




# OVERVIEW: POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN OREGON

Joint Committee on Ways and  
Means, Subcommittee on Education

**Ben Cannon, Executive Director, HECC**

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# A Vision for the Value for Oregon Postsecondary Education



“The Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) envisions a future where all people benefit from the economic, civic, and cultural impact of high-quality postsecondary education, training, and workforce development.”

From the HECC Strategic Plan, 2024

# Introducing the HECC



The HECC supports state goals for postsecondary education and training by a wide range of policy and funding strategies, including:

- setting a strategic vision for postsecondary education and training and advising state leaders;
- administering the statewide higher education and workforce biennial budget of approximately \$4.1 billion (2023-25), establishing methodologies for distributing public funding to community colleges, universities, students, workforce boards, and other partners;
- coordinating postsecondary degrees, programs, and academic pathways;
- administering statewide financial aid, workforce, and educational programs;
- research, evaluation, and analysis.

We also directly serve Oregonians by awarding grant and scholarship aid to students and connecting Oregonians with workforce and training resources.

Learn more:

[www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/default.aspx)

# HECC's Mission for Oregon and Oregonians

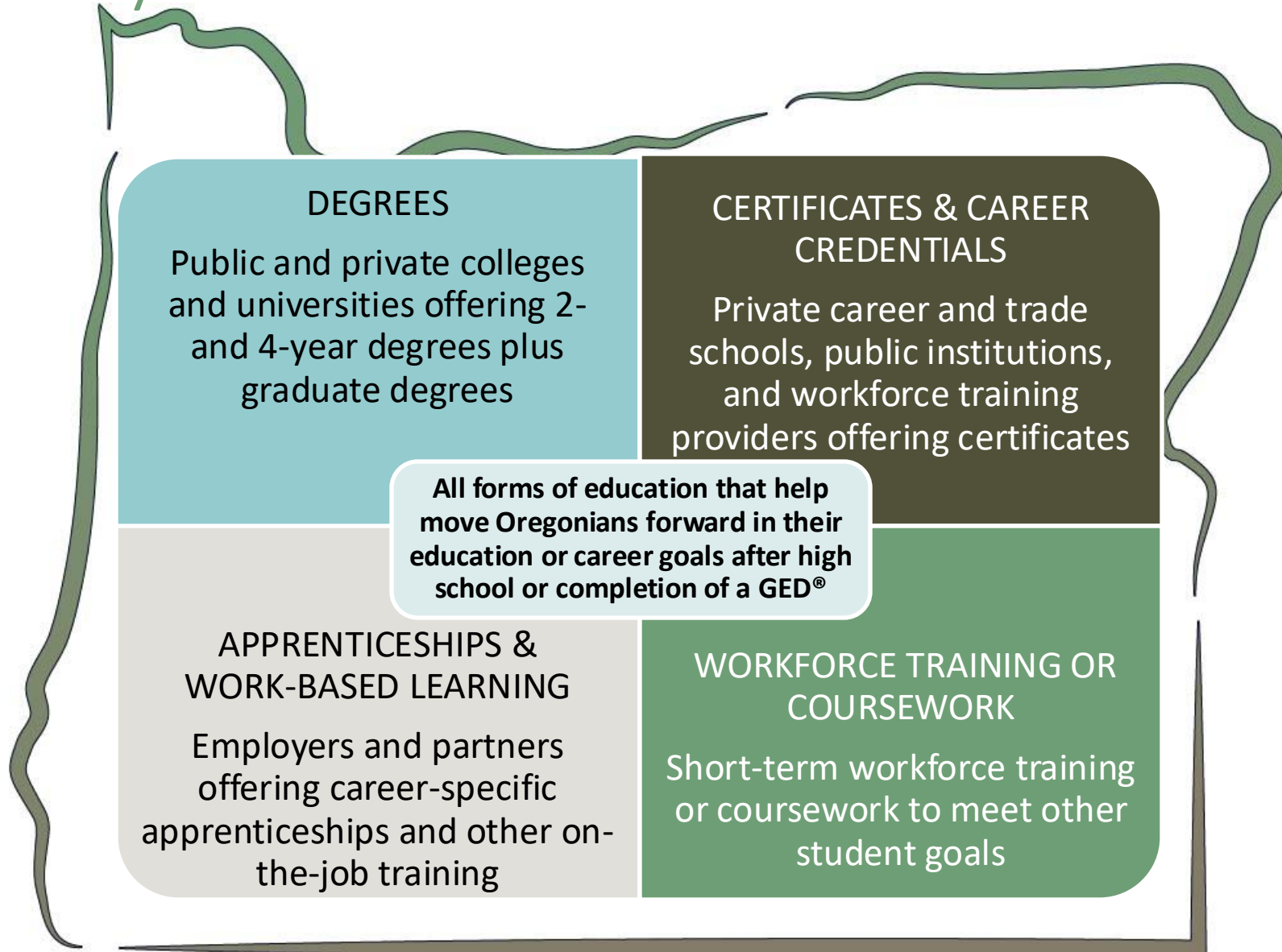
## HECC's Recently Adopted 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Refines HECC's Mission



- Drive equitable postsecondary access and success for all Oregonians
- Anticipate and meet workforce and economic needs
- Strengthen Oregon's collective future by fostering research, innovation, learning, civic engagement, and cultural contributions.

Read the full plan here: [www.oregon.gov/highered/strategy-research/Pages/strategic-plan.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/strategy-research/Pages/strategic-plan.aspx)

# DEFINING TERMS: What Do We Mean by “Higher Education” or Postsecondary Education?



# As the State Coordinating Commission, We Work with Numerous Institutions with Local or Independent Governance to Serve Oregonians

HECC is a commission and agency with a focus on funding and policy coordination and leadership.

- **A coordinating board, not a governance board**, we work in collaboration with many partners across the postsecondary landscape. The agency's work is guided by the HECC's 15-member Commission.
- **Responsibility across all sectors** of higher education and workforce, public and private.
- The HECC agency also administers the **Workforce and Talent Development Board** and numerous other affiliated boards.

## Local Governance of Public Higher Education Institutions

- **17 Community Colleges** with Locally-elected Governing Boards.
- **7 Public Universities + OHSU** Institutional Governing Boards (Governor-appointed, Senate-confirmed)

## Local Workforce Development Boards

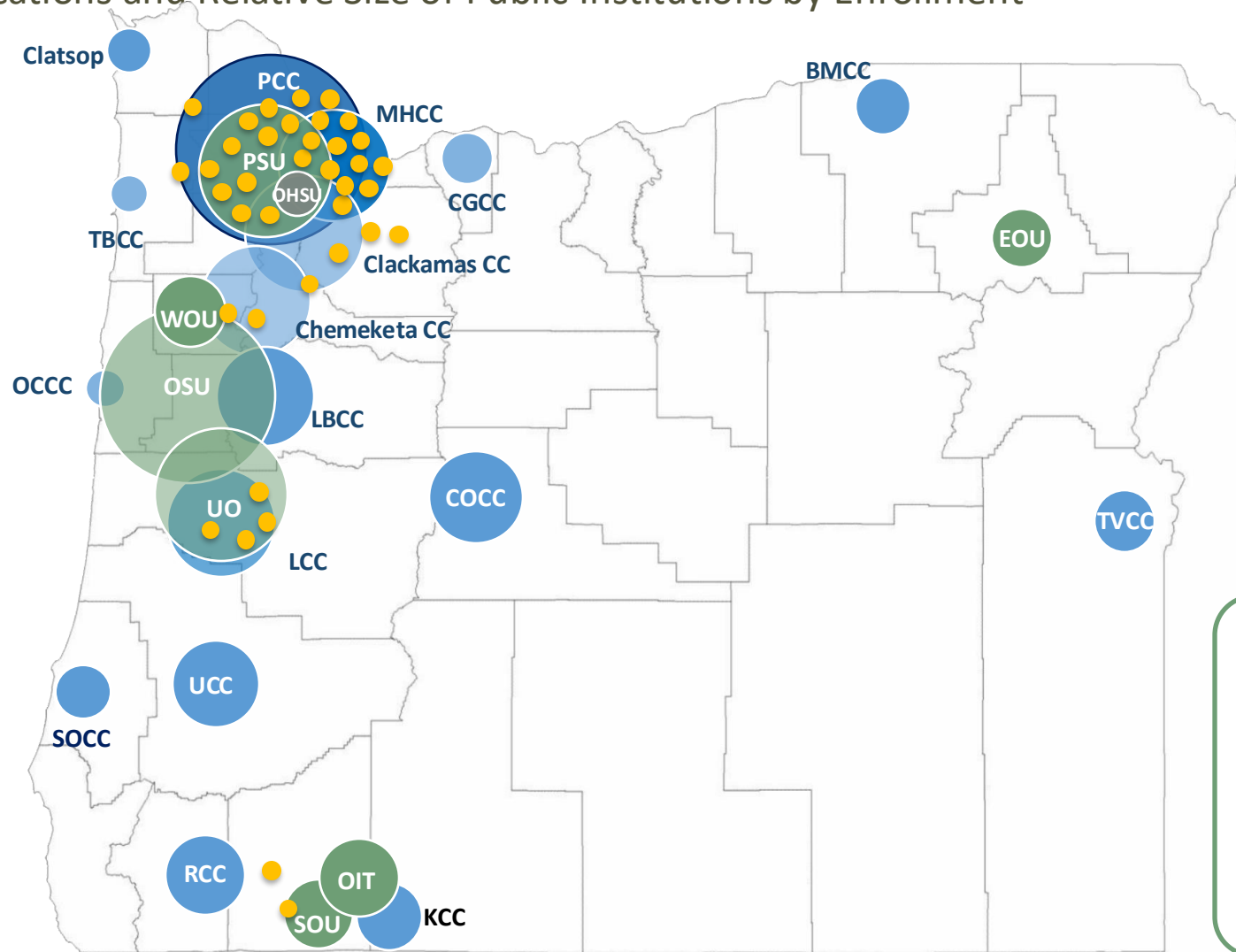
- **9 Local Workforce Development Boards**

## Private Institutions

- **182 Private Career Schools** (*Licensed by HECC*)
- **17 Private Degree-granting Institutions Based in Oregon** (*Authorized by HECC ODA*)
- **49 Out-of-state Degree-granting Institutions Serving Oregonians through Distance Education** (*Including 32 that participate in NC-SARA*)
- **20 Other Degree-granting Private Institutions** (*Exempt from state authorization requirements*)

# Postsecondary Institutions Serving Oregonians

Locations and Relative Size of Public Institutions by Enrollment



Oregon also has **181** Private Career Schools not represented on this map

## TOTAL ENROLLMENT 2023-24

### Academic Year Headcount

#### Public Institutions

Universities	123,984
Community Colleges	200,573
Oregon Health & Science University	2,877

#### Private Institutions

Private Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions	29,604
Private Career Schools	25,224

Note: Total headcount may contain duplicates for students who attended multiple institutions during the same academic year.

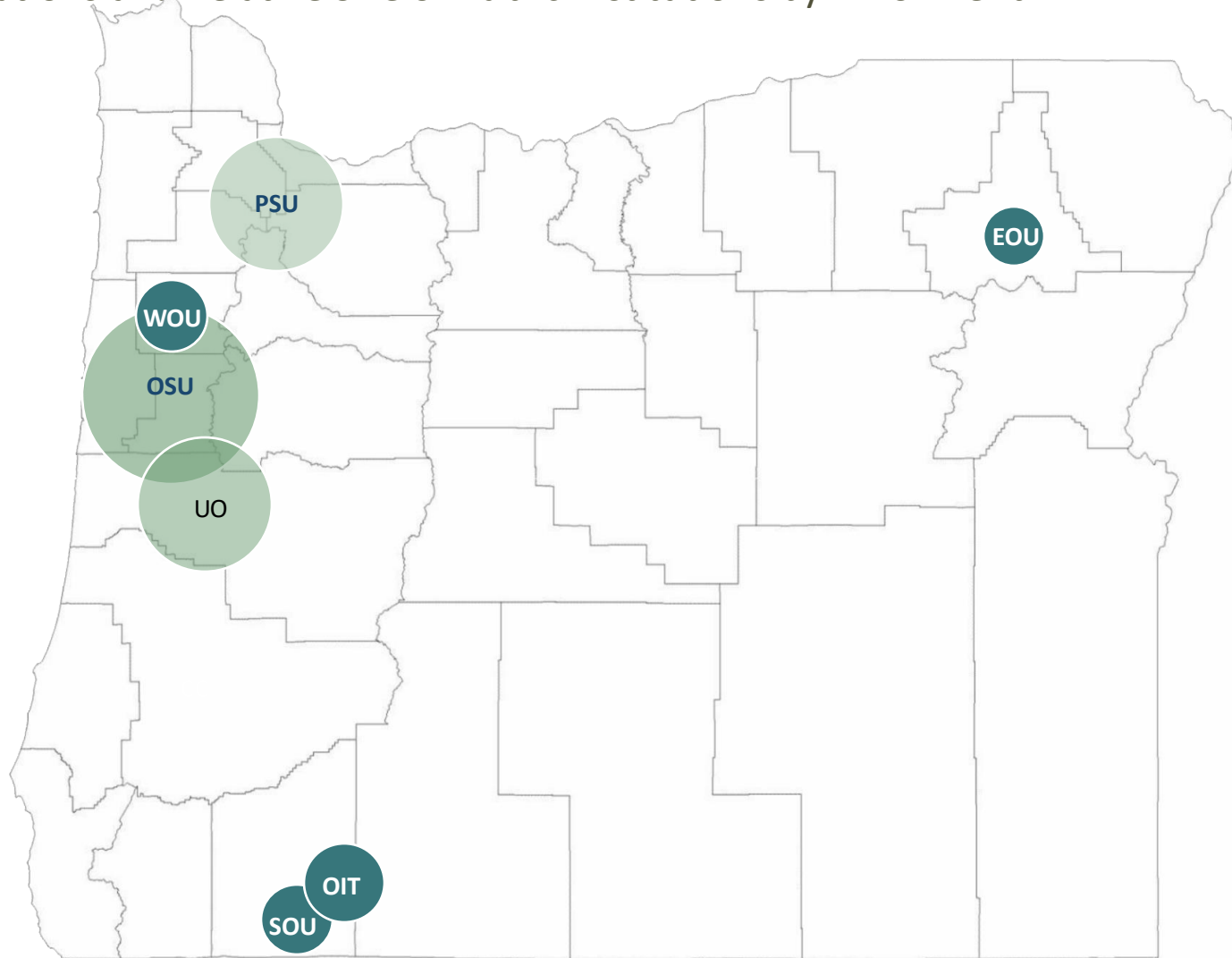
Source: HECC analysis of student-level data from public universities, community colleges and private degree granting and career schools. All data are for the 2023-24 academic year with the exception of OHSU which is for Fall term only.

● Locations of Private degree-granting institutions, including ODA-authorized schools based in Oregon and ODA-exempt

Note: circle sizes are estimates based on headcount enrollment.

# Oregon's 7 Public Universities have Diverse Missions

Locations and Relative Size of Public Institutions by Enrollment



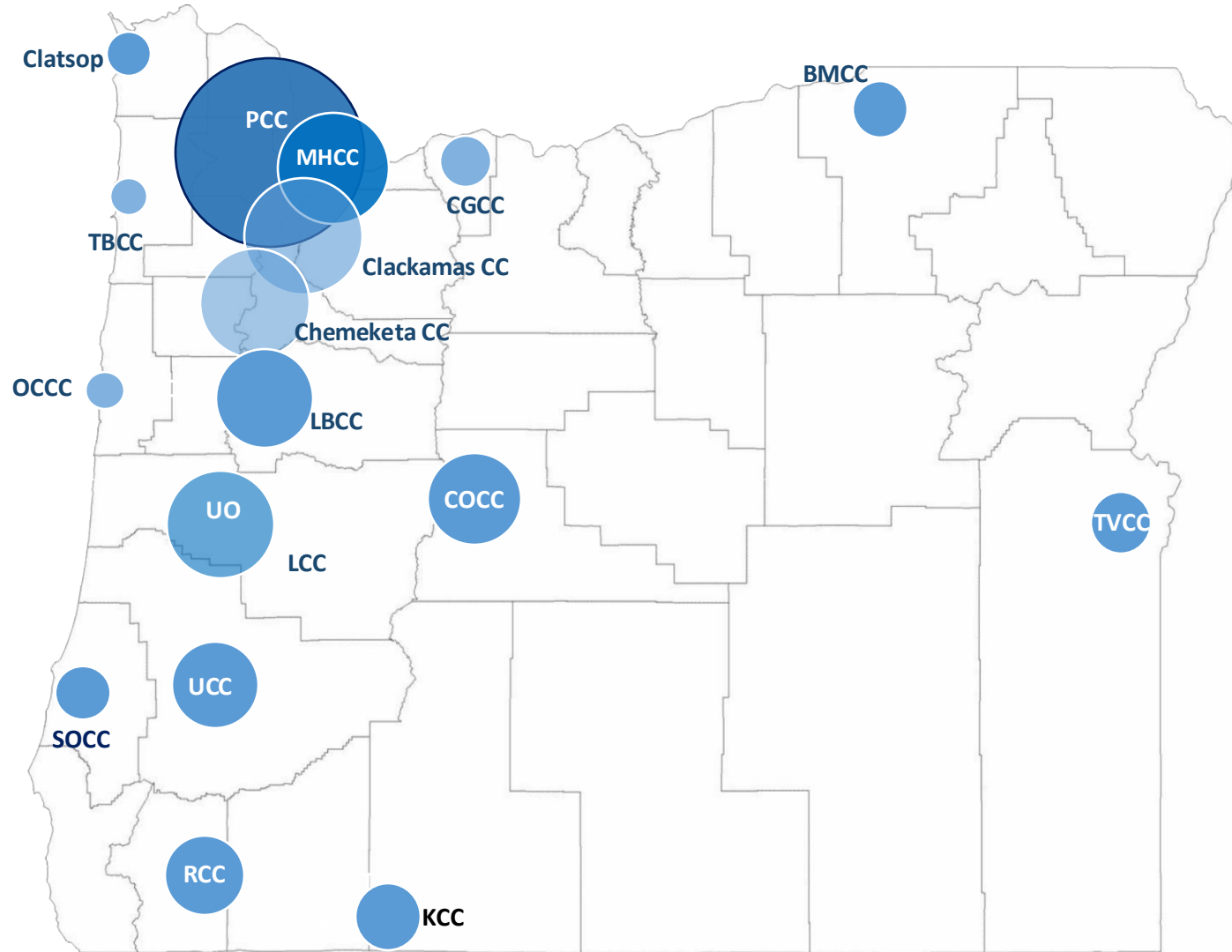
Approximately 77% of total public university enrollment is at the three largest institutions (PSU, UO, OSU).

Oregon's regional comprehensive universities play a significant role in the economy, community, and education attainment (EOU, SOU, WOU, OIT).



# Oregon Community Colleges Serve Regional and State Needs

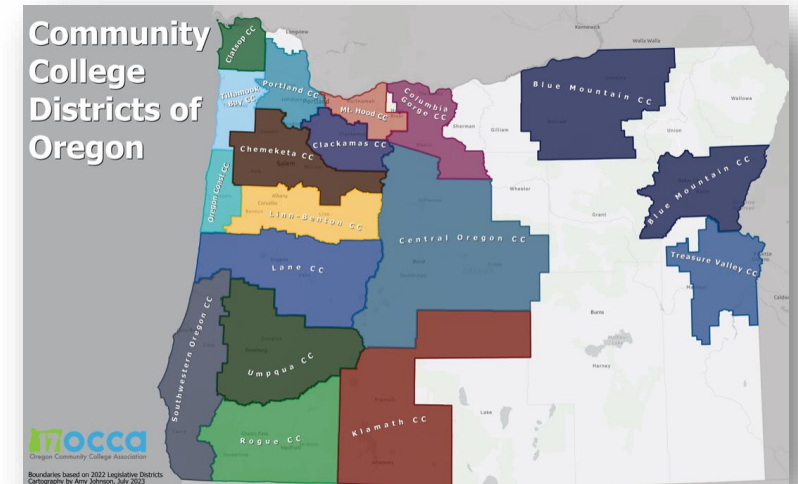
Locations and Relative Size of Public Institutions by Enrollment



Learn more about Oregon's 17 community colleges:

[www.oregon.gov/highered/access/Pages/community-colleges.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/access/Pages/community-colleges.aspx)

[View Oregon Community College Service Districts](#)



Note: circle sizes are estimates based on headcount enrollment.

# Private Postsecondary Institutions: Oversight and Types

## Private, non-profit & for-profit, degree-granting colleges & universities

- **17** in Oregon, **49** public and private out-of-state (of which 32 participate in NC-SARA)
  - 22 eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid (in-state and SARA private)
- Examples: Concorde Career College, Pacific Bible College
- Under **HECC Office of Degree Authorization**

## 182 Private Career Schools

- 182 in Oregon (cosmetology, tattooing, tax preparation, commercial trucking, psilocybin instruction [new among others])
  - 19 eligible for Title IV Federal Financial Aid
- Licensed and regulated by **HECC Private Career Schools Unit**

## 20 Exempt Private Institutions

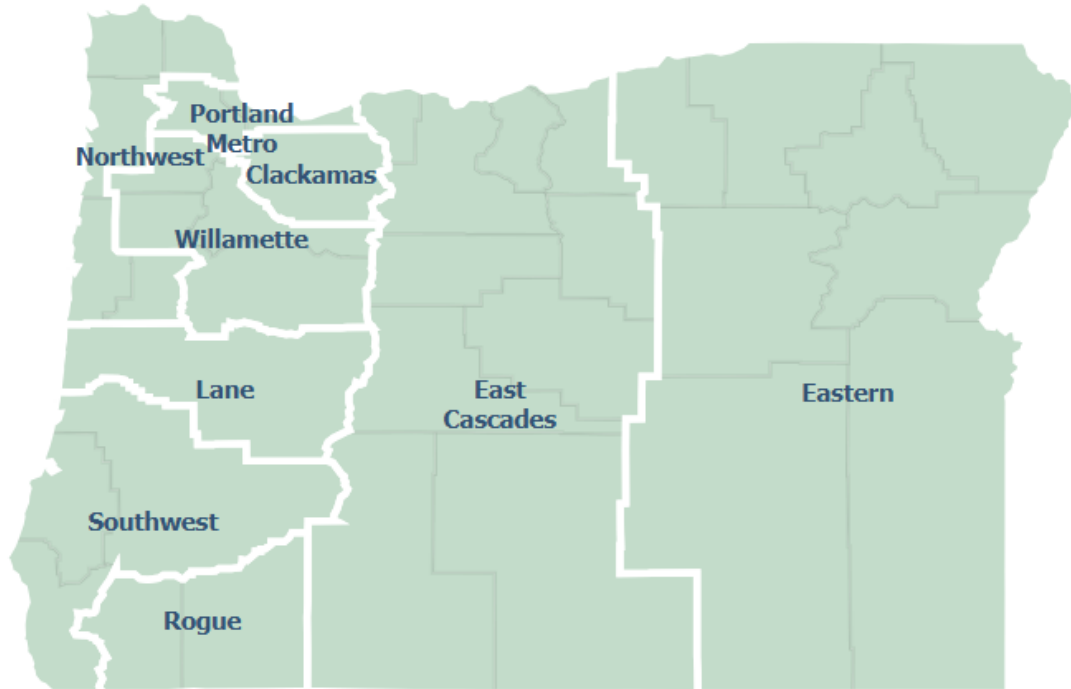
- Religious/ministerial schools
- Accredited non-profit schools that conferred degrees for 10 years before 2005
- Examples: Willamette, Linfield, Reed, etc.

# Workforce Investments Serve Oregon Learners and Job-Seekers Statewide

## Local Workforce Areas and Local Workforce Development Boards

Explore **WorkSource Oregon** locations in each workforce area here:

<https://www.worksourceoregon.org/>



Northwest Oregon Works

Worksystems

Clackamas Workforce Partnership

Willamette Workforce Partnership

Lane Workforce Partnership

Southwestern Oregon Workforce Investment Board

Rogue Workforce Partnership

East Cascades Works

Eastern Oregon Workforce Board

## Explore an interactive map of Oregon Youth Works grantee locations:

<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/workforce/Pages/oregon-youth-works-programs.aspx>

## WORKFORCE SERVICES

- Through the Office of Workforce Investments, HECC partners with many other agencies, organizations, and programs to provide needed services to Oregonians. The HECC Office of Workforce Investments funds workforce development opportunities in every county in the state through WorkSource Oregon Centers, OregonServes programs\*, and Oregon Youth Works programs.

### Learn more about OregonServes grantees statewide:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oregon-serves/Pages/default.aspx>

# DEFINING TERMS: What do we Mean by Students or Learners?



## STUDENTS OR LEARNERS\* INCLUDE:

- Youth coming directly from secondary school
- Adults returning to education/training, or just beginning
- Workers and job-seekers who need to upskill, advance, or change careers
- Those seeking a 2- or 4- year college degree
- Those seeking to complete their High School Equivalency credential
- Those pursuing short-term credentials and/or career learning
- Transfer students
- Apprentices and others participating in work-based learning

The HECC Equity Lens guides our focus on underserved students/learners: *“We focus the HECC Equity Lens on Oregonians who are currently and historically underserved in access to and success in postsecondary education and training, and in the programs and services impacting these measures..”*

\*Students may fit into one or multiple of these categories

# Oregon Public Postsecondary Students Today – 2023-24

## 1ST GENERATION STATUS

(note: available for FAFSA filers only)

- 18% 1<sup>st</sup> gen
- 33% not 1<sup>st</sup> gen
- 50% not known (did not file FAFSA/ORSAA or not degree-seeking)

## AGE

- 43% 25+
- 36% 18-24
- 21% <18

## FINANCIAL AID

- 42% of FAFSA/ORSAA filers got financial aid
- 65% of degree-seeking students filed a FAFSA/ORSAA

## BASIC NEEDS

(national data)

- Food Insecure 41%
- Housing Insecure 48
- Homeless 14%

## FULL-TIME/ PART-TIME

- 47% PT
- 8% FT
- 28% Non-credit
- 16% High school (all PT)

## LEVEL

- 4% graduate
- 69% undergrad for-credit
- 27% non-credit only

## RURAL/URBAN/MIXED

- 73% urban
- 16% rural
- 11% unknown/other

Sources: Data on basic needs insecurity from The Hope Center for Student Basic Needs. (2024). *Preview: 2023-24 student basic needs survey report*. Temple University. <https://hope.temple.edu/research/hope-center-basic-needs-survey/preview-2023-24-student-basic-needs-survey> All other data from HECC analysis of student records from public institutions and reflect Oregon resident, undergraduate-level students, including high school students taking dual-credit courses and community college students taking non-credit courses. Data are from 2023-24. Data on financial aid filing status, first-generation status and financial aid recipient status are only available for students who file for financial aid. 1<sup>st</sup> Gen status is based on a student's status determination at any time as opposed to all other data which comes from 2022-23.

# Oregon's 40-40-20 Goal for Young Adults



By 2025, 40 percent of young adult Oregonians will complete a four-year degree or more, 40 percent will complete a two-year degree or short-term career certificate, and the remaining 20 percent will earn a high school diploma or equivalent.

**40%**

4-year degree or more

**40%**

2-year degree or short-term career certificate

**20%**

High school diploma or equivalent

-ORS 350.014

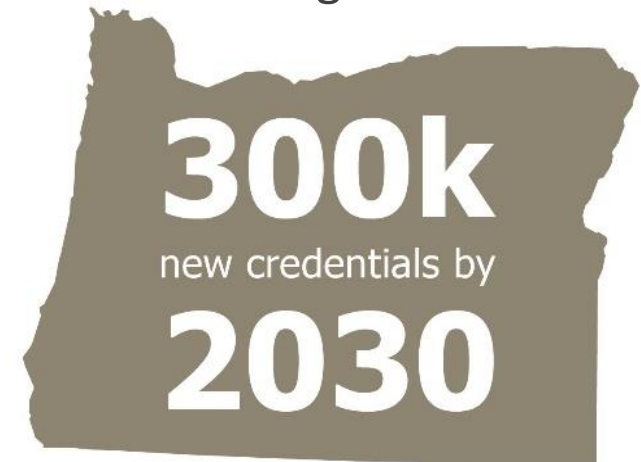


More on educational attainment goals and progress toward them [on our website here:](https://www.oregon.gov/highered/policy-collaboration/Pages/state-goals.aspx)  
<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/policy-collaboration/Pages/state-goals.aspx>

# Oregon's Adult Educational Attainment Goal

Between 2020 and 2030, 300,000 adult Oregonians will earn a new degree, certificate, or other credential of value.

Oregon will reduce the adult educational attainment gaps by half for underserved people of color, low-income learners, and rural learners during this decade.



# Applying the Equity Lens

The Oregon Equity Lens was adopted by the HECC in 2014 and has been applied since as **cornerstone to the State's approach to education policy and budgeting.**

By focusing action **on equity and opportunity gaps**, the State aims to advance the education of those who are less likely to earn educational credentials today.

The Lens focuses HECC on **identifying and urgently addressing barriers** for currently and historically underserved students, with a particular focus on racial equity.



## Purpose:

- To clearly articulate shared goals for equitable education for all;
- to assess the equity impact of policies and investments;
- to make intentional policies, investments and systemic change to achieve an equitable educational system; and
- to create clear accountability structures.

Read the full Equity Lens here, including the 10 guiding questions to apply this tool:  
[www.oregon.gov/highered/strategy-research/pages/equity-lens.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/strategy-research/pages/equity-lens.aspx)

# HECC's Key Responsibilities and Examples

## Setting a strategic vision

- Strategic planning to achieve state goals, and advising state leaders
- Postsecondary enterprise budgetary recommendations
- Support of HECC Commission, the WTDB, Transfer Council, and numerous other leadership or advisory boards (Oregon Youth Works, Industry Consortia (3), OregonServes, PCS Advisory, Sexual Misconduct Survey Council, Credit for Prior Learning Advisory, SB 269 Advisory)

## Administering institutional support funding

- Community college and public university funding
- Workforce board funding including federal WIOA funding
- Grants and contracts to postsecondary and workforce partners

## Coordinate academic programs & pathways

- Approval of new academic programs
- Transfer policy work
- Authorization/licensing of private degree-granting & career schools

## Administering financial aid, other programs

- Financial aid awards to students (Oregon Opportunity Grant & others)
- OregonServes, Oregon Youth Works, others
- Adult Basic Skills, GED®, Postsecondary CTE

## Evaluating and reporting

- Statewide data collection, analysis, research, and reporting
- Institutional evaluations
- Legislative reports and research as directed

Learn more about the Agency's roles here: [www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx)



# Working to Increase Value for Oregon and Oregonians: HECC's Recently Adopted 2024-2029 Strategic Plan Establishes Five Goals

## **GOAL 1, RELEVANCE:**

Improve the responsiveness of Oregon's education and training systems to the goals and needs of learners, employers, and communities.

**GOAL 2, ALIGNMENT:** Align Oregon's education and training systems to create straightforward pathways for learners.

**GOAL 3, AFFORDABLE ACCESS:** Make postsecondary education and training affordable for all Oregonians

**GOAL 4, BELONGING:** Elevate learner voices and support inclusivity and belonging in all postsecondary learning settings.

**GOAL 5, LEADERSHIP:** Infuse postsecondary education, workforce development, research, and innovation into Oregon's economic development strategies.