

ACCESS & SUCCESS

at Oregon State University
& Across Oregon



Oregon State University (OSU) is working to promote equitable access to higher education and to address all barriers that impede learners' persistence to graduation. This is especially important as the demographics of students attending colleges and universities throughout the nation and in Oregon continue to shift.

ENROLLMENT: 2011 VS. 2021

■ 2011 ■ 2021

The OSU student body is becoming increasingly racially, ethnically and socioeconomically diverse, and the university is welcoming a growing number of first-generation and transfer students.



OSU STUDENT SUCCESS METRICS



FIRST-YEAR RETENTION

The 2021 first-year retention rate of 86.6% is the highest ever at OSU, up from 81.5% in 2011. However, retention rates in certain student populations fall below the overall average due to a variety of challenges related to affordability, college preparation and academic and social supports. Rates are lower for students of color, first-generation college students and Pell-eligible students.



SIX-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

OSU's 2021 six-year graduation rate of 68.2% is up from 60.7% in 2011. However, graduation rates are lower for students of color, first-generation college students, Pell-eligible students and male students.

BARRIERS TO ACCESS & PERSISTENCE FOR OUR GROWING POPULATIONS

UNMET FINANCIAL NEEDS

\$10,700

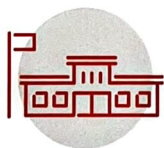
The average unmet need for Pell-eligible students in 2021. This means they cannot cover the gap in their educational costs with federal or state loans (max: \$5,500).



Low-income students who do not qualify for a Pell grant are not eligible for other state or federal funds, making cost of attendance a significant hurdle.

MENTAL HEALTH

Many national health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, have declared child and adolescent mental health a national emergency. Before the pandemic, 45% of OSU students reported episodes of academic impairment due to emotional or mental difficulties. Today, given the pandemic and national trends, it's likely even more OSU students are struggling academically due to emotional or mental disabilities.



CLASSROOM & COMMUNITY EXPERIENCES

Students of color report that experiences and interactions both in and outside the classroom influence their sense of belonging at the university. Studies show that experiencing a sense of belonging is pivotal to student success. Academic and social experiences can either support student success or present additional barriers.



AFFORDABILITY & BASIC NEEDS

Nationally, over 40% of college students report that food and housing insecurity are undermining their academic success. Housing insecurity and homelessness bring down persistence, credit attainment and completion. Further, some students don't know they should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). They lose federal and state aid, as well as many scholarships.

AFFORDABILITY

"The increasing cost of higher education has reached a boiling point, resulting in students and families bearing unsustainable levels of cost and debt."

– State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO PERSISTENCE

Consistent with OSU's vision of Inclusive Excellence, the university is enhancing programs and services in ways that better meet changing needs.



LEADING IN INNOVATION

OSU is a founding member of the University Innovation Alliance, a national coalition of a diverse group of public research universities committed to increasing the number and diversity of college graduates in the U.S. Partners include Ohio State, Arizona State and UC Riverside, among others. UIA universities pilot student success projects, compare outcomes and scale what works.



PREPARATION PROGRAMS & CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

- ✔ Due to funding from the Oregon Legislature, in 2021, OSU's Educational Opportunities Program Summer Bridge Program served an additional 95 students, double its normal capacity.
- ✔ OSU's student access and enrichment programs offer outreach and comprehensive support services to about 905 OSU students and 160 high school students each year.
- ✔ Beaver Connect: In 2018, OSU launched this faculty-student mentoring program that facilitates extensive engagement between students and faculty. Beaver Connect enrolls 300 students annually.
- ✔ In 2020, OSU established the Dr. Lawrence Griggs Office of Black & Indigenous Student Success, which connects students with services and programming, including academic support, career development, recruitment and outreach.



TRANSFER ADMISSIONS & THE DEGREE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Transfer services managers/recruiters work with all prospective OSU transfer students pursuing degree completion, including assisting those presently enrolled at OSU's top feeder community colleges. These managers provide comprehensive on-site transfer admissions services and work on-site with Degree Partnership Program students (dually enrolled at a community college and OSU) to guide students in completing community college prerequisites. OSU has added staff to speed transfer credit approval, and the university has provided leadership and engagement in Common Course Numbering legislation.



INVESTMENTS IN MENTAL HEALTH

- ✔ Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) has increased the number of clinical contacts it provides by 50% over the course of one year.
- ✔ In 2021, OSU funded three new Mental Health and Wellness Coordinator positions within CAPS to support the Black and indigenous student communities.
- ✔ CAPS is now offering a wider range of services including more group therapy, online resources, the Single Session Clinic, peer support options and telehealth pilots.

OSU INVESTING IN LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

\$15.2 million

Amount OSU provided in gift aid for low-income students. For this same group of students, the state gave \$9.1 million. **The average unmet need for this group was still \$10,500.**

OSU contributed \$4.3 million in gift aid to low-income students who do not qualify for state or federal aid.



OSU improved aid distribution processes and scholarships focused on students with financial need.

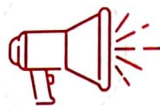
\$1.5 million

Amount of state and federal need-based aid, such as groceries and medical insurance, accessed in three years with assistance from the Basic Needs Center.



CAREER CHAMPIONS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Faculty and instructors participate in a six-week seminar to learn tangible ways to incorporate career connections and readiness content into the classroom, while also examining barriers to access for students with high financial need, first-generation students and students of color.



STATE IMPACT

What We Can Do Together: OSU is improving student success, but more can be done for Oregonians across the state with strong partnerships among higher education institutions, state and local leaders, community partners and donors. Tangible actions that would make Oregon stronger:

- ✓ Strengthen Oregon's workforce development partnerships so learners have multiple paths to education and training that support diverse career goals. Industry, universities, community colleges and workforce intermediaries must all be partners in a high functioning system.
- ✓ Increase support for pre-college programs, including preparing K-12 educators to support growing communities of color and equipping high school counselors with appropriate information promoting equitable access for all families.
- ✓ Reverse the shift toward tuition as the primary means of funding college education by increasing higher education funding, especially the Oregon Opportunity Grant at the state level and Pell Grant at the federal level.
- ✓ Provide more robust statewide human services with accessible physical and mental health care for all ages.
- ✓ Target new funding toward wraparound services to support students in and out of the classroom and help close opportunity and achievement gaps.



ON THE HORIZON

Access OSU: Students, families and Oregon communities are best served when provided clear information and preparation regarding the alternative pathways, benefits and costs of pursuing university education.

Access OSU is a new initiative led by the university's Division of Extension and Engagement, the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Institutional Diversity to connect with community partners and provide prospective students and their families with knowledge and resources to prepare for and gain access to college.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

- ✓ Oregon families believe in what an education at OSU can do to support their prosperity.
- ✓ Oregon families understand how to navigate applying to and funding college.
- ✓ Students experience a supportive community and resources at OSU.
- ✓ Students of color have a positive experience at Oregon State University.
- ✓ Families and communities develop trust in OSU.
- ✓ Graduates return to their communities.
- ✓ Oregon communities and families thrive.

BEYOND OSU

A university-wide infrastructure that builds career development into the student experience.

CAREER-RELEVANT CURRICULA

- > Career development tied to curricula
- > All courses have syllabi elements connected to career competencies
- > Students will have career-related coursework in each major

TAILORED CAREER SUPPORT

- > Customized career programming for each college
- > Peer mentoring for all students
- > 100% of students will engage in career development activities

EMPLOYER & ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

- > Jobs and internships that reflect all of OSU's fields of study
- > Alumni and friends directly accessible to 100% of OSU students
- > Expanded local job and internship opportunities

