When it opened in 2016, the OSU-Cascades campus fulfilled a 30-year quest for higher education in what had been the largest region in the state without a four-year university.

Bend and Central Oregon form Oregon's fastest growing region and one of its most vibrant economies. Yet the region lags behind the rest of Oregon in higher educational attainment.

With studies showing that most freshmen who attend public universities do so within 50 miles of home, rural families in the region had been falling behind. As OSU-Cascades expands, it has the capacity to transform students' lives — including first-generation college students, underserved populations, and adults seeking career advancement. With half the unemployment rate of individuals with only a high school diploma and nearly twice the earning potential, Central Oregonians with a bachelor's degree have the opportunity to contribute to our region and the greater world.
Economic Impact

Central Oregon’s economy is growing fast and diversifying. Employers look to OSU-Cascades to provide skilled workers in growing industries such as high-tech, biosciences, healthcare and outdoor products. According to a study by ECONorthwest, by 2025 OSU-Cascades will contribute:

- $196.8m in statewide economic output
- 2,083 jobs
- $3.44m additional annual state income taxes

Learn more: osucascades.edu/economic-impact

Local and regional support and collaboration are helping shape the physical and academic future of OSU-Cascades.

A campus for students and community

Encompassing a 128-acre campus footprint, a vision to become a model for innovation and sustainability, and a mission to connect with the surrounding community, the OSU-Cascades’ award-winning long range development plan reflects a nearly two-year, public planning process.

Feedback was gathered across areas important to the future campus including sustainability, community integration, health and wellness, and arts, culture and enrichment, as well as building placement.

Majors that develop in-demand employees

A growing portfolio of academic programs reflect Central Oregon’s vibrant economy and abundant natural resources. Input from area businesses and industry help develop and enhance programs in computer science, energy systems engineering, outdoor products, kinesiology and others. Future fields of study are determined based on student and national employer demand, and match with OSU-Cascades’ mission. At full build out, OSU-Cascades will offer as many as 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

Watch us grow.

osucascades.edu/expansion
ABOUT OUR STUDENTS

Growing Enrollment

Types of Students

What Students Study

This is research for the real world.

When Elizabeth Marino hears divisiveness, she listens - deeply. The co-founder of The Laboratory for the American Conversation, she and fellow researchers tackle the nation’s most intractable issues to bridge political and cultural divides. They’re finding solutions to address challenges like how to improve COVID-19 public health messaging so that its effective for all audiences, firearm safety and suicide prevention, and protection of the natural environment.

osucascades.edu/lac

1,374 enrolled undergraduate and graduate students

77% of 2020 graduates engaged in one or more internships, practicums, capstone projects, service learning, leadership or study abroad experiences

18% of students transfer from COCC

$3.9m awarded in scholarships since 2001 through the OSU Foundation
Degree Programs

UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS
American Studies - BA/BS
Art - BA
Studio Arts
Arts, Media and Technology - BA/BS
Biology - BS
Business Administration - BA/BS
General Business
Hospitality Management
International Business
Computer Science - BS
Software Engineering
Software Entrepreneurship
Elementary Education - BS
Energy Systems Engineering - BS
Engineering Science
Environmental Sciences - BS
Applied Ecology
Conservation, Resources and Sustainability
Hospitality Management - BA/BS
Human Development and Family Sciences - BS
Early Childhood
General HDFS
Human Services
Kinesiology - BS
Liberal Studies - BA/BS
Natural Resources - BS
Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Individual Specialty
Outdoor Products - BS
Psychology - BA/BS
Social Science - BA/BS
Community Development and Leadership
Sustainability* - BS
Tourism, Recreation and
Adventure Leadership - BS
Adventure Leadership Education
Nature, Eco and Adventure Tourism

UNDERGRADUATE MINORS
Art History
Arts, Media and Technology
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Communication
Computer Science
Early Childhood Development
and Education
English
Exercise Physiology
Human Development and Family Sciences
Military Science
Natural Resources
Outdoor Products
Political Science
Psychology
Studio Arts
Sustainability
Tourism, Recreation and Adventure Leadership

GRADUATE
Master of Counseling
Clinical Mental Health Counseling
School Counseling
Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing
Master of Arts in Teaching
Early Childhood/Elementary
Middle School/High School
* double degree

DOCTORAL
Doctor of Physical Therapy (fall 2021)

MAKE OUR WORLD BETTER. THAT’S THEIR CHARGE.

It’s a passion fueled by their mentors — faculty researchers who work with students in the lab, on mountain tops, along our waterways, and within the surrounding community to solve our biggest challenges.

Melanie Dreifke
Hospitality Management

After her father died, Melanie and her brother pooled their scant resources. They bought a house in Bend, with a dream of turning it into an Airbnb business. At night she learned to fix plumbing and electrical problems by watching YouTube. She had a part-time job, too, trying to make ends meet. During the day she took classes, building her hospitality management skills and industry knowledge.

When she was awarded a Robin and Curt Baney Scholarship in Hospitality Management, she knew her dreams of owning a hospitality business were even closer to reality, saying, “None of this would be possible without generous donors who support scholarships.”

18
students on average per class

4,435
degrees awarded since founding in 2001

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