

DRAFT Summary Points
Oregon Institute of Technology Evaluation
February 2022

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:** Oregon Institute of Technology (“Oregon Tech”) is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU). Following the institution’s year 7 self evaluation and peer review in 2016, regional accreditation was reaffirmed. Five recommendations resulted from the 2016 evaluation, and Oregon Tech has responded and fulfilled two of the five NWCCU recommendations between 2017 and 2020. Oregon Tech is considered to be substantially in compliance but improvement is recommended for the remaining three. Oregon Tech has an ad hoc report due spring 2022 to provide an update on the implementation of the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. Oregon Tech’s Year 6- Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review is also due spring 2022. The Year 7 evaluation of institutional effectiveness is due spring 2023, and with it an update on the three recommendations above.
2. **Economic impact:** A 2020 ECONorthwest report estimates the direct economic impact of Oregon Tech in 2017 on Klamath County was \$82 million, with total impacts (including indirect and induced) of \$234 million.
3. **Student access and student success:** Following nearly a decade of enrollment increases, fall 2021 saw headcount enrollment drop by 7.8 percent from the prior year. Oregon Tech is the only one of Oregon’s four technical and regional universities to have experienced strong enrollment growth over the last 10 years (22.7 percent). Resident students have increased 32.1 percent since 2012, while their non-resident counterparts fell by 5.1 percent over the same timeframe. Oregon Tech saw its largest Full Time Equivalent (FTE) freshmen class in 30 years in 2020, but FTE has fallen by 4.2 percent between then and this year’s evaluation. In fall 2021, resident students made up 79.6 percent of the total student body and under-represented minority students accounted for 19.1 percent. The six-year graduation rate for Pell Grant recipients is xx.x percent, x than the university’s overall graduation rate of 56.0 percent and underrepresented minority students graduated at a rate of 48.4 percent over the same time period.
4. **Affordability:** Partly as a result of state funding cuts, resident (in-state) undergraduate tuition and fees at the Oregon Tech have increased 60.1 percent in the last 10 years, including increases of 5.9 percent and 3.1 percent in 2020-2021 and 2021-22, respectively. Total undergraduate, resident tuition and fees for 2021-22 is \$11,623 (Klamath Falls campus) or \$9,986 (Wilsonville campus). Resident graduate students have faced similar increases. The total cost of attendance for students includes significant expenses associated with housing, food, transportation, and textbooks. Oregon Tech estimates the average student budget for on campus living expenses at its Klamath Falls campus annually at \$14,624. Average debt among graduates is \$22,595, compared to a statewide average of \$21,486, and 32 percent of Oregon Tech students had federally supported loans.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** In addition to maintaining in good standing with its regional accreditor, Oregon Tech is very active in applied research in engineering, technology, applied sciences and medical fields. For 2017-18, Oregon Tech reported total external grant awards of approximately \$14 million. That number increased to, and stabilized at, \$17 million for each of the years 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21.
6. **Collaboration:** Oregon Tech has numerous collaborations that impact student pathway success. Most notable are program-to-program articulation agreements with community college partners. These agreements maximize credit transfer for students pursuing their AAS or transfer degree. Through dual enrollment programs, students can be co-admitted to partner community colleges and Oregon Tech. Oregon Tech collaborates with dual enrollment partners to coordinate financial aid distribution, share transcripts, utilize advising services, and work with transfer students to maximize credit transfer. Current dual enrollment partners include Chemeketa, Clackamas, Klamath, Linn-Benton, Mt. Hood, and Portland Community Colleges. Through Advanced Credit Program (ACP), or dual credit, Oregon Tech oversees collaborations with high schools throughout the state and in many rural communities to increase accessible college credit for high school

students. Oregon Tech is also a member of the Southern Oregon Higher Education Consortium (SOHEC) that was formed in November 2018 in collaboration with Southern Oregon University, Rogue Community College, and Klamath Community College.

7. **Shared administrative services:** Oregon Tech participates in all of the services offered by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE).
8. **Financial Condition Analysis:** Overall, Oregon Tech remains financially stable with a relatively strong financial position. Oregon Tech's expendable net assets grew by 29 percent from FY19 to FY21 after a drop between FY18 and FY19. By the same token, Oregon Tech's viability ratio has continued to increase since FY19. In FY21 it is both the highest it has been in the past five years, as well as above the benchmark of 1.0.
9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2021, the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees appears to have met its legal responsibilities for providing public notice, accessibility, and records. In 2021, 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).