

LEGAL AUTHORITY

Legal Authority for State Approval of Community College Programs

The Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD) is granted the legal authority for statewide coordination of the approval of community college courses and curricula through Chapter 589, Division 6 (<https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/displayChapterRules.action?selectedChapter=67>) of the Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) adopted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) under the authority of Chapter 341 (<https://www.oregonlaws.org/ors/chapter/341>) of the Oregon Revised Statutes.

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) authorizes local community college district boards of education to offer courses and to issue associate degrees and certificates of completion attesting to a student's satisfactory completion of the college's program(s) of study. See the Approval Planning Guide (/handbook/approval-guide) section in this *Handbook* for more information.

Approval & Review Processes

There are numerous approval processes that guide the development of college programming. Listed below are some of the entities involved:

- Higher Education Coordinating Commission program approval standards and policies
- Local college standards and policies
- Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities

See the Approval Planning Guide (/handbook/approval-guide) section in this *Handbook* for more information.