

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission

**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.**

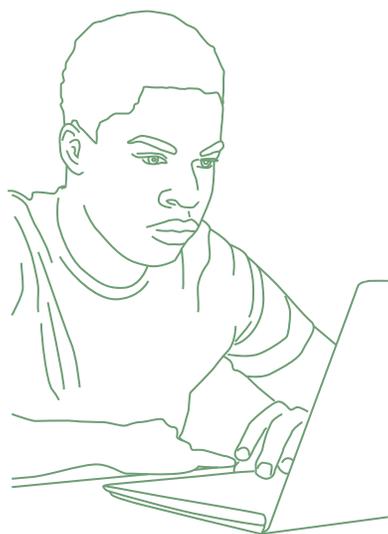
## What We Mean By "Higher Education"

When people hear higher education, they often think of four-year colleges. 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.

## We Partner With

The HECC coordinates work across a wide network of Oregon postsecondary education organizations and groups, including:

- 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



## How We're Structured

Established in 2013, the HECC is a volunteer commission appointed by the Oregon Governor and confirmed by the Oregon State Senate, with funding and policy responsibilities for higher education and the workforce statewide. We are also a state agency of approximately 130 employees working across eight offices to carry out this vision for Oregonians.

Last updated November 2019

## 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.

To guide our work and measure our success in achieving this vision, we focus on:

### AFFORDABILITY



### EQUITY



### STUDENT SUCCESS



### ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT



## 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.

Our work is driven by the State of Oregon's educational attainment goals for youth and adults. To guide that work, we use the Oregon Equity Lens to help close system and opportunity gaps to achieve equitable outcomes for all.



## Our Strategy

Our strategic work for Oregon is in four priority areas:



### 1. OUTREACH

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

**EXAMPLE:** We award more than \$118 million in grant and scholarship aid every year. In 2017–2018 alone, we conducted 300+ outreach events to promote financial aid opportunities.



### 2. REPORTING

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

**EXAMPLE:** Our annual set of “Statewide Snapshots” reports key data on students at every public college or university in the state, with a spotlight on data by race/ethnicity.



### 3. FUNDING

We develop funding strategies to prioritize student success.

**EXAMPLE:** Our Student Success and Completion Model defines distribution of state dollars to public universities, incentivizing increased graduation of underrepresented students.



### 4. PATHWAYS

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

**EXAMPLE:** With our campus partners, we are expanding the Oregon Transfer Compass, a set of tools to remove barriers and help students transfer from two-year colleges to four-year universities.

## Engage With Us!

Explore our website at [oregon.gov/highered](http://oregon.gov/highered)

Apply for scholarships and grants at [oregonstudentaid.gov](http://oregonstudentaid.gov)

Sign up for our mailing lists on our website

Follow us on Twitter @OregonHECC

Email us at [info.HECC@state.or.us](mailto:info.HECC@state.or.us)

