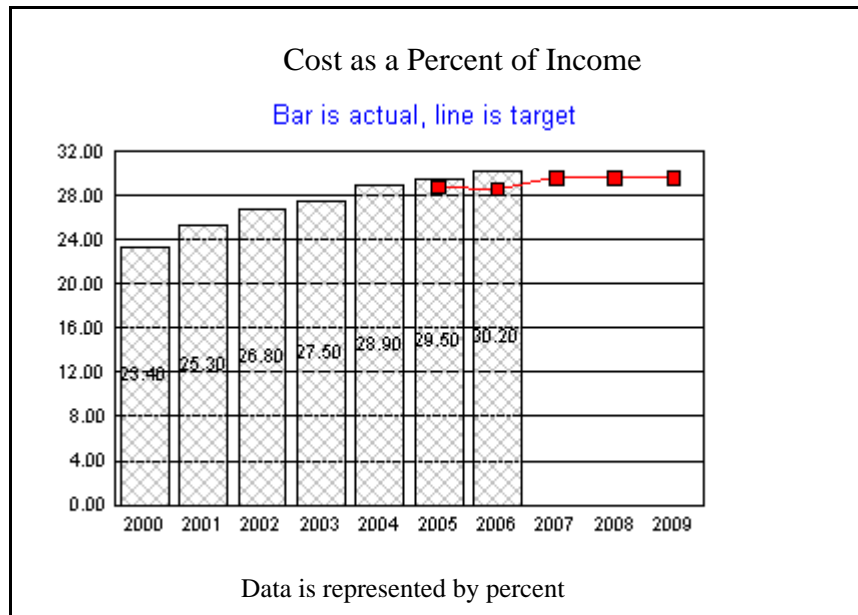


<b>KPM #1</b>	COST AS A PERCENT OF INCOME - Cost of attendance at OUS for a resident undergraduate (tuition & fees, room & board, other expenses) as a percent of Oregon median family income.	2005
<b>Goal</b>	Access: Expand access to students who meet admission standards - lower income students	
<b>Oregon Context</b>	OBM24 - Some college completion, OBM26 - College completion, OBM11 - Per capita income	
<b>Data Source</b>	OUS Institutional Research Services; OUS Budget Office; U.S. Census	
<b>Owner</b>	OUS Strategic Programs and Planning, Charles Triplett (503) 725-5717	



**1. OUR STRATEGY**

Ensure an appropriate balance of cost and quality at all OUS institutions.

**2. ABOUT THE TARGETS**

Previously reported 2006 data were based on projections of median family income (MFI). Actual 2006 MFI – as reported by the American Community Survey in 2007 – is lower than projections, causing a slight increase in the restated 2006 figure. Ideal performance on this measure shows declining ratios of cost to income.

### 3. HOW WE ARE DOING

In 2006, cost of college attendance relative to median family income in Oregon increased again and failed to meet target for the second year in a row. Cost as a percent of income in Oregon continues to steadily increase. 2007 projections suggest another slight increase over 2006.

### 4. HOW WE COMPARE

According to *Measuring Up 2006*, the national report card produced by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, Oregon ranks 46th among the 50 states in the ability of families to pay the cost of public postsecondary education. For the past two studies, Oregon has received a grade of “F” on affordability (along with 42 other states in 2006).

### 5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

In 2006, OUS capped tuition increases to 3% above the 2005-06 academic year rates but fee increases and inflation-driven non-tuition costs increased at higher rates. Lower than projected MFI increases also adversely affected this ratio. As inflation increases non-tuition costs and a weaker economy slows income growth, overall college costs will remain higher relative to Oregon income.

### 6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

Early in 2004, the State Board of Higher Education established the Access and Affordability Working Group to explore options for making college more affordable for all Oregonians. The group brought together representatives from Oregon’s education and community sectors to research the issues and impacts of increasing need-based financial aid. The outcome of that effort is the Shared Responsibility Model (SRM) for the Oregon Opportunity Grant. The SRM was adopted and funded by the 2007-09 legislature. It represents the first major investment that Oregon has made in college affordability in decades. Although Oregon has made gains with increases in the Opportunity Grant, affordability remains a barrier for low and moderate income families. However, during 2007-08, new programs were announced by OUS universities which will enable qualified applicants from low-income families to attend college.

The Board of Higher Education created the Student Participation and Completion committee in the wake of the sunset Access and Affordability

Working Group to help increase student participation. The committee's work highlights continued financial barriers to access, especially when considering under-represented first-generation students and populations of color. Tuition increases in recent years have resulted in "sticker shock" for many students, and information about the broader opportunities available through the Oregon Opportunity Grant has not fully permeated these communities. Establishing effective outreach and assistance programs to help families understand the realities of college costs and financial aid will be critical to helping the state move forward.

#### **7. ABOUT THE DATA**

Tuition data are reported for the academic year, with detailed annual reports available on the OUS website ([www.ous.edu](http://www.ous.edu)). Non-tuition costs are obtained from the Oregon Student Assistance Commission and also represent the academic year. Median family income data are collected from the U.S. Census Bureau and derived from the American Community Survey.