

Summary Points
Oregon Institute of Technology Evaluation
June 2026

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:** Oregon Institute of Technology is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Oregon Tech has been continuously accredited since 1962 and is currently listed by NWCCU as accredited. Oregon Tech's institutional accreditation was most recently reaffirmed in summer 2023 following completion of its Year Seven Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness. The university's most recent NWCCU evaluation was the Spring 2026 Mid-Cycle Review, and NWCCU lists its next scheduled evaluation as a Spring 2027 Ad Hoc Report with Visit. As of its most recent evaluation, NWCCU identifies Oregon Tech as substantially compliant with its Standards, Policies, and Eligibility Requirements. In addition to institutional accreditation, Oregon Tech maintains specialized programmatic accreditations across several engineering, technology, and health-related programs that support its applied and workforce-focused mission.
2. **Economic Impact:** Oregon Tech serves as Oregon's public polytechnic university, with a workforce-focused mission in engineering, health professions, technology, applied sciences, and related fields. Oregon Tech reported that a 2023 Beacon Economics analysis estimated the university's direct economic impact in Klamath County at \$135.3 million, with a total statewide economic impact of \$286 million when indirect and induced effects are included. The university also reported supporting more than 2,500 jobs statewide and producing roughly 700 career-ready graduates each year. Oregon Tech's Klamath Falls campus expands access to STEM and applied technical education in a rural region, while its Wilsonville campus connects students to industry experience and workforce opportunities in the Portland metropolitan area. Oregon Tech also reported strong graduate earnings and return-on-investment outcomes, reflecting its role in preparing students for high-demand, high-wage fields across Oregon.
3. **Student Access and Student Success:** Oregon Institute of Technology continues to play a unique role within Oregon's public universities through its polytechnic mission and emphasis on career-oriented education in engineering, health professions, technology, and applied sciences. Between Fall 2023 and Fall 2024, total enrollment increased from 5,111 to 5,302 students, an increase of 191 students, or 3.7 percent. Enrollment increased further in Fall 2025 to 5,444 students, representing an increase of 142 students, or 2.7 percent, from Fall 2024. Overall, OIT's enrollment increased by 333 students, or 6.5 percent, between Fall 2023 and Fall 2025. OIT's enrollment profile reflects its applied and workforce-focused mission. In Fall 2024, resident students accounted for 4,452 students, or 84.0 percent of total enrollment, while nonresident students accounted for 850 students, or 16.0 percent. By Fall 2025, resident enrollment increased to 4,607 students while nonresident enrollment declined slightly to 837 students. In Fall 2024, undergraduate students represented 5,162 students, or 97.4 percent of enrollment, while graduate master's students represented 119 students, or 2.2 percent, and doctoral or professional students represented 21 students, or 0.4 percent. Student success outcomes reflect both strengths and

continued areas of focus. For the Fall 2023 first-time cohort, OIT's first-year retention rate was 70.7 percent. For the Fall 2018 first-time cohort, OIT's four-year graduation rate was 30.2 percent, five-year graduation rate was 49.5 percent, and six-year graduation rate was 55.6 percent. The six-year graduation rate was 44.6 percent for underrepresented minority students and 48.5 percent for Pell Grant recipients. Transfer student outcomes remained comparatively strong. For the Fall 2018 transfer cohort, the four-year transfer graduation rate was 65.2 percent. The rate was 66.1 percent for underrepresented minority students and 66.5 percent for Pell Grant recipients. OIT awarded 599 bachelor's degrees and 29 master's degrees during 2024-25. Of those bachelor's degrees, 134 were awarded to underrepresented minority students and 270 were awarded to Pell Grant recipients.

4. **Affordability:** Oregon Institute of Technology continues to face affordability pressures as student costs have increased over time, particularly in relation to total cost of attendance and net price. Over the past decade, undergraduate resident tuition and mandatory fees increased from \$9,103 in academic year 2016-17 to \$13,760 in 2025-26, a 51 percent increase and an average annual growth rate of 4.7 percent, slightly above the statewide average of 4.5 percent. The total cost of attendance for full-time students increased from \$21,255 in 2014-15 to \$34,069 in 2023-24, a 60 percent increase and an average annual growth rate of 5.4 percent, significantly above the statewide average annual increase of 3.4 percent. After accounting for public and institutional aid, OIT's average net price increased from \$13,037 to \$20,813 during the same period, also a 60 percent increase and an average annual growth rate of 5.3 percent. OIT's institutional discount rate remained relatively flat at 39 percent over the period reviewed. The university's affordability rate improved modestly from 60 percent in 2014-15 to 51 percent in 2023-24, though it remained above the statewide average of 45 percent.
5. **Academic Quality and Research:** For the 23-24 academic year, Oregon Tech reported total research expenditures of approximately \$ 7,868,860 and for 24-25 total research expenditures were \$7,312,791.
6. **Collaboration:** Oregon Tech actively engages in various collaborative initiatives to enhance education and innovation. President Naganathan is a member of 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). These include labor relations and treasury management services, Optional Retirement Plans (ORP plans (403(b) and 401(a)) hosted by the University of Oregon for the 7 public universities through Retirement Plan Investment and Administration Committees. Oregon Tech participates in the shared services for risk management through the Public Universities Risk Management Insurance Trust

(PURMIT) utilized by six of the seven public universities. More recently, Oregon Tech is partnering in shared services with PSU, SOU, WOU and EOU for re-enrollment of Stopped-out Students through a joint contract with a single vendor. Oregon Tech is also exploring a shared services initiative in partnership with WOU, EOU, SOU and PSU focused on improving efficiencies and standardization around some core support functions in an effort to bend the cost curve for these universities going forward. Areas under review and consideration are outside legal consulting, cybersecurity, back-end payroll interstate and federal tax maintenance, project management and compliance and regulatory staff training.

8. **Financial Condition Analysis:** Oregon Institute of Technology continues to face financial sustainability pressures associated with expense growth, declining financial ratios, and structural alignment between enrollment, staffing, and spending. HECC's 2025 *Financial Sustainability of Oregon Public Universities* report identified OIT's enrollment trend as stable, though fall fourth-week FTE enrollment declined slightly from 3,239 students in Fall 2016 to 3,132 students in Fall 2025, a decrease of 107 FTE, or 3 percent. OIT's composite financial index declined from 2.55 in FY2020 to 0.66 in FY2024, below the industry benchmark of 3.0 associated with long-term financial sustainability. HECC's financial sustainability analysis characterized OIT's recent enterprise-wide financial trend as "struggling." Within the Education and General fund, OIT generated negative operating margins in two of the past five years. Between FY2021 and FY2025, E&G revenues grew at an average annual rate of 2.4 percent while expenses grew at an average annual rate of 2.9 percent. In FY2025, total E&G revenues were \$76.03 million compared to \$75.45 million in expenses, resulting in a positive operating margin of \$0.58 million. OIT's E&G fund balance declined slightly from 2.6 months in FY2021 to 2.4 months in FY2025. Cost efficiency metrics reflect continued operational pressure. Between 2019 and 2023, student FTE declined by 11 percent while employee FTE increased by 8 percent and faculty FTE increased by 12 percent. During the same period, OIT's student-to-faculty ratio declined from 17.1 to 13.7, and its student-to-staff ratio declined from 7.0 to 5.8. Degree productivity remained relatively flat, with completions per 1,000 student FTE increasing slightly from 217.9 in FY2020 to 220.3 in FY2024, while E&G spending per completion increased from \$89,384 to \$106,348. In response to these pressures, OIT has implemented three consecutive years of spending reductions, including a \$3.4 million, or 3.9 percent, reduction in FY2025 following a 1.3 percent reduction the prior year. OIT also received approximately \$2.3 million in targeted state sustainability investments during the 2023-25 biennium. These investments are expected to generate approximately \$3.9 million in net incremental revenue and cost savings within five years after implementation.
9. **Board of Trustees:** In 2024 and 2025, 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).