

**Summary Points**  
**Oregon Institute of Technology Evaluation**  
**February 2024**

*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:** As of its most recent evaluation, Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech) is substantially compliant with the Standards, Policies, and Eligibility Requirements of the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Oregon Tech submitted its Year 7 Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness in Spring 2023. NWCCU accepted the report in July 2023 and issued four commendations with four recommendations for continuous improvement. Oregon Tech submitted its Ad Hoc report in Fall 2023. Mid-Cycle Review is to occur in Spring 2026. All reports, records of official NWCCU actions and accreditation materials are available institutional accreditation web page.
2. **Economic impact:** The 2023 Beacon Economics, LLC Economic, Fiscal and Social Analysis, dated September 2023, estimates the direct economic impact of Oregon Tech in 2022 on Klamath County as \$135.3 million, with total impacts (including indirect and induced) as \$204.4 million.
3. **Student Access and Student Success:** In fall 2023, Oregon Tech enrolled 5,111 students, a 4.0 percent increase from fall 2022 and a 4.1 percent increase since the university's last evaluation two-years ago (fall 2021). The number of newly admitted undergraduate students decreased by 3.9 percent since last year, and 10.3 percent since the last evaluation. This last year's enrollment shows decreases in both resident and non-resident students, declining by 0.7 and 11.5 percent respectively. Since the 2021 evaluation, undergraduate resident student enrollment increased 7.8 percent, compared to the 11.3 percent decrease for their non-resident counterparts. During the 2022-2023 academic year 81.2 percent of Oregon Tech's undergraduate students were residents and the majority (56.0 percent) attended part-time.

Oregon Tech's growth in enrollment of underrepresented minority students continues to be noteworthy. Underrepresented minority student enrollment has stayed relatively flat since last year, but increased by 22.9 percent since the last evaluation and increased over 100.0 percent since 2013. Underrepresented minority students constitute 22.6 percent of the entire student population.

4. **Affordability:** Students at Oregon Tech and across the state confront substantial access and affordability challenges in higher education. Over the last several decades nationally, the costs of higher education have been increasingly borne by students and their families. Today in Oregon, two-thirds of total educational and general (E&G) revenue for the state's universities now come from net tuition and fees, contrasting sharply with previous generations' experiences. Over the past decade, Oregon Tech has witnessed a 50.3 percent increase in resident undergraduate tuition and fees, with recent hikes of 2.5 percent and 4.8 percent in 2022-23 and 2023-24.

Oregon Tech is committed to addressing these challenges by providing financial aid options, including federal and state programs like Pell Grants and the Oregon Opportunity Grant, as well as institutional resources such as scholarships, remissions, and tuition discounts. In the 2022-23 academic year, Oregon Tech allocated \$6,599,836 in tuition remissions, equivalent to 18.3 percent of gross tuition charges, marking a 13.1 percent increase from the previous year. However, the comprehensive affordability picture encompasses expenses beyond tuition, including housing, food, transportation, and textbooks. The average student budget for on-campus living expenses at Oregon Tech's Klamath Falls campus is estimated at \$15,729 annually, exceeding tuition and fees. Considering a broader perspective, it is essential to assess students' ability to complete their degrees, do so within a reasonable timeframe, and attain earnings commensurate with any incurred debt. HECC's Oregon Tech scorecard for the 2021-22 academic year revealed that 54 percent of Oregon Tech students struggled to cover expenses, compared to a statewide average of 47 percent. While Oregon Tech graduates earned an average of \$70,639 five years after graduation, surpassing the statewide average, they carried an average debt of \$22,500, slightly higher than the state average, with 29 percent relying on federally supported loans, and 33 percent received Pell Grants during the 2021-22 academic year.

5. **Academic Quality and Research:** Oregon Tech maintains good standing with its regional accreditor. For the 2021-22 academic year, Oregon Tech reported total research expenditures of approximately \$4.2 million, and for 2022-23 total research expenditures are not available at the time of this report.
6. **Collaboration:** Oregon Tech actively engages in various collaborative initiatives to enhance education and innovation. President Naganathan chairs the Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP), and the institution participates in several statewide councils. It collaborates with the Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) for degrees like Emergency Medical Services and Medical Laboratory Science and recently launched a joint Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Oregon Tech hosts the Oregon Manufacturing Innovation Center Research and Development (OMIC R&D), collaborating with industry, academia, and government. The university has dual enrollment agreements with several community colleges, facilitating full-time financial aid status for students. Reverse transfer agreements and articulation agreements with community colleges enhance credit transfer. Oregon Tech's STEM partnerships with other institutions and school districts aim to develop a skilled workforce. It has a Pharmacy Degree Bridge program with Pacific University and offers dual credit programs for high school students in partnership with seventy-nine high schools statewide.
7. **Shared administrative services:** Oregon Tech participates in most of the services offered by the University Shared Services Enterprise (USSE).
8. **Financial Metrics:** {Complete analysis of the university's financial metrics will be available in the full report, April of 2024}
9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2022 and 2023, the Oregon Tech Board of Trustees appears to have met its legal responsibilities for providing public notice, accessibility, and records. 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).