

Featured Findings from the Combined Data for All 24 Public Institutions

2017-18 Statewide Snapshots: <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/research/Pages/snapshots.aspx>

ENROLLMENT

- Oregon public and private institutions combined enrolled 445,378 total resident and non-resident students in 2017-18. Of these, 386,150 students enrolled at public institutions, and 330,799 of the enrolled students were Oregon undergraduates at public institutions.
- Students of color are increasingly represented on campuses. Currently, nearly 25 percent of higher education students identify as students of color.
- At Oregon's public institutions, the majority—63 percent—were enrolled in an undergraduate or certificate program or pathway, and 31 percent were enrolled in noncredit coursework.
- Among Oregon students taking undergraduate courses, 13 percent are high school students, many of them taking courses on their high school campus under arrangements between high schools, community colleges, and public universities.

AFFORDABILITY

- Affordability challenges are pervasive, with 42 percent of Oregon students who apply for financial aid (31 percent at community colleges and 60 percent at the universities) unable to meet college expenses even after taking into account expected family contributions, public grants, campus scholarships, and estimated student earnings.
- Oregon's commitment to help Oregonians afford college through financial aid is significant through state grants such as the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon Promise grant, and aid provided by the institutions. However, a vast majority of students (64 percent) again did not receive any public grant aid, because they either did not qualify or did not fill out the federal financial aid application.
- Loans often fill the gap between costs and resources: 42 percent of undergraduates who apply for aid have federal loans.

COMPLETION

- While graduation rates have been slowly increasing over time, large percentages of students do not complete degrees or certificates or transfer in the standard time periods: 48% of new credential-seeking students at community colleges graduate with a credential or transfer to a university within four years, and 65% of first-time, full-time university freshmen graduate within six years.
- Statewide, there are significant disparities in undergraduate completion rates among students in different racial/ethnic groups, with rates being lower among Native American/Alaska Natives, African American, and Hispanic/Latinx populations, and highest among White and Asian American populations.

- Only 49 percent of first-generation students complete their courses of study within six years at universities or within four years at community colleges, compared to 55 percent of students who are not first-generation.
- The bachelor's degree completion rate for community college transfer students at the universities was 63 percent, falling significantly behind the 82 percent rate for students who entered as freshmen. This information is guiding statewide efforts to improve transfer pathways.