



LPRO: Legislative Policy and Research Office

# POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN OREGON

## BACKGROUND BRIEF

### RECENT GOVERNANCE CHANGES

Governance of Oregon's institutions of postsecondary education has changed dramatically in recent years. In 2009, the Oregon State Board of Higher Education (OSBHE) and the Oregon University System (OUS) began a review of funding and governance issues related to higher education. A Legislative Work Group on Higher Education was formed in 2010 to review OSBHE and OUS recommendations and solicit input from national experts on higher education management. The resulting legislation became Senate Bill 242 (2011) which led to the following:

- Creation of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) which developed state goals and accountability measures for all of postsecondary education in Oregon - community colleges and OUS - and a strategic plan for achieving these;
- Defined OUS as a Public University System, consisting of the Office of the

Chancellor, the seven OUS institutions and related offices and activities;

- Provided that OSBHE would continue to carry out its duties and OUS would remain an instrumental part of the state and as a governmental body;
- Released OUS from expenditure limitations on available moneys including tuition and fees collected; and
- Allowed OUS to maintain all interest earnings in the OUS Fund, including earnings on tuition revenues.

In addition to SB 242, the Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 253 (2011) which redefined the mission of postsecondary education in Oregon to:

1. Ensure that at least 40 percent of adult Oregonians have earned a bachelor's degree or higher;
2. Ensure that at least 40 percent of adult Oregonians have earned an associate's degree or postsecondary credential as their highest level of educational attainment; and

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3. Ensure that the remaining 20 percent or less of all adult Oregonians have earned a high school diploma, an extended or modified high school diploma, or the equivalent of a high school diploma as their highest level of educational attainment.

The goal of achieving these outcomes by 2025 became known as 40-40-20.

The measures adopted in 2011 left one issue unresolved - the authorization sought by some representatives of Portland State University and the University of Oregon, for independent institutional governing boards. In 2012, the Legislative Assembly addressed the institutional governing boards with House Bill 4061, which established the Special Committee on University Governance to “recommend legislation for the creation of local governing boards at public universities.” After hearing testimony from all seven university presidents, OUS, OSBHE, student, faculty and other stakeholders, the Committee submitted its recommendations regarding establishment of institutional governing boards to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly. These recommendations became Senate Bill 270 (2013) which provided for the following:

- Authorized institutional governing boards at Portland State University and University of Oregon;
- Provided option for Oregon State University to form an institutional governing board; and
- Granted institutional governing boards discrete powers including the ability to hire and fire university

presidents, to issue revenue bonds in consultation with the State Treasurer and set tuition within limits established by the Legislative Assembly.

Additionally, SB 270 called for the creation of a new Interim Committee on University Governance and Operations to discuss governance of the state’s technical and regional universities (Oregon Institute of Technology, Eastern Oregon University, Western Oregon University and Southern Oregon University). House Bill 4018 (2014) contained the Interim Committee’s recommendations that these four institutions also be allowed to form independent governing boards with the approval of the OSBHE. All seven Oregon universities chose to exercise the option to form independent governing boards.

### HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION (HECC)

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The HECC, created but not funded by Senate Bill 242 (2011), was reestablished in 2013 by House Bill 3120, for the purpose of being the single point of statewide authority for higher education in Oregon for:

- Degree authorization;
- Licensing private career schools;
- Public universities development of a biennial budget request, allocation of legislatively appropriated resources and approval of mission changes and new academic programs;



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- Community colleges development of a biennial budget request, allocation of legislatively appropriated resources and approval of new programs; and
- Student access and financial aid for oversight of the Oregon Opportunity Grant and other financial aid programs.

Both the Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) and the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) operate under HECC authority. This was based on the recommendations of the Task Force on Integrating CCWD into the HECC and codified by House Bill 2408 (2015) which formally transferred authorities and responsibilities to the HECC and changed various names and titles.

### OREGON'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES

[Eastern Oregon University \(EOU\)](#) serves students and communities throughout Oregon with a special focus on rural, regional and distance learning. EOU's programs are delivered on campus in La Grande, online and at 16 regional centers and include liberal arts, business, education and cooperative programs in agriculture, nursing and dental hygiene.

[Oregon Institute of Technology \(OIT\)](#), the Northwest's only polytechnic institution, serves the state with programs in business, engineering and health technologies, and cooperative programs in dentistry and nursing.

[Oregon State University \(OSU\)](#) is a land, space, sea and sun grant university with programs in the liberal arts and sciences and professional programs in agricultural sciences, business,

education, engineering, forestry, health and human sciences, oceanography, pharmacy and veterinary medicine. The OSU-Cascades campus in Bend opened in 2001, in partnership with Central Oregon Community College, and offers degree programs in arts and sciences, business, engineering, education, natural resources and recreation.

[Portland State University \(PSU\)](#) is a diverse urban university offering liberal arts and sciences programs and professional programs in fine and performing arts, liberal arts and sciences, business administration, education, urban and public affairs, social work, engineering and computer science.

[Southern Oregon University \(SOU\)](#) provides liberal arts and sciences programs, professional programs in business, education, and performing arts and a cooperative program in nursing.

[University of Oregon \(UO\)](#) is an Association of American Universities liberal arts and sciences university with professional programs in architecture and allied arts, business, education, journalism, law, music and performing arts, and planning and public policy.

[Western Oregon University \(WOU\)](#) provides programs in liberal arts and sciences, professional programs in education, business, and public services and a cooperative program in nursing.

[Oregon Health & Science University \(OHSU\)](#) is the only academic medical center in the state and primarily operates on its main campus adjacent to downtown Portland. The Legislative Assembly established OHSU as a public corporation with academic programs



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and fees overseen by its board. (Not included in chart.)

coursework for general educational development, adult high school diploma completion, English as a Second Language, adult basic education and non-credit general education courses. Each of Oregon's 17 community colleges is governed by a president and local community college board.

University	Location	Fall 2015 Enrollment	2015/2016 Tuition/Fees
Eastern Oregon University	La Grande	3,488	\$7,756
Oregon Institute of Technology	Klamath Falls	4,786	\$8,838
Oregon State University	Corvallis	29,576	\$10,107
Oregon State University - Cascades	Bend	1,016	\$8,790
Portland State University	Portland	28,076	\$8,124
Southern Oregon University	Ashland	6,215	\$8,145
Western Oregon University	Monmouth	5,445	\$8,433
University of Oregon	Eugene	24,125	\$10,288
		<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>Average Tuition/Fees</b>
		102,727	\$8,810

### OREGON'S COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Oregon's community colleges offer a range of programs, including professional technical programs, coursework for degree-seeking and college-bound students, workforce training,

College	Main Campus	Fall 2015 Enrollment	2015/2016 Tuition/Fees
Blue Mountain	Pendleton	3,327	\$4,352
Central Oregon	Bend	8,575	\$4,174
Chemeketa	Salem	14,726	\$4,230
Clackamas	Oregon City	9,341	\$4,065
Clatsop	Astoria	1,694	\$4,575
Columbia Gorge	The Dalles	1,385	\$4,770
Klamath	Klamath Falls	2,059	\$4,426
Lane	Eugene	11,292	\$4,758
Linn-Benton	Albany	8,778	\$4,410
Mt. Hood	Gresham	9,319	\$4,605
Oregon Coast	Newport	1,013	\$4,770
Portland	Portland	32,279	\$4,500
Rogue	Grants Pass	6,830	\$4,680
Southwestern	Coos Bay	3,507	\$5,481
Tillamook Bay	Tillamook	692	\$4,770
Treasure Valley	Ontario	2,521	\$5,310
Umpqua	Roseburg	4,449	\$4,500
		<b>Total Enrollment</b>	<b>Average Tuition/Fees</b>
		126,787	\$4,610



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### PRIVATE NONPROFIT INSTITUTIONS

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In addition to its public universities and community colleges, Oregon is home to a number of highly ranked independent nonprofit colleges and universities. Since it is estimated that as many as 25 percent of undergraduate degrees granted in Oregon are earned at these institutions, the state recognizes the critical role they play in pursuit of 40-40-20. The Office of Degree Authorization (ODA) is required by statute “to provide for the protection of the citizens of Oregon and their postsecondary schools by ensuring the quality of higher education and preserving the integrity of an academic degree as a public credential.” Under direction of the HECC, ODA administers laws, standards and services enacted to protect students, holders of legitimately earned degrees, institutions, businesses, employers, patients, clients and licensing boards. All degree-granting private postsecondary institutions offering academic programs in Oregon, or to Oregon students from outside the state, must be approved by the ODA.

### FOR-PROFIT CAREER SCHOOLS

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The Private Career School licensing unit (PCS), also operating under the auspices of the HECC, regulates the activities of non-degree granting postsecondary institutions. There are over 200 such entities currently operating in Oregon that prepare students for specific professions such as real estate broker, tax preparer and cosmetologist. In addition to licensing career schools, PCS registers individuals who teach in career schools, approves new instructional programs,

responds to student complaints and manages the Tuition Protection Fund. In recognition of contributions to the “middle 40” of 40-40-20 made by career schools, PCS works to: “Ensure Oregon’s licensed career schools maintain a high level of quality; help career schools be successful providers of career training and protect students’ investment of time and money.”

### PAYING FOR COLLEGE

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The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) provides access to postsecondary education opportunities through information, mentoring and financial support. OSAC administers the following programs which deliver over \$150 million annually in financial aid:

- Oregon Promise
- Oregon Opportunity Grant
- Chaffee Grant
- Childcare Grant
- Scholarships
- ASPIRE (Access to Student Assistance Programs in Reach of Everyone)

Additionally, the Legislative Assembly has directed the HECC to study a number of initiatives to address the increasing cost of postsecondary education and accumulation of student loan debt.

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# POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION IN OREGON

## STAFF CONTACT

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