Business Administration and Management	Social Science	Education and Pedagogy	Humanities, Art and Design
15,668	145	1,196	3,413	2,957	425	5,347	16,812	1,852	7,983

M.A. degree

Engineering and Architecture	Agriculture	Life Science	Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science	Paramedical Studies	Law	Business Administration and Management	Social Science	Education and Pedagogy	Humanities, Art and Design
668	-	87	114	129	-	544	496	267	457

2014-2015 Higher Education System Budget – 9.44 Billion NIS

- ◉ Universities' budget (including the Open University): 6.58 billion NIS.
- ◉ Colleges' budget: 1.48 billion NIS.
- ◉ Accessibility expansion for special population: 183 million NIS.
- ◉ Other (student aid, research funds, preparatory academic programs, etc.): 1.2 billion NIS.

Due to the state budget reduction in 2012-2014, the total multi-year budget was also reduced by approx. 110 million NIS per year, starting from the current year. In addition, a further cut totaling approx. 175 million NIS per year is expected upon the approval of 2015 budget.

**Colleges' budget is 22.5% of the universities budget
and 15.7% of the total higher education system
budget**

International Comparisons – Higher Education

- ◉ Rate of higher education young and adult graduates are among the highest in OECD Member Countries.
- ◉ Percentage of higher education graduates in 2012 is as follows:

Age Group	25-64	30-34	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64
Israel	33	38	33	36	30	30
OECD Average	24	31	30	26	20	17

Funded academic colleges have made a significant contribution to this impressive rate.

Social Contribution

- ◉ Expanding accessibility to higher education for the residents of the periphery – both geographical and social.
- ◉ Contributing to the regional development of the periphery and community living adjacent to the campus.
- ◉ Attracting population from the Central District to the peripheral areas for the purpose of studies. Part of the students choose to stay in the periphery.
- ◉ Fostering multi-cultural relations within the Israeli society.
- ◉ Reducing the gaps between populations in the Israeli society.

Academic Contribution

- ◉ Participating in academic research development.
- ◉ Hiring a young academic staff.
- ◉ Allowing academic staff development, which prevents “brain drain”.
- ◉ Undergraduate studies in a personal environment.
- ◉ Low student-lecturer ration – small amount of students per class.
- ◉ Preparation for the labor market – integrating practical experience into the studies.

Economic Contribution

- ◉ Serve as a growth engine in regions and communities of the colleges' location.
- ◉ Reduce the cost of acquiring higher education.
- ◉ Provide a solution to the needs of the economy – reduce unemployment.
- ◉ Train academic experts in constantly expanding range of fields, such as the paramedical and engineering professions, which are constantly in demand.
- ◉ Increase economic growth by training higher education graduates to be integrated into the Israeli economy.

Current and Future Challenges

Academic challenges:

- ◉ Providing academic solutions and improving the education system towards outstanding achievements.
- ◉ Producing teaching materials and establishing improved productivity standards.
- ◉ Expanding accessibility for disadvantaged populations, while maintaining high level of education.
- ◉ Applied research development.
- ◉ Developing high-quality teaching in compliance with technological progress and innovations in the field of information.

National challenges:

- ◉ Providing solutions to the needs of the Israeli economy and society by training professionals to be integrated into fields in demand.
- ◉ Accessibility – integrating ultra-orthodox and Arab students into the higher education system.
- ◉ Planning and setting policies to stop the establishment of additional extra-budgetary institutions.

Current and Future Challenges

- ◉ **Management challenges:**
- ◉ Maintaining financial strength in an era of consistent growth of higher education input.
- ◉ Standing the competition in recruiting highly professional teaching staff compared to the universities and extra-budgetary colleges under unequal terms of competition – free market vs. private management on behalf of the Council for Higher Education and the Planning and Budgeting Committee. Positioning colleges' status among the Israeli population as well established higher education institutions.
- ◉ Changing the incorporation process in compliance with Section 14 of the Council for Higher Education Law.

Consistent and continuous implementation of operations aimed to establish the colleges' status at the Council for Higher Education: Expanding academic and management freedom – reducing individual management (micromanagement) and providing an opportunity for autonomous management, while expanding the authority similar to the universities.

Thank you for listening!
