

ACCESS & SUCCESS



Students want and deserve successful outcomes — and we believe they can achieve them. At Oregon State University, by 2030, we aim to increase our six-year graduation rate to 80% and equalize six-year graduation rates regardless of gender, race or ethnicity, or financial need.

ENROLLMENT: 2013 VS. 2023

■ 2013 ■ 2023



OSU is welcoming a significant number of first-generation, Pell-eligible and transfer students, and the student body is becoming more diverse racially and ethnically.

RETENTION & GRADUATION RATES

Oregon State's six-year graduation rate has been steadily increasing, and the 2022 first-year retention rate is the highest ever at OSU. However, the story looks different for students of color, first-generation students, Pell-eligible students and male students.

Fall 2022 First-year Retention Rate

87.2%

Fall 2022 First-year Retention Rate for Underrepresented Minorities

84.7%

Current Six-year Graduation Rate

70.3%

Current Six-year Graduation Rate for Underrepresented Minorities

62.8%

BARRIERS TO ACCESS & PERSISTENCE



WELL-BEING & BELONGING IN THE CLASSROOM

- > Experiencing a sense of belonging supports students' well-being and is an important factor in their educational persistence and success.
- > Students report being less likely to experience belonging in classes outside of their major.
- > In some colleges, students of color are also less likely to report that faculty make them excited about learning or feel like they matter.

TRANSFER STUDENTS

Not enough community college students are transferring to universities and earning bachelor's degrees. A 2023 U.S. Department of Education report shared that in Oregon the rate at which community college students who receive federal financial aid and transfer to a university to pursue a bachelor's degree is 22%, and 50% of those transfer students complete their bachelor degrees within eight years of initially starting at a community college. At OSU, 60% of transfer students who receive financial aid complete their bachelor's degrees within this eight-year span.



AFFORDABILITY & BASIC NEEDS

- > At OSU, 74% of Oregon resident undergraduates receive financial aid.
- > Although this is a substantial rate, the maximum federal Pell Grant (\$7,395) and maximum Oregon Opportunity Grant (\$7,524) do not cover the estimated cost of attendance, which is \$32,502.
- > In-state, Pell-eligible students face an average financial gap of about \$17,000.
- > Also, roughly half of Ecampus learners have high financial need.
- > These circumstances force students to rely on unsubsidized or parent loans or take fewer credits per year and extend their time to graduation.
- > Some students face greater financial burdens. For example, on average, student parents graduate with two times the debt of non-parenting students.



ECAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

- > Many OSU Ecampus students are adult learners who balance more commitments than first-time, full-time students.
- > Adult learners are more likely to be part-time students, which can sometimes lead to interruptions and delays in degree progression.
- > At OSU, we want adult learners to succeed at the same rate as other students, while providing enough flexibility for these learners to balance other responsibilities. We are working to understand why students stop their studies and how to support them.

STUDENT SUCCESS OUTCOMES

Recognizing the barriers outlined above and recommended practices for student persistence, our student success outcomes focus on making an OSU education **financially accessible**; successfully **onboarding new students** into the university; fostering **belonging and connection**; integrating **applied learning experiences** from varied settings; supporting **degree progression** and completion; and building an **organizational structure** to ensure a collaborative approach to student success.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO PERSISTENCE

Learn about how Oregon State is supporting student persistence and graduation with the targets of **increasing the six-year graduation rate to 80%** and **equalizing six-year graduation rates** among students regardless of gender, race or ethnicity, or financial need.



COLLABORATING TO IMPROVE RETENTION & GRADUATION

- > OSU is focused on strengthening alignment and coordination across the university and using data to improve goal setting and tracking to metrics.
- > New college dashboards contain actionable and timely data to proactively influence student retention and graduation rates (including data by race, which will allow OSU to better evaluate our effectiveness at improving equity and access).
- > Metrics include year-to-year retention rates and the number of courses within colleges that have high DFW rates (percentage of students who receive a D or F in a course or withdraw from a course).



ENHANCING OUTCOMES FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

- > OSU has degree partnership programs with 20 different community colleges both inside and outside of Oregon and offers multiple transfer pathway options.
- > Oregon State is committed to aligning course numbering with community colleges across the state. Along with members of other universities and community colleges, over 20 OSU faculty and staff are participating in 11 statewide common course numbering subcommittees.
- > OSU's updated general education requirements that launch summer 2025 ease transferability of coursework for both in-state and out-of-state students.



Prioritizing Mental Well-being: In the last several years, the university has expanded access to mental well-being services through the Anytime Anywhere app, available to students 24/7, and hired more counselors to support students with similar identities. Counseling & Psychological Services offers BIPOC, LGBTQIA+ and veteran counselors.

FINISH IN FOUR

This fundraising initiative helps students with the most financial need reach their goal of graduation. Focusing on undergraduate, in-state students, the Finish in Four initiative aims to provide \$4,000 for four years

to each recipient. Coupled with other aid, Finished in Four scholarships will be a difference maker for Oregon's highest financial need students as OSU works to ensure that every student graduates.

IMPROVING THE STUDENT ONBOARDING EXPERIENCE



The experiences students have during their first days, weeks and months at Oregon State can set the tone for their entire university experience. An intentionally designed first-year experience program for all students new to OSU fosters a sense of belonging; increases student engagement with academic support services; and helps students make more informed academic and career decisions.

Similarly, strong academic advising helps provide a clear and efficient path to graduation and a secure foundation of support, contributing to students' overall well-being and mental health. Over the past year, OSU undertook a comprehensive review of advising and is preparing to expand its onboarding programming and provide additional support to students during this important transition.

An early example of this is FORTE, a new academic orientation that was offered during OSUWelcome in fall 2023. About 74% of new students attended sessions with keynote speakers and college representatives, as well as breakout meetings exploring useful topics.



INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

OSU is a founding member of the University Innovation Alliance, a national coalition of public universities that are committed to helping students graduate from higher education. To accomplish this vision, the UIA pilots, scales, and tests innovative practices. Current UIA projects include programs focused on students retaking important major courses and Black student success.

ONGOING STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES



- ✓ **Providing Support:** Several programs — including the Educational Opportunities Program (EOP), TRIO Student Support Services, the College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) — support students who have historically been denied equal access to education adjust to and thrive at OSU.
- ✓ **Career Champions:** OSU's Career Development Center offers faculty and instructors a six-week seminar to learn tangible ways to incorporate career connections and readiness content into the classroom, while also examining barriers to access for students with high financial need, first-generation students and students of color.
- ✓ **Assistance for Student Parents:** In addition to the long-standing support of early care and education at OSU, the university is now fundraising to provide financial assistance for parenting students.
- ✓ **Access OSU:** Access OSU leverages existing university resources to support

students and families from Black/African American, Native/Indigenous/Pacific Islander and Hispanic/Latine/x communities in the Portland metro area. With the goal of forming long-lasting connections from elementary school through graduation at OSU, the first year of the initiative has focused on relationship building.

- ✓ **Experiential Learning and Other High-Impact Practices:** OSU students continue to participate in Alternative Breaks (weeklong, immersive community learning programs), develop leadership skills via Cascades Adventures, and engage in hands-on learning at the Hatfield Marine Science Center. From assessing wildfire smoke risk to researching resilient buildings, mentored research opportunities provide students the chance to explore careers while building transferable skills. Further, some teaching faculty incorporate service learning into their courses and nearly 750 students participated in study abroad from summer 2022 until fall 2023 (after a slowdown due to COVID-19).

WHAT'S NEXT AT OREGON STATE



At Oregon State University, expanding access and supporting students throughout their educational journey matters. We believe in the promise of every student and dismantling barriers that result in inequitable outcomes.

No single task force, success team or department can drive change alone. The university's strategic plan — Prosperity Widely Shared — calls for a collaborative vision that will create a bright future for students, the state and the world. We need every member of our community to help us get there. Stay tuned for more information about how you can help OSU become a university where every student graduates.

CELEBRATING SUCCESSES



Growth of Living-Learning Communities:

A collaboration between the Dr. Lawrence Griggs Office of Black & Indigenous Student Success, Diversity & Cultural Engagement and University Housing & Dining Services, the Nia and munkukum LLCs offer residential communities where students can find connections and explore identity. The LLCs more than doubled the number of spaces for students in 2023-2024 (from 18 to 44), and there is even more demand. Staff are striving to increase capacity and invite additional students.



Increased Study Support:

Supplemental Instruction (SI) is a free resource that offers peer-led, group study tables for challenging courses. Since the SI tables have limited space, the Academic Success Center works with programs that support first-generation, Pell-eligible and BIPOC students to offer early registration. Strong Start funding has also allowed OSU to scale up the SI program to serve about 700 more students than it has in the past.



Career Readiness:

In October 2022, OSU's Faculty Senate approved new Core Education requirements incorporating career readiness into general education coursework. These changes help students develop tangible skills to achieve professional success. Cascades Edge, a signature program at OSU-Cascades, builds career development into students' coursework every term and tracks student progress through digital badging.