

DRAFT Summary Points
Portland State 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:** PSU 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 2015 (Year Seven Evaluation), NWCCU recommended that PSU accelerate systematic assessment of student learning outcomes to facilitate continuous improvement of student achievement.
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. Compared with the previous year, Fall 2016 saw a 5.2% decline in resident enrollment, a 4.9% increase in non-resident enrollment, and an overall enrollment decline of 3.0%. At the same time, the number of underrepresented minority students enrolled at PSU continues to grow, and is 43.0% higher in 2016 than six years prior. PSU also maintains a generally increasing trajectory in the number of degrees awarded. While graduation rates for underrepresented minority students lag the institutional average by 5 percentage points, PSU is making year-over-year increases in the number of degrees awarded to underrepresented minority students.
4. **Affordability:** For 2016-17, PSU's resident undergraduate tuition increased by 3.77% and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 0.86% to \$24,945. For PSU students who leave the university with debt, their average debt load is \$23,369.
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 2015-16, PSU reports total research expenditures of \$62.5 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. About 65.5% of UO'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				
Ratio	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	Benchmark
Viability Ratio	37.50%	36.00%	34.00%	>125%
Primary Reserve Ratio	19.40%	18.00%	14.00%	>40%
Net Operating Revenues Ratio	-5.89%	3.30%	-4.96%	>4%
Return on Net Assets Ratio	3.79%	15.91%	3.67%	>6%
Debt Burden Ratio	4.75%	4.87%	4.22%	<5%

Displayed benchmarks for public universities from NACUBO publications.

9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2016, the PSU 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.