

**DRAFT Summary Points**  
**University of Oregon Institutional Evaluation**  
**December 2018**

*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:** UO has been continuously accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) and was most recently reaffirmed in July 2017. The UO successfully completed its Year 7 report in March 2017 as a part of a unique Demonstration Project focused on the assessment of student learning outcomes and general education as manifestations of mission fulfillment. UO initiated a new 7-year accreditation cycle in Spring 2018 with the submission of their Year One *Mission and Core Themes* Report which was accepted by the Commission with "no further action required."
2. **Economic impact:** A 2015 report estimates the economic impact of the UO in 2013-14 as \$1.3 billion, with significant recent increases driven by construction and the growth of non-resident student enrollment. In October 2016, the UO announced a \$1 billion, ten-year initiative led by a \$500 million gift from Phil and Penny Knight to create the Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact. Construction and faculty recruitment activities are underway. When fully operational, the Knight Campus is projected to drive nearly \$80 million in annual economic activity statewide and support more than 750 jobs.
3. **Student access and student success:** After a decade of significant enrollment increases driven by non-resident students, Fall 2017 and 2018 saw marginal year-over-year enrollment declines from the previous fall: international student enrollment decreased by 14.9% between Fall 2017 and Fall 2018 contributing to an overall decline of 3.2% in non-resident students; resident students increased 1.3% (marking the first increase since 2009), resulting in a 1% overall decline. At the same time, the number of underrepresented minority students enrolled at UO continues to increase, and is up more than 70% since 2011 and 5.9% since 2017. UO also maintains a steady rate of degrees awarded since the 2012-13 academic year, slightly above the 5-year average of 5,929 at 5,952 for the 2017-18 academic year. While graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients and underrepresented minority students lag the institutional average by 2-6 percentage points, UO is steadily closing the completion gap for underrepresented and Pell Grant recipient students.
4. **Affordability:** From 2017-18 to 2018-19, the University of Oregon's resident undergraduate tuition and fees increased by 2.83%, and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 3.26% to \$27,366. As tuition increases, the university invests more in institutional aid and scholarships. 2017-18 graduates who started as resident freshman, received an average of \$17,916 in institutional aid and \$29,093 for all scholarships, with 41% graduating debt free. For University of Oregon graduates who leave the university with federally-backed debt, the average federally-backed debt load is \$20,500.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** In addition to maintaining good standing with its regional accreditor, UO is a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). Between 2016 and 2018, UO research expenditures increased by 12% from \$106.5 in FY16 to

\$119.4 million FY18.

6. **Collaboration:** UO contributes to a host of collaborative activities with other post-secondary institutions. Additionally, the UO participates in cooperative contracting with the other Oregon public universities and with national cooperative contracts. In July 2018, UO was honored by U.S. Communities through an award in Excellence in Cooperative Purchasing.
7. **Shared administrative services:** UO participates in a number of shared administrative services, including serving as host to the Oregon Public Universities Retirement Plans (OPURP) but has opted out of many of the services provided by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE). UO believes that its decisions have resulted in increased effectiveness, lower costs, or both, without having a negative impact on the other public universities.
8. **Financial Metrics:**

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON RATIOS WITH GASB 68/75				
Ratio	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	76.00%	105.30%	99.60%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	51.80%	70.10%	68.90%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-9.00%	-4.10%	-4.60%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	-1.30%	29.20%	3.00%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	5.50%	5.80%	5.50%	<5%

Displayed benchmarks for public universities from NACUBO publications.

9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2018, the UO Board of Trustees appears to have met its legal responsibilities for providing public notice, accessibility, and records. In 2018, 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).