

Oregon Independent Colleges Association

Nonprofit colleges and universities have been helping define Oregon's future since Willamette University was established in 1842. By statehood in 1859 there were two more such colleges in Oregon – now known as Pacific University in Forest Grove and Linfield College in McMinnville. Today Oregon is home to 19 nonprofit regionally- accredited institutions of higher education enrolling more than 25,000 students.

On their behalf, the OICA provides government relations and public policy development, research and statistical analysis, intra- and inter -sector communications and a variety of coordinated group services among its member institutions.



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Concordia University • Corban College • George Fox University • Lewis & Clark College • Linfield College • Marylhurst University • Mount Angel Seminary • Multnomah Bible College & Seminary • National College of Natural Medicine • Northwest Christian College • Oregon College of Art and Craft • Pacific Northwest College of Art • Pacific University • Reed College • University of Portland • Warner Pacific College • Western Seminary • Western States Chiropractic College • Willamette University



Oregon's Independent Colleges & Universities

Helping Define Oregon's Future

Investing in Students

Quick Facts About OICA Institutions

	Total in OR	Percent of All OR Higher Education
Total Enrollment, Fall, 2005	27,103.....	14 %
Minority Enrollment	3,240.....	12 %
Bachelors Degrees Awarded (incl. minorities)	3,932.(229).....	23% (23%)
Advanced Degrees Awarded (incl. minorities)	2,665.(144).....	34% (36%)
Total Degrees (incl. Associate) Awarded	6,600.....	20 %
Biological & Biomedical Sciences.....	282.....	31 %
International Business.....	33.....	45 %
Master of Business Administration.....	358.....	54 %
Education.....	1,266.....	37 %
- Elementary Teacher Education	332.....	82 %
- English as a Second Language.....	8.....	31 %
International Relations and Affairs	35.....	59 %
Nursing – Bachelors Degrees	214.....	47 %
Clinical and Counseling Psychology.....	224.....	99 %
Chiropractic Medicine.....	131.....	100 %
Physician Assistant.....	38.....	54 %
Marriage & Family Therapy.....	45.....	100 %
Optometry.....	88.....	100 %
Art, Music, Occupational & Physical Therapies.....	71.....	100 %
Acupuncture & Naturopathic Medicine	175.....	100 %
Legal Professions & Studies.....	364.....	56 %
Total Out-of-State Full-time Freshmen in 4-Year Institutions	2,919.....	47 %

Yearly infusion of out-of-state student \$'s into Oregon's economy \$423 million
 Total economic impact of all student spending \$2.3 billion
 More than 5,500 employees, paying Oregon income taxes in excess of \$30 million

Oregon's Independent Colleges Have Additional Capacity

Independent college enrollment has grown steadily during the past 25 years and surveys of college presidents consistently indicate physical and staff capacity for an additional 5,000 students per year, given adequate need-based student aid from the State.

Construction of new buildings and upgrading of facilities is ongoing on most of these campuses – without public costs for either construction or capital debt. While public college and university space is indispensable, independent institutions fill an important gap.

Demographic Diversity

Minority students, fall, 2005:

At independent institutions	12.3 %
At state universities.....	14.2 %
At community colleges.....	15.5 %

Women students, fall, 2005:

At independent institutions	52 %
At state universities.....	51 %
At community colleges	56 %

Students age 25 and older, fall, 2005:

At independent institutions	38 %
At state universities.....	34 %
At community colleges.....	47 %

Dispelling Some Myths

Myth: Private colleges are too expensive for most students.

Fact: Nationally the average tuition at private nonprofit colleges actually declined over the past decade once you subtract grant aid and adjust for inflation.

90 percent of full-time undergraduates at OICA institutions receive grant and loan aid. The average aid package exceeds \$15,000 and more than 3/4ths of it is grant aid that does not need to be repaid. Students from all income ranges attend private colleges and universities and frequently find bottom line costs less than at public institutions.

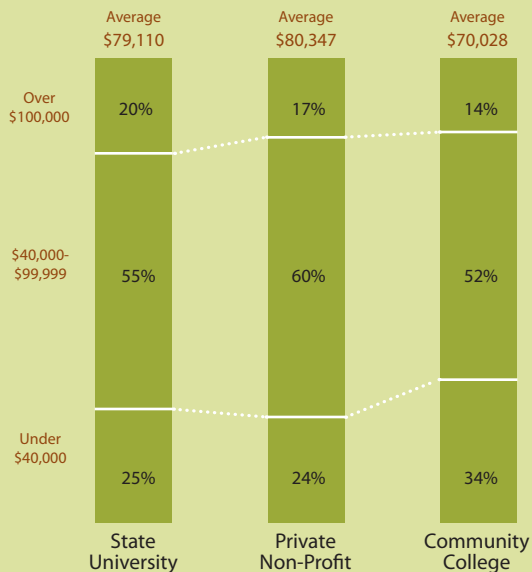
Myth: Private colleges require students to take on huge loan burdens.

Fact: At OICA institutions the majority of student aid is in the form of grants that do not have to be repaid.

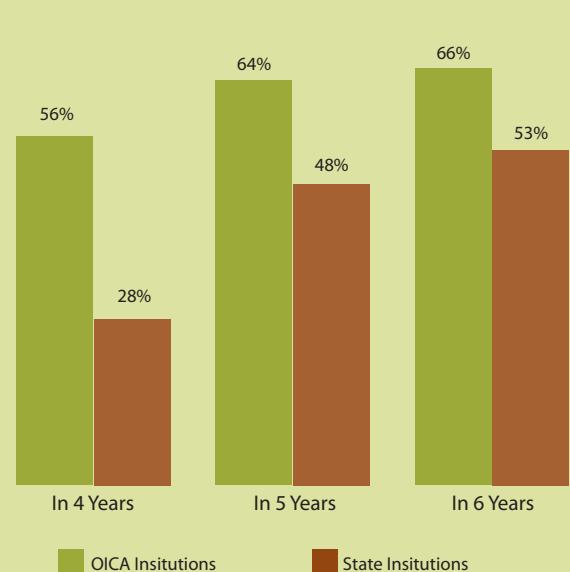
Nationally, about half of all students at private colleges borrowed funds in 2003-04. Their average borrowing was about \$6,700 – within \$1,000 of the average borrowing at public universities. More than half of all that student borrowing was for “loans of convenience” and not because of documented immediate need.

Independent colleges are even more affordable when considering that their baccalaureate students generally graduate in four years rather than the five to six years common at public universities.

Family Income Distribution of Oregonian Students



Baccalaureate Graduation Rates of Fulltime Freshman Entering College in the Fall of 2000



Myth: Oregon can't afford to help low-income citizens choose expensive private colleges.

Fact: For Oregon, like all other states with independent colleges and universities, it's a financial bonanza to assist students in choosing an independent college or university when they so desire.

Oregon's tax investment in the operation of state universities computes to more than \$18,500 for every degree these institutions award, while the tax investment in Opportunity Grants to eligible low-income Oregonians who attend independent institutions computes to about \$520 per degree. In short, based on academic degree output, Oregon taxpayers have to invest 35 times more money to generate an academic degree at a state university than they do at an independent institution. In the 2002-03 school year each tax dollar Oregon invested in student aid at an OICA institution was matched by 43 private dollars raised by the institution for student grants and scholarships.

In fall of 2006 OICA institutions enrolled 27,559 students, including 15,478 Oregonians. Trying to provide comparable capacity at state universities would entail replacing all the freely donated private investments in OICA institutions with billions of public tax dollars for capital investment and operating subsidies, would greatly reduce the diversity of academic opportunity, would probably result in thousands of Oregonians leaving the state for the college education they desire, would deny Oregon the thousands of bright students who annually come here from elsewhere to invest in their independent college education, and would radically redefine and diminish Oregon's future and the future of her citizens.