Growing for Central Oregon.

OSU-Cascades is growing to 2,200 students by 2030 to meet state education goals to best serve Central Oregon.

In 1999-2001, when the State Board of Higher Education and Oregon officials and legislators charged Oregon State University to establish a branch university campus in Bend, it started in earnest a process to fulfill a decades long quest for expanded higher education in what had been the largest region in the state without a four-year university, culminating in the opening of the physical campus in 2016.

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.

Leading for a better future.

Myra Flores Social Science ’23

“You’d be a good lawyer!” is what Myra’s high school friends told her after she argued her point of view in class. More than a decade later, that possibility is ever more likely, especially with the experience she has gained at OSU-Cascades.

Myra started her college journey at community college, but working two full-time jobs on top of her classes was challenging. After a six-year break, a move to Redmond from Eugene, and a pandemic to prompt some self-discovery, she found new motivation to pursue her high school dream.

At OSU-Cascades, a faculty mentor encouraged her interest in researching the perspectives of local people of color about their hometown. Classmates encouraged her to apply for the legislative liaison position within student government. Scholarships lifted her even more.

“My path isn’t typical, but all the hard work I’ve put in matters and I’m excited for the next step,” she said.

About our Students

42% Central Oregonians
22% First generation
30% Pell Grant eligible, indicating financial need
22% Students of color
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

A “NORTH STAR” FOR NET ZERO

Edward J. Ray Hall set the campus standard for sustainability when it opened in 2021, with an innovative design, mass timber construction and geothermal energy-fueled heating and cooling.
Leaders in a climate-challenged world.

A researcher drawn to how climate change affects human communities, in 2018 Elizabeth Marino was one of only 10 scientists and the only social scientist appointed by the White House as a delegate to the Second Arctic Science Ministerial. In 2020, she was again called upon by the White House as a lead chapter author in the Fifth National Climate Assessment.

Learn more:
osucascades.edu/american-conversation
Believing in his future.

Angel Ruvalcaba Arts, Media and Technology '26

A first-generation college student, Angel was born in Madras and grew up in Redmond. As he excelled in school, his parents set college as an expectation. An in-home health care worker originally from Mexico, his mother saw firsthand the difference a bachelor's degree could make in someone's life.

Today, Angel is participating in OSU-Cascades' TRIO program, where mentors help guide him and his peers to opportunities and services that support their academic success. He has also earned scholarships and grants, and is in a degree partnership program with Central Oregon Community College.

"My parents are proud, but they still have high expectations," he said.

He believes his courses will help him realize his dream of owning a video gaming company.