

CTE PATHWAYS AGRICULTURE, FOOD & NATURAL RESOURCES

Community Colleges WORK for Oregon



Cultivating Oregon's Workforce

This career area prepares students for work in agriculture, food systems, and natural resources, with a focus on sustainability, environmental stewardship, and long-term resource management.



Program Enrollment

1,874 Community college students enrolled in agriculture, food & natural resources programs statewide (2023-2024)
80% of these students are enrolled part-time ¹



Award Earners

284 Number of **credentials awarded** by CCs statewide in agriculture, food & natural resources professions (2023-2024)⁶



Oregon's Forests at Work

62K+ Oregonians with forest-related jobs. Oregon's **forest sector** spans careers from forestry & logging to engineering & business management.
Forest sector employment accounts for **6% of all rural employment** in Oregon ⁵



Agriculture at Work

618,341 Oregon jobs related to food & agriculture (2025)
13% of Oregon's gross product is food & agriculture³
Agriculture is the longest-standing industry to exist in Oregon⁴



Farm Learning: From Field to Future

4 Oregon community colleges have real, **working farms** for hands-on student learning.

These farms serve as **living classrooms**, where students gain **hands-on experience** with animals and agriculture while preparing for careers in animal science, veterinary technology, farming, and related fields.



Animal Science

ROOTED IN OREGON READY TO WORK



Growing Careers For a Sustainable Oregon

From farms to forests, community colleges prepare the workforce that keeps Oregon thriving.



Viticulture



Horticulture



Culinary



Oregon Community College Association

www.occa17.com

Sources:

- 1 HECC Community College Dashboard, 12/29/2025
- 2 "The Economic Value of Oregon's Community Colleges," Lightcast, July 2023
- 3 Oregon State Board of Agriculture 2025 Report
- 4 Oregon Employment Department, 2025
- 5 Oregon Forest Facts 2025-2026 Edition, Oregon Forest Resources Institute
- 6 HECC Office of Research & Data, 1/13/2026

CC Economic Impact



Economic Impact

\$9.6B In **added income** to the economy from Oregon's community colleges

This impact supported **177,970** jobs (that's **1 out of 22 jobs!**) in Oregon in FY2021-22 ²



Strong ROI

\$7 **Rate of return** for every dollar Oregonians invest in CCs for as long as students remain active in state's workforce
For every dollar of public money invested in CCs, taxpayers receive **\$1.30 in return** over students' working lives ²