# Financial Struggles Lead Brandeis University to Cut 60 Positions and The University of the Arts in Philadelphia to Close on June 7



**Brandeis University to Cut 60 Positions Amid Financial Struggles**

Brandeis University, located in Waltham, Massachusetts, announced plans to cut 60 positions to address financial pressures attributed to declining enrollment. Employees affected, primarily in staff and administrative roles, will be notified progressively until mid-June. The university also mentioned the potential non-renewal of some adjunct faculty contracts.

President Ron Liebowitz and top officials stated in a May 21 letter that these measures aim to ensure the institution's long-term financial stability and attractiveness to future students. Despite its $1.2 billion endowment, Brandeis projects a $2 million budget deficit for the upcoming academic year due to a significant drop in graduate student enrollment.

The university, established in 1948, has about 5,300 undergraduate and graduate students. Recent demographic and cultural shifts, particularly in the Northeast, have exacerbated enrollment challenges.

Additionally, Brandeis postponed a major campus building project but will continue building a new residence hall due to aging student housing. The institution will maintain most undergraduate programs while evaluating its graduate offerings, with some PhD programs remaining on hiatus.

**University of the Arts in Philadelphia to Close on June 7**

The University of the Arts in Philadelphia will permanently close on June 7, 2024, as announced by President Kerry Walk. The Middle States Commission on Higher Education swiftly moved to withdraw the university’s accreditation, citing non-compliance with all standards.

The abrupt closure, which was not communicated to staff or students as of early Friday evening, leaves the future uncertain for students who have already paid tuition for the summer term. The university’s enrollment had dramatically declined from 1,914 in the 2018-19 academic year to 1,313 in 2022-23, with freshman enrollment dropping notably. Financial difficulties included a projected operating loss of $2.56 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

Founded in 1985 through the merger of the Philadelphia Museum College of Art and the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts, UArts recently celebrated nearly 150 years of history. The closure follows less than four months after reaching a tentative agreement on the first faculty contract in the school’s history.