

Community College Budget Request

Community colleges are Oregon's most affordable entry point to post-secondary education and career training.

Community colleges are workforce and economic development drivers for the communities they serve.

Community colleges help directly address some of the state's top priority issues like housing and behavioral health and addiction counseling. [Provide examples from your colleges]

Community college enrollment is increasing across the state. FTE enrollment at Oregon's colleges is up 7.5 percent statewide over the last academic year.

Enrollment is increasing fastest in Career and Technical Education (CTE) degrees and short-term career certificates, which are also CTE-related.

CTE programs offer students pathways to family wage careers and help their communities address critical workforce needs. [Provide examples of programs at your college addressing local workforce needs]

CTE programs are also the most expensive programs community colleges offer, which increases costs for community colleges statewide. For example, nursing is typically the most expensive program community colleges offer due to the equipment necessary for effective hands-on training

To maintain these and other vital education and training programs, community colleges need an additional \$120 million for the 2025-27 biennium – a 15.7 percent increase over the 2023-2025 biennium.

Demand for services like childcare, food and housing assistance and other wraparound services have increased drastically over the last 5 years. Rates of student food and housing insecurity remain high. [Provide examples from your college]

Oregon community colleges are open access to all regardless of level of education. The average age of a community college student is 26, with 52 percent of community college students over the age of 25.

Community colleges are the most affordable option for students whether transferring to a 4-year university or seeking career and technical education and training.

Without sufficient state support, community colleges cannot keep tuition increases to a minimum without cutting programs or critical student support services.

Community colleges work for Oregon.