

Community Colleges in Oregon

History and Purpose

- The Oregon Legislature enacted statutes in 1961 to create a way for community colleges to be formed.
- Legislative intent: “to fill the institutional gap in education by offering broad, comprehensive programs in academic as well as vocational-technical subjects.”
- By statute, community college boards must keep in touch with the needs of people they serve.
- Community colleges provide adult post-secondary education in the areas of professional technical training and lower division collegiate transfer classes, secondary education in adult basic skills, English-as-a-second-language and secondary remediation, and adult continuing education.
- The 4As of Oregon Community Colleges are: Accessible, Affordable, Adaptable and Accountable. Learn more at <http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/pdf/The4As.pdf>.

Locations and Programs

- 17 community colleges operate throughout Oregon.
- 74 outreach centers are operated off-campus within community college districts.
- 97 percent of Oregon’s population lives within a community college district.
- Only seven full counties and portions of four other counties are not within a college district; these counties are served through contracts out of district or through distance-learning classes (available online or via cable television).
- For contact information, websites, and listing of degree and certificate programs for each college, see <http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/pdf/Viewbook/CommunityCollegeViewbook0607.pdf>.

Governance

- Each community college district is governed by a seven-member board of education, elected by the district’s voters.
- Each community college board is responsible for setting policies to provide education and training as well as control use of and access to the district’s property.
- Each local board employs a president for their college.
- Community colleges, like elementary and secondary education, are regulated by the State Board of Education, which distributes funds and approves programs.
- The Commissioner of community colleges is appointed by and reports directly to the State Board of Education, and directs the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

Student Demographics

- Oregon’s community colleges served more than 350,000 students in 2005-06.
- Community colleges educated over 47,500 students from ethnic minority communities in 2002-2003. In 2004-05, the percentages of minorities enrolled in community colleges compared to percentages within the Oregon population ranged from 132% to 167%.
- Community colleges are the largest provider of college education to Oregon’s ethnic minorities.
- The average age of community college students is 35.5.
- Gender of community college students: 53.9% women; 43.0% men; 3.0 % unreported.
- Race/ ethnicity: 1.4% Native American; 3.5% Asian American; 1.7% African American; 8.2% Hispanic American; 58.1% Caucasian; .5% International; 26.71% Undeclared.
- For demographics and enrollment data for each college, see <http://www.oregon.gov/CCWD/pdf/Profile/CommunityCollegeProfile.pdf> (Updated August 2009)

Workforce

- Community college employees (faculty and staff) are public employees.

Funding

- Community colleges receive funding from the state’s General Fund, tuition, local property taxes, and other sources.

Sources: Community Colleges in Oregon (Oregon School Boards Association)
Community College Basic Information Guide 2007 (Oregon Community College Association)

Compiled December 2007 by the American Lung Association of Oregon for Oregon Tobacco Prevention and Education Program grantees working with community colleges.

Oregon's Community College Districts and Non-District Areas

1. [Blue Mountain](#)
2. [Central Oregon](#)
3. [Chemeketa](#)
4. [Clackamas](#)
5. [Clatsop](#)
6. [Columbia Gorge](#)
7. [Klamath](#)
8. [Lane](#)
9. [Linn-Benton](#)
10. [Mt. Hood](#)
11. [Oregon Coast](#)
12. [Portland](#)
13. [Rogue](#)
14. [Southwestern Oregon](#)
15. [Tillamook Bay](#)
16. [Treasure Valley](#)
17. [Umpqua](#)

Non-district areas are identified in white. Non-district areas include all or part of the following counties:

- Columbia (Clatskanie and Ranier school districts)
- Gilliam County
- Grant County
- Harney County
- Lake County (except northern section)
- Malheur County (except northeastern section)
- Sherman County
- Union County
- Wallowa County
- Wheeler County

