



Unified Statewide Transfer Agreement Analyses

Legislative Mandate

House Bill 2998 requires the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to convene Oregon's public community colleges and universities to:

- a) Develop criteria used to decide the order in which Unified Statewide Transfer Agreements (USTAs) will be established
 - USTAs are major-specific pathways that allow Oregon community college students to transfer to any Oregon public university with the optimal number of academic credits to complete the degree on time, without loss of academic credit or requirement to retake a course
 - These criteria must include major popularity and workforce demand
- b) Using that criteria, decide on the first three USTAs to be established
- c) Provide feedback to the HECC on defining "lost academic credit"

To inform this work, HECC staff prepared the following slides for the convened House Bill 2998 Transfer Workgroup to use. This document includes data and analysis on bachelor's degree completion rates, credit differences, major popularity, and the labor market.

Data Sources

University student data. Bachelor's degree completion rates and ranks of majors come from university student records that Oregon public universities submit to the HECC. To focus specifically on the populations of students who have completed the rough equivalent of a two-year USTA, these analyses compare first-time freshmen (FTF) who attained junior status and community college transfer students who transferred to a university with 90 or more accepted credits. Some comparisons further specify transfer students who have an associate degree and those who do not, and students who transfer with fewer than 90 credits. These data reflect the fall 2010 cohort of students, the most recent cohort available.

Labor market data. The labor market data used for this analysis come from the Oregon Employment Department's employment projections for 2014-2024.

Bachelor's degree completion rates

Students who enter the university as first-time freshmen graduate at higher rates than students who transfer into the university from a community college. The graph below shows the Oregon public university graduation rates for resident first-time freshmen who attain junior status (green line) and for students who transfer from an Oregon community college to an Oregon public university with at least 90 accepted credits. The rates for transfer students who enter the university with an associate degree (AA) are shown with the dark brown line, and those who do not have an AA are shown with the red line. The lines show the cumulative graduation rates by approximate years in higher education. For first-time freshmen, this means the number of years at the university; 46 percent graduated by the end of their fourth year in the university, 75 percent graduated by the end of their fifth year, and 84 percent graduated by the end of their sixth year. For students who transfer with at least 90 accepted credits, we lag these rates two years to approximate the time they were enrolled in community college; certainly some students likely took more than two years to complete 90 or more credits, in which case their education took longer to complete than what is shown here. For transfer students, the time is represented here is thus a conservative estimate.

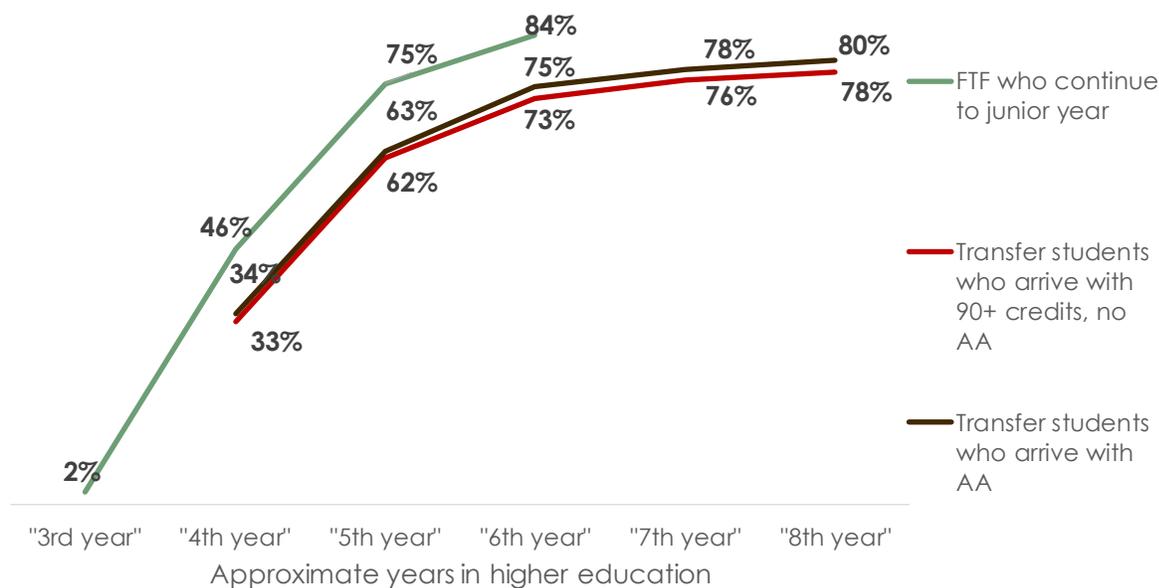


Figure 1. Bachelor's degree completion rates, by enrollment status and years in university, Oregon resident public university students, fall 2010 cohort.

Among transfer students who entered with an AA, 34 percent completed their bachelor's degree after four years (two years at the university); 63 percent graduated after five years (three years at the university); 75 percent graduated after six years (four years at the university), 78 percent graduated after seven years (five years at the university), and 80 percent graduated after eight years (six years at the university). Transfer students who entered with at least 90 accepted credits but without an AA, the graduation rates are very similar but slightly lower than those who had an AA. For those without an AA, 33 percent completed their

bachelor’s degree after four years (two years at the university); 62 percent graduated after five years (three years at the university); 73 percent graduated after six years (four years at the university), 76 percent graduated after seven years (five years at the university), and 78 percent graduated after eight years (six years at the university). Thus, even with an additional two years in higher education, these transfer students have graduation rates that are four to six percentage points lower than the six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen.

Credit differences

Students graduating with a bachelor’s degree also have different amounts of credits at graduation depending on their university entry status, as shown in the figure below. First-time freshmen have, on average, 201.7 credits, while community college transfer students have substantially more. In addition, those who transfer to the university later in their undergraduate experience (i.e., with more credits at transfer) graduate with higher credit totals. Those who transfer in with the equivalent of one year of college (i.e., 45 to 55 accepted credits) graduate with 204.8 credits; those who transfer in with the equivalent of two years of (i.e., 90 or more accepted credits) graduate with many more. Transfer students arriving with an associate degree have earned 215.4 credits by the time they receive their bachelor’s degree, and those arriving with 90 or more accepted credits and no associate degree have earned 217.3 at bachelor’s degree graduation.

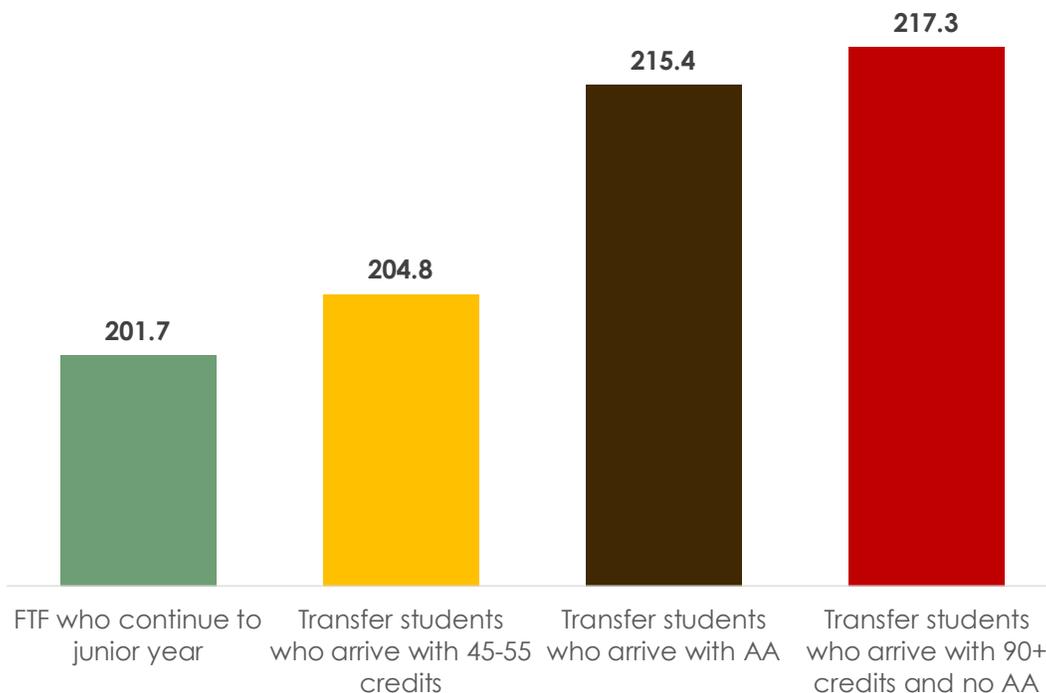


Figure 2. Average credits earned at graduation for resident first-time freshmen and community college transfer students, by number of credits and degree at transfer, fall 2010 cohort, Oregon public universities.

Common majors

The tables below show the ten most common majors among bachelor's degree graduates at the beginning and end of their university experience. The majors are listed in order of popularity (e.g., the first row shows the most common major) for first-time freshmen and transfer students in different groups, all from the fall, 2010 cohort of students. The tables use two-digit classification of instructional programs (CIP).

Table 1 shows the top ten majors for students who have completed the rough equivalent of two years of a bachelor's degree: first-time freshmen who attain junior status and transfer students who arrive with 90 or more accepted credits. At graduation, the two groups of students share eight of the top ten majors: business/management/marketing, social sciences, biological/biomedical sciences, engineering, psychology, visual and performing arts, health professions and related programs, and family and consumer sciences.

		At entry		At graduation	
		FTF who continue as juniors	Transfer students who arrive with 90+ credits (with or without an AA degree)	FTF who continue as juniors	Transfer students who arrive with 90+ credits (with or without an AA degree)
Rank ↑ Major popularity ↓ 10	1	24-Liberal Arts/Humanities	52-Business/Management/Marketing	52-Business/Management/Marketing	52-Business/Management/Marketing
		52-Business/Management/Marketing	42-Psychology	45-Social Sciences	45-Social Sciences
		26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	45-Social Sciences	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	42-Psychology
		14-Engineering	14-Engineering	14-Engineering	14-Engineering
		30-Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	13-Education	09-Communication and Journalism	51-Health Professions/Related Prgm
		50-Visual And Performing Arts	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	42-Psychology	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences
		42-Psychology	00-Undeclared/Undefined	50-Visual And Performing Arts	50-Visual And Performing Arts
		45-Social Sciences	50-Visual And Performing Arts	51-Health Professions/Related Prgm	13-Education
		00-Undeclared/Undefined	51-Health Professions/Related Prgm	30-Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	24-Liberal Arts/Humanities
		13-Education	24-Liberal Arts/Humanities	19-Family and Consumer Sciences	19-Family and Consumer Sciences

Table 1. Top ten majors at entry and graduation for resident first-time freshmen who continue to junior year and community college students who transfer with 90 or more accepted credits, fall 2010 cohort, Oregon public universities.

Table 2 shows the same information for students who have completed the rough equivalent of one year of a bachelor’s degree: first-time freshmen who attain sophomore status and transfer students who arrive with 45-55 accepted credits. At graduation, the two groups of students share seven of the top ten majors: business/management/marketing, social sciences, biological/biomedical sciences, communication and journalism, engineering, psychology, and health professions and related programs.

		At entry		At graduation		
		FTF who continue as sophomores	Transfer students who arrive with 45-55 credits	FTF who continue as sophomores	Transfer students who arrive with 45-55 credits	
Rank	Major popularity	1	24-Liberal Arts/Humanities	24-Liberal Arts/Humanities	52-Business/Management/Marketing	45-Social Sciences
		2	52-Business/Management/Marketing	14-Engineering	45-Social Sciences	51-Health Professions/Related Prgm
		3	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	52-Business/Management/Marketing
		4	14-Engineering	52-Business/Management/Marketing	09-Communication and Journalism	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences
		5	30-Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	51-Health Professions/Related Prgm	14-Engineering	09-Communication and Journalism
		6	50-Visual And Performing Arts	45-Social Sciences	42-Psychology	42-Psychology
		7	42-Psychology	00-Undeclared/Undefined	50-Visual And Performing Arts	14-Engineering
		8	45-Social Sciences	03-Natural Resources/Conservation	51-Health Professions/Related Prgm	16-Foreign Languages, Lit, Ling
		9	00-Undeclared/Undefined	23-English Language/Literature	19-Family and Consumer Sciences	03-Natural Resources/Conservation
		10	13-Education	42-Psychology	30-Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	23-English Language/Literature

Table 2. Top ten majors at entry and graduation for resident first-time freshmen who continue to sophomore year and community college students who transfer with 45-55 accepted credits, fall 2010 cohort, Oregon public universities.

Table 3 illustrates the credit difference for first-time freshmen and transfer students that is associated with the most common majors. It shows the credits accumulated by graduation in each of the top ten majors for first-time freshmen who attain junior status and for transfer students arriving with 90 or more credits. The final column in the table shows the difference in credits at graduation for these majors. In all cases, transfer students graduate with more credits than first-time freshmen. Across all majors, transfer students arriving with 90 or more credits graduate with 216 credits on average, compared to first-time freshmen attaining junior status, who graduate with 202 credits on average (data not shown).

Rank	FTF who continue as juniors		Transfer students who arrive with 90+ credits (with or without an AA degree)		
	Major	Credits at graduation	Major	Credits at graduation	Difference from FTF
Major popularity ↑ 1 ↓ 10	52-Business/Management/Marketing	201	52-Business/Management/Marketing	213	12
	45-Social Sciences	191	45-Social Sciences	204	13
	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	208	42-Psychology	202	12
	14-Engineering	220	14-Engineering	242	22
	09-Communication and Journalism	196	51-Health Professions/Relatd Prgm	234	31
	42-Psychology	190	26-Biological/Biomedical Sciences	228	20
	50-V isual A nd Performing Arts	207	50-V isual A nd Performing Arts	228	21
	51-Health Professions/Relatd Prgm	203	13-Education	219	--
	30-Multi/Interdisciplinary Studies	203	24-Liberal Arts/Humanities	205	--
	19-Family and Consumer Sciences	199	19-Family and Consumer Sciences	214	15

Table 3. Top ten majors at graduation and total credits at graduation for resident first-time freshmen who continue to junior year and community college students who transfer with 90 or more accepted credits, fall 2010 cohort, Oregon public universities.

Labor market factors

The graph below shows the total projected employment for the ten occupations projected to be the largest in Oregon in 2024.¹ The Oregon Employment Department projects that in 2024, registered nursing, general and operations management, and specialized business operations will be the top occupations in which Oregonians are employed. The only occupation projected to be in the top 10 in 2024 that was not also in the top 10 in 2014 is software application developers. Conversely, secondary school teachers, an occupation in the top 10 in 2014, is not projected to be in the top 10 in 2024.

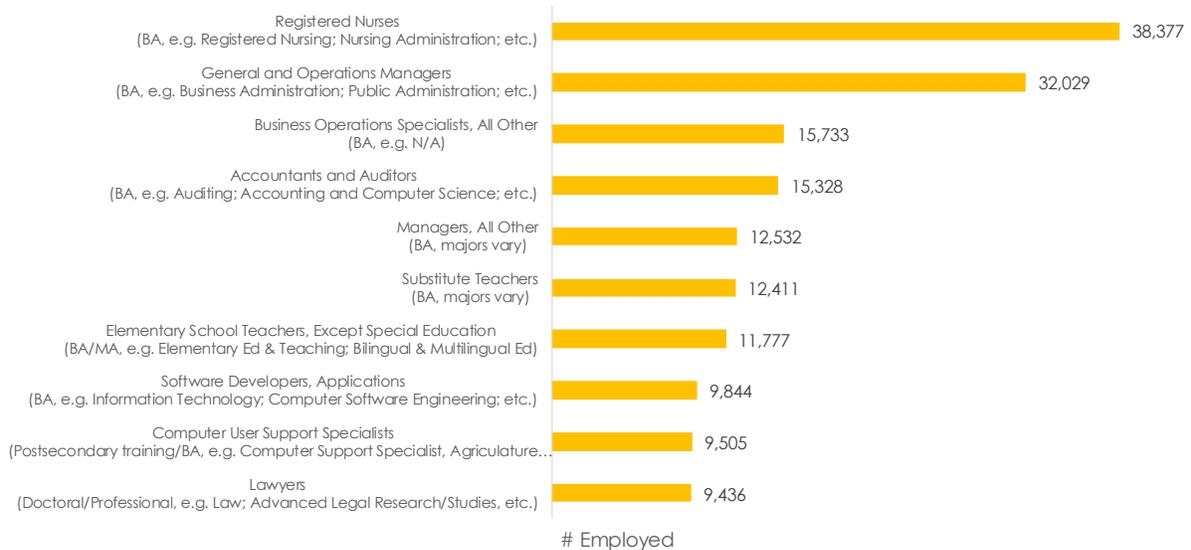


Figure 3. Total projected Oregon employment by occupation, 2024, Oregon Employment Department.

The occupations projected to have the most job openings between 2014 and 2024 are shown in Figure 4 below. Oregon Employment Department data show that registered nursing, general and operations management, and accounting/auditing are the occupations with the most projected job openings.²

¹ "Oregon Employment Projections Full Table, 2014-2024." Retrieved from <https://www.qualityinfo.org/documents/10182/92203/Oregon+Occupational+Employment+Projections+2014-2024?version=1.7> (Oct. 3, 2017).

² "Oregon Employment Projections Full Table, 2014-2024." Retrieved from <https://www.qualityinfo.org/documents/10182/92203/Oregon+Occupational+Employment+Projections+2014-2024?version=1.7> (Oct. 3, 2017).

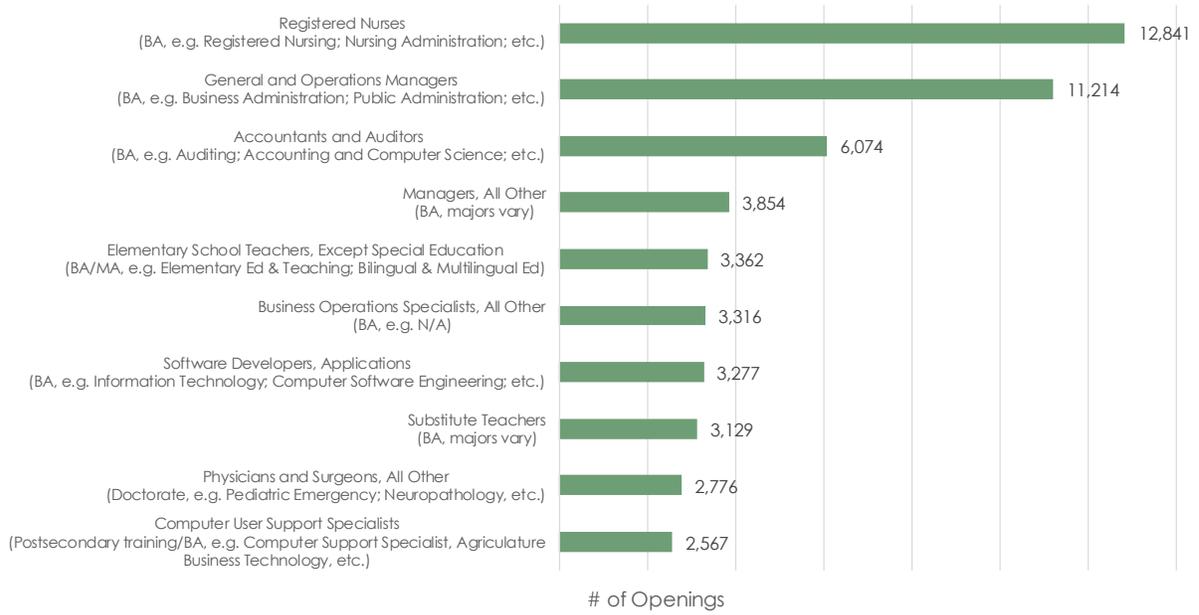


Figure 4. Projected openings in Oregon employment by occupation, 2024, Oregon Employment Department.