

DRAFT Summary Points
Eastern Oregon University Institutional Evaluation
December, 2016

ORS 352.061 requires the HECC to conduct annual evaluations of public universities in Oregon according to specific statutory criteria. Overall, the HECC's approach is to assess the university's contributions to statewide goals for higher education. We do not purport to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the university against its own mission. A summary of key findings follows:

1. **Accreditation:** EOU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and is fully on track with the 7-year NWCCU cycle for accreditation. During its last review in 2014, Year Three Evaluation, NWCCU recommended that EOU continue work articulating mission fulfillment to more clearly describe the process and criteria that determine mission fulfillment; ensure that certificate programs meet NWCCU requirements for related instruction; and continue to ensure uniform application of assessment across all academic programs.
2. **Economic impact:** A 2012 report identified EOU as one of the three largest employers in Union County. With a budget of \$45 million, it is a key economic and cultural driver in this rural part of the state.
3. **Student access and student success:** Enrollment at EOU has been declining since 2011. Fall 2016 saw a 9.0% decline in total enrollment from the previous year; for non-residents enrollment increased by 2.3% and for residents it declined by 13.0%. At the same time, the number of underrepresented minority students enrolled at EOU in Fall 2016 increased 13.3% from the previous year, although it has not yet recovered to its 2011 peak. While six-year graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients and underrepresented and minority students lag the institutional average by 1-13 percentage points, EOU is making year-over-year increases in the number of degrees awarded to underrepresented minority students.
4. **Affordability:** For 2016-17, EOU's resident undergraduate tuition increased by 3.2%, and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 1.5% to \$22,230. For EOU students who leave the university with debt, their average debt load is \$22,466.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** In addition to maintaining good standing with its regional accreditor, EOU has a deep commitment to faculty driven academic program assessment.
6. **Collaboration:** EOU contributes to a host of collaborative activities with other post-secondary institutions. Significant among them are partnerships with OHSU's BS in Nursing; OSU's BS in a number of areas in agricultural, animal, crop and soil sciences; and natural resource management. About 62% of EOU's undergraduates are transfer students, a majority of them from an Oregon community college.
7. **Shared administrative services:** EOU participates in several of the services offered by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE).

8. **Financial metrics:**

Eastern Oregon University Ratios				
Ratio	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	36.00%	54.00%	44.00%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	20.00%	30.00%	20.00%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-14.77%	-2.74%	-13.07%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	6.65%	27.99%	136.99%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	4.35%	3.59%	3.39%	<5%

Displayed benchmarks for public universities from NACUBO publications.

9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2016, the EOU Board of Trustees appears to have met its legal responsibilities for providing public notice, accessibility, and records. In 2016, the Board exercised many of the powers reserved for it under law, including presidential oversight, budget adoption, tuition adoption, debt issuance, and program approval (for HECC consideration).