

# Oregon University System Overview

Oregon faces formidable challenges in the coming decades: the globalization of the knowledge economy, the importance of a bachelor's degree to compete for family wage jobs, and a dramatically changing demographic landscape, which combine to create a set of new and compelling demands. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education (the Board) completed a long-range plan in 2006, *An Investment in Oregonians for Our Future: a Plan to 2025 for the Oregon University System*. This strategic plan is based on several critical forces shaping higher education in the future and framed around a vision statement, four broad goals, a set of performance metrics, and principles for System governance and operation. The principles and goals are summarized here and the full plan can be read at [www.ous.edu/stateboard](http://www.ous.edu/stateboard).

## Goals and Desired Outcomes

The Board, on behalf of OUS, seeks to accomplish four broad goals to produce the highest level of educational outcomes for Oregonians:

1. Create in Oregon an educated citizenry to support responsible roles in a democratic society and provide a globally competitive workforce to drive the state's economy, while ensuring access for all qualified Oregonians to a quality postsecondary education.
2. Ensure high-quality student learning leading to subsequent student success.
3. Create original knowledge and advance innovation.
4. Contribute positively to the economic, civic, and cultural life of communities in all regions of Oregon.

To gauge the degree to which Board goals have been achieved, a performance measurement framework has been developed, built around a few key measures for the four goals, accompanied by more detailed metrics to further support the key measures.

## OUS Vision

Raise the educational aspirations and achievement of all Oregonians by providing lifelong education and knowledge development through teaching and learning; inquiry and innovation; and the application of knowledge to global, national, state, and local needs.

## Mission Statement

The Legislative Assembly declares that the mission of all higher education in Oregon is to:

1. Enable students to extend prior educational experiences in order to reach their full potential as participating and contributing citizens by helping them develop scientific, professional, and technological expertise, together with heightened intellectual, cultural and humane sensitivities and a sense of purpose.
2. Create, collect, evaluate, store and pass on the body of knowledge necessary to educate future generations.
3. Provide appropriate instructional, research and public service programs to enrich the cultural life of Oregon and to support and maintain a healthy state economy.

ORS 351.009 [1993 c.240 §5]

## Strategic Priorities

The priorities for achieving desired outcomes by 2025 are reflected in three broad long-term strategies designed to:

1. Increase educational attainment,
2. Invest in globally competitive research, and
3. Assure the long-term financial viability of OUS and its institutions.

## Guiding Principles for System Governance and Operations

To facilitate the effective accomplishment of Board goals, new assumptions and processes are needed, reflected in the following principles:

1. Manage the Oregon University System and its institutions as a portfolio, with the objective of delivering optimal overall outcomes for the benefit of all citizens across Oregon.
2. Create an adequate and sustainable financial structure.
3. Gain and provide operating and financial flexibility.
4. Facilitate the achievement of state educational goals in an integrated PK-20 learning environment.

## OUS Governance Change Proposal, 2010

The critical need to educate more Oregonians to meet community and workforce demands has prompted the Oregon State Board of Higher Education to seek governance changes for the Oregon University System that will improve access, affordability and success for Oregon students, simplify budgeting, and better control revenues and costs through increased flexibility. In a time of increased enrollment demand and changing demographics, these changes will provide the catalyst to more effectively deliver educational opportunity, protect tuition for uses that benefit students, and invest in programs and research that strengthen and grow Oregon's economy.

OUS is seeking reforms in its governance structure that will allow it to improve higher education in Oregon and evolve the state's role so that OUS can fulfill its statewide mission while meeting the demands of our competitive global economy. The Board will pursue a new governance compact with the state in the 2011 Legislative Session which will allow OUS the flexibility it needs to operate in this dynamic environment while still being held accountable for performance.

Key components of the Governance Change Proposal include:

- **Tuition accountability:** The proposal ensures that tuition paid by students and interest earned on tuition will actually go to support student success.
- **Access and affordability enhanced:** The Board will continue to approve campus tuition proposals with more student involvement on each campus. The Board's tuition-setting process will explicitly consider affordability goals.
- **Accountability broadened and refocused:** Funding and long-term planning will be aligned with outcome measures set by the System, Legislature, and Governor.
- **Creating advantages, efficiencies, and cost control through structural change:** Changing from a state agency to a statewide public university system will provide a simplified "block grant" budgeting approach and greater control over costs and tuition revenues, freeing up funding to educate more Oregonians in coming years.
- **Statewide focus remains:** The Board and Chancellor's Office will remain in place to govern the System and ensure oversight.
- **Change for the betterment of Oregon:** The Board will pursue the new governance structure with the state, working with the Governor and the Legislature to meet statewide goals.

## Office of the Chancellor

### Chancellor's Office

<http://www.ous.edu/about/chanoff/>  
George Pernsteiner, Chancellor  
p.(503) 725-5700

The Oregon University System (OUS) Chancellor's Office serves as the executive and administrative arm of the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, charged to carry out Board policies and ensure effective oversight of OUS universities on behalf of the State and the broader public. The Chancellor's Office is organized under the Chancellor as chief executive officer, with two vice chancellors (finance/administration and academic strategies) and staff serving key Board and external relations functions.

## OUS Campuses and Centers

Excellence is exemplified in the accomplishments of our students and faculty, in the quality of our academic instruction, through innovations in research, and in the scope of public service at our diverse, high-quality institutions. Dedicated top faculty, students, and staff join to effect excellence in numerous programs and in diverse disciplines, becoming more widely recognized nationally and internationally as leaders in specialized fields in the arts, sciences, and professions.

### University Center

[www.ous.edu/ucsw](http://www.ous.edu/ucsw)  
1988 Newmark Ave, Tioga 318  
Coos Bay, OR 97420  
p.(541) 888-1518

Provides services to place-bound residents of Oregon's south coast and advising support for school counselors and potential transfer students. More than forty different certificate, baccalaureate, and graduate degree programs are provided by the Oregon University System's universities and several private colleges. Most are distance delivered.