

DRAFT Summary Points
Portland State University 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:** PSU has been continuously accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and is fully on track with the 7-year NWCCU cycle for accreditation. In its Mid-cycle (Year 3 Review), completed in September 2018, PSU submitted documentation on systematic assessment of student learning outcomes to facilitate continuous improvement of student achievement. NWCCU requested this information at the Year 7 review in 2015.
2. **Economic impact:** A 2015 report estimates the economic impact of PSU in FY2013 as \$1.44 billion.
3. **Student access and student success:** After several years of significant resident enrollment increases, PSU experienced resident enrollment declines beginning in 2012, even as non-resident enrollment continued to grow. For the first time since 2012, PSU saw enrollment for non-resident students decrease— in both 2017 and 2018 by 2.6 and 4.9 percent, respectfully. Resident students had their first percentage increase in enrollment since 2012 in 2017, then subsequently had a decrease in 2018. At the same time, the number of underrepresented minority students enrolled at PSU continues to grow, and is 44 percentage points higher than their 2012 figure. PSU also maintains an increasing trajectory in the number of degrees awarded; in the 2017-18 academic year PSU awarded the most degrees in the institution's history. While graduation rates for underrepresented minority students lag the institutional average by 2 percent for new freshmen and 4 percent for transfer students, Pell Grant recipients graduated at a higher rate than the overall average.
4. **Affordability:** From 2017-18 to 2018-19, Portland State University's resident undergraduate tuition and fees increased by 3.67%, and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 1.79% to \$26,085. For Portland State University graduates who leave the university with federally-backed debt, the average federally-backed debt load is \$21,969.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** In addition to maintaining in good standing with its regional accreditor, PSU has achieved the Carnegie Community Engagement classification. For 2017-18, PSU reports total research expenditures of \$44.9 million.
6. **Collaboration:** PSU contributes to a host of collaborative activities with other post-secondary institutions. Significant efforts include OHSU-PSU joint School of Public Health and with OSU on several environmental science research initiatives. PSU actively partners with other universities on the Active + Adaptive Program to improve student learning. PSU is part of the Ashoka U Changemaker Campus consortium, a select group of institutions of higher education that demonstrate commitment and cutting edge approaches to galvanizing solutions to major human and environmental challenges. About 65.5% of PSU's undergraduates are transfer students, most of them from an Oregon community college.
7. **Shared administrative services:** PSU participates in several of the services offered by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE), and has opted out of about half of them. PSU 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:**

PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY RATIOS WITH GASB 68/75				
Ratio	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	33.9%	40.9%	40.4%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	14.0%	16.9%	15.2%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-4.96%	-1.33%	-4.94%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	3.67%	26.92%	2.49%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	4.22%	3.97%	3.87%	<5%

Displayed benchmarks for public universities from NACUBO publications.

9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2018, the PSU 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).