

DRAFT Summary Points
Eastern Oregon University Institutional Evaluation
December, 2017

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. The next accreditation report (Year 7) is due in Fall 2018.
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 2017 saw a 5.0% decline in total enrollment, non-resident enrollment decreased by 4.7%, and resident enrollment decreased by 5.2% from the previous year. Enrollment is the lowest it has been in over a decade; it has decreased by over 25% since its 2011 post-recession peak, and is down 17.7% over a ten-year period. The most recent six-year graduation rate is 39.1% for Pell Grant recipients, 41.4% for underrepresented minority students, and 40.2% for all students. EOU awarded 7.4% fewer degrees in 2016-17 than the prior year, continuing a declining trend that began in 2013. The underrepresented minority students' enrollment figure has increased 17.4% year-over-year, and is the highest it has ever been.
4. **Affordability:** For 2017-18, EOU's resident undergraduate tuition increased by 5.5%, and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 3.2% to \$22,953. For EOU students who leave the university with federal government-backed debt, their average federal government-backed debt load is \$22,840.
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 57% of EOU's newly admitted 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:** Presented both with and without the impact of GASB 68, although only the ratios with GASB 68 are analyzed in the full evaluation:

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY RATIOS WITH GASB 68				
Ratio	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	54.00%	44.00%	49.00%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	30.00%	20.00%	21.00%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-2.74%	-13.07%	-4.26%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	27.99%	136.99%	-0.21%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	3.59%	3.39%	3.71%	<5%

EASTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY RATIOS WITHOUT GASB 68				
Ratio	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	55.60%	67.00%	84.00%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	29.36%	33.00%	38.00%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-8.72%	-3.77%	0.05%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	14.35%	146.77%	2.99%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	3.38%	3.71%	3.63%	<5%

Displayed benchmarks for public universities from NACUBO publications.

9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2017, the EOU Board of Trustees appears to have met its legal responsibilities for providing public notice, accessibility, and records. In 2017, 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).