

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT: Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission

The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) is the State of Oregon's Commission and agency working to improve equitable access to and success in higher education and workforce training for Oregonians statewide. The HECC coordinates funding and policy for postsecondary education and training, and convenes partners across the public and private higher education arena.

Learn more at www.oregon.gov/highered

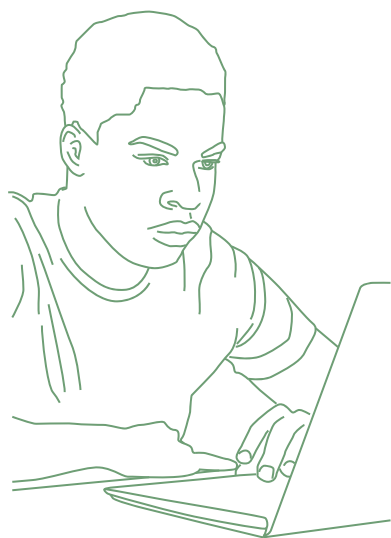
What We Mean By "Higher Education"

When people hear "higher education" or "postsecondary education" they sometimes think of four-year colleges. At the HECC, we approach it as that and so much more. We advocate for a broad range of postsecondary education and training options beyond high school, from apprenticeships to career certificates, and from two- and four-year degrees to doctorates.

We Partner With

The HECC coordinates work across a wide network of Oregon postsecondary education and workforce organizations and groups, including:

- Students and their families
- Public community colleges
- Public universities
- Private colleges and universities
- Trade schools
- Workforce and business partners
- Training organizations
- State policymakers, agencies, PK-12 education, and national education partners
- Community-based organizations and partners



How We're Structured

Established in 2013, the HECC is a volunteer commission appointed by the Oregon Governor and confirmed by the Oregon State Senate, with funding and policy responsibilities for higher education and the workforce statewide. We are also a state agency of approximately 150 employees working across eight offices to carry out this vision for Oregonians.

Last updated August 2021

Our Vision

We envision a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training.

To guide our work and measure our success in achieving this vision, we focus on:

AFFORDABILITY



EQUITY



STUDENT SUCCESS



ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY IMPACT



What We Do

The HECC administers about \$1.8 billion per year in postsecondary education and workforce funding supporting community colleges, public universities, students, workforce boards, and other partners. We also coordinate postsecondary degrees, programs, and academic pathways; administer key Oregon financial aid, workforce, and other programs; evaluate the success of higher education efforts to guide progress; and provide strategic guidance to leaders and partners on a vision for Oregon higher education planning, funding, and policy. We directly serve Oregonians by awarding grant and scholarship aid to students, and connecting Oregonians with workforce and training resources.

Our work is driven by the State of Oregon's educational attainment goals for youth and adults. To guide that work, we use the Oregon Equity Lens to help close system and opportunity gaps to achieve equitable outcomes for all.



Our Strategy

Our strategic work for Oregon is in four priority areas:



1. OUTREACH

We work to ensure equitable access to college and career resources.

EXAMPLE: We award more than \$132 million annually in grant and scholarship aid, administer a statewide mentoring program, and present on college and career planning statewide.



2. REPORTING

We use data analysis and reporting to steer progress toward state attainment and equity goals.

EXAMPLE: Our annual set of "Statewide Snapshots" reports key data on students at every public college or university in the state, with a spotlight on data by race/ethnicity.



3. FUNDING

We develop funding strategies to prioritize student success.

EXAMPLE: Our Student Success and Completion Model defines distribution of state dollars to public universities, incentivizing increased graduation of underrepresented students.



4. PATHWAYS

We make it easier to navigate and succeed in education and training, and link graduates with careers.

EXAMPLE: With our campus partners, we are expanding the Oregon Transfer Compass, a set of tools to remove barriers and help students transfer from two-year colleges to four-year universities.

Engage With Us!

Explore our website at oregon.gov/highered

Apply for scholarships and grants at oregonstudentaid.gov

Sign up for our mailing lists on our website

Follow us on Twitter @OregonHECC

Email us at info.HECC@state.or.us

