The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) works to improve success in higher education and training for Oregonians by ensuring an accessible, affordable, equitable, and coordinated network of college and career training programs.

What We Mean by “Higher Education”

When people hear higher education, they often think of four-year college. At the HECC, we know it is that and so much more. It includes a broad range of postsecondary education and training options beyond high school, from apprenticeships to career certificates, and from two- and four-year degrees to doctorates.

Our Vision

We envision a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training.

We Partner With

- Students and their families
- Public community colleges
- Public universities
- Private colleges and universities
- Trade schools
- Workforce partners
- Training organizations
- State, business, PK-12 education, and community partners

What We Do

The HECC supports postsecondary education by administering the statewide higher education and workforce budget of about $1.4 billion per year; authorizing programs and degrees; administering statewide financial aid, workforce, and educational programs; and providing strategic guidance to state leaders. We also directly serve Oregonians by awarding grant and scholarship aid to students, and connecting Oregonians with workforce and training resources.
We Support Oregon’s Educational Attainment Goals

Our work is driven by the State of Oregon’s educational attainment goals, which aim to dramatically increase the number of Oregonians who complete high school or college-level credentials:

The 40-40-20 Goal
By 2025, 40 percent of young adult Oregonians will complete a four-year degree or more, 40 percent will complete a two-year degree or short-term career certificate, and the remaining 20 percent will earn a high school diploma or equivalent.

The Adult Attainment Goal
Between 2020 and 2030, 300,000 adult Oregonians will earn a new degree, certificate, or other credential of value. Oregon will reduce the adult educational attainment gaps by half for underserved people of color, low-income learners, and rural learners during this decade.

Our Strategy
Our strategic work is in four priority areas. Through these strategies, we aim to improve affordability, equity, student success, and economic and community impact for Oregonians.

1. OUTREACH
We work to ensure equitable access to college and career resources.

2. REPORTING
We use data analysis and reporting to steer progress toward state attainment and equity goals.

3. FUNDING
We develop funding strategies to prioritize student success.

4. PATHWAYS
We make it easier to navigate and succeed in education and training, and link graduates with careers.

Engage With Us!
Explore our website at oregon.gov/highered
Apply for scholarships and grants at oregonstudentaid.gov
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Email us at info.HECC@state.or.us