



Oregon Transfer Module (OTM)

Supporting Student Credit Transfer

The Oregon Transfer Module (OTM) is designed to **improve access** to a college degree by enhancing opportunities for student transfer of credits earned at one community college or Oregon University System (OUS) campus to another public college or university. The OTM was approved at the February 3, 2005 meeting of the Joint Boards of Education.

The module is an **approved subset of general education courses that is transferable between and among all public postsecondary institutions in Oregon**. It is designed to ensure that the needs of students statewide are met without unnecessary duplication of courses or additional costs to students for having to re-take courses not accepted at another institution.

Benefits to Students

- **Improved efficiency in credit transfer** among postsecondary education institutions.
- **Faster completion of degree** as all credits “count” and are transferable. High school students who take OTM approved coursework can get a reliable, early start on their college degree.
- **Savings on the cost of tuition** by maximizing the number of courses taken and not having to re-take courses at multiple postsecondary institutions.
- **Advanced advising tool** allowing students to effectively select applicable courses.
- An organized framework that provides **clear milestones that students can accomplish** to serve and align with their future goals.
- Supportive of students who **transfer early** to a four-year institution without first completing a two-year degree at an Oregon community college by allowing for seamless transfer of students’ first year of general education course work.

Oregon Transfer Module Statewide Implementation:

- The OTM is available at all 24 of Oregon’s public colleges and universities
- Courses that count toward the OTM are posted on websites at all 24 institutions
- All 24 institutions will have the OTM in their 2007-08 academic catalogs

Working Towards Transfer

The OTM may be applied toward the Associate of Arts/Oregon Transfer degree, the Associate of Science Oregon Transfer-Business degree, or a baccalaureate degree from an OUS institution or participating Oregon independent college or university.

- The OTM represents approximately **half (45 credits) of an associate degree, or the first year of a baccalaureate degree**.
- The intention is to help students structure their first year of college in a way that is both academically sound and readily transferable within Oregon.

- The OTM does not replace the need for effective advising or address major requirements, but facilitates transfer towards an associate or bachelor's degree without the loss of credit. Students majoring in programs which are credit-heavy at the lower division level, such as natural and physical sciences, fine and performing arts, and engineering, will be best served by other pathways than the OTM.

The Courses

The Oregon Transfer Module's 45-unit sub-set of courses represents a body of foundational skills and an introduction to discipline courses that are common among Oregon's colleges and universities. Courses are selected from an approved list of 100- and 200- level general education requirements determined by each Oregon community college, Oregon University System institution, or participating Oregon independent college or university.

The OTM is not a standard set of courses for all Oregon colleges. **It preserves the uniqueness of each university's requirements** while assuring students that their first year of lower division general education courses will transfer to another institution without loss of credits. The intent is to **help students acquire foundational learning experiences** that meet first-year general education requirements in: 1) Writing, 2) Oral Communication 3) Mathematics, 4) Arts and Letters, 5) Social Sciences, and 6) Science, Math/Computer Science. The OTM is modeled after the established two year Associates of Arts Oregon Transfer Degree (AAOT).

The Process

- Students take OTM approved courses at Oregon public postsecondary institutions and participating independent institutions.
- Students are advised to take all courses for the OTM for a letter grade. Many colleges and universities have a limit on the number of Pass/Fail courses students can take, and most require general education courses to be graded.
- Credit for prior learning including Advanced Placement, CLEP, DANTES, and military credit can apply. However, for a student pursuing a two- or four-year degree only 25% of the credit can be in nontraditional credit. If credits for prior learning experiences are on a student's transcript as courses, these will count toward the OTM.
- Use of the degree auditing system and the pending statewide implementation of the Articulation & Transfer Linked Degree Audit System (ATLAS) will assist both student and staff in identifying when students are nearing completion.



Oregon University System