

DRAFT Summary Points
Southern Oregon 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:** SOU is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), and is fully on track with the 7-year NWCCU cycle for accreditation. It was last accredited following its Year Three evaluation in 2014, and is awaiting the outcome of the Year Seven Evaluation that is still in process.
2. **Economic impact:** The 2015 Institutional Review Report estimates the economic impact of the SOU in 2013-14 as \$237 million.
3. **Student access and student success:** While SOU's fall 2016 headcount enrollment is 9.8% below fall 2011, FTE has dropped by only 2.2% over the same time period. It should be noted that this decline translates to a -0.4% annual average percent change, indicating that year-over-year enrollment trends at SOU have been relatively flat for the last 5 years. There have been steady increases in nonresident enrollment (+16.0%) which have helped maintain enrollment numbers overall but nonresident students represent less than a third of the SOU student body overall. Compared with the previous year, Fall 2016 saw a 2.0% overall enrollment decline. Residents was down 3.1%, while non-resident enrollment increased very slightly. The enrollment of underrepresented students has been increasing. The number of degrees awarded since 2010 has remained steady. Six-year graduation rates for Pell Grant recipients and underrepresented minority students matched or were slightly better than the institutional average. SOU is making year-over-year increases in the number of degrees awarded to underrepresented minority students.
4. **Affordability:** For 2016-17, SOU's resident undergraduate tuition increased by 4.7%, and the estimated total cost of attendance increased by 3.8% to \$25,365. For SOU students who leave the university with debt, their average debt load is \$23,334.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** SOU maintains good standing with its regional accreditor. For FY 2016, it reports total research expenditures of \$-----million.
6. **Collaboration:** SOU contributes to a host of collaborative activities with other post-secondary institutions. Significant among them is its partnership with OHSU School of Nursing and co-enrollment agreements and shared facilities with Rogue Community College. About 45.6% of SOU's fall 2015 undergraduates were transfer students, most of them from RCC.
7. **Shared administrative services:** SOU participates in all of the appropriate services offered by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE).
8. **Financial metrics:** TBD.
9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2016, the SOU 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).