

## 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 20 nonprofit regionally- accredited institutions of higher education enrolling more than 30,000 students.

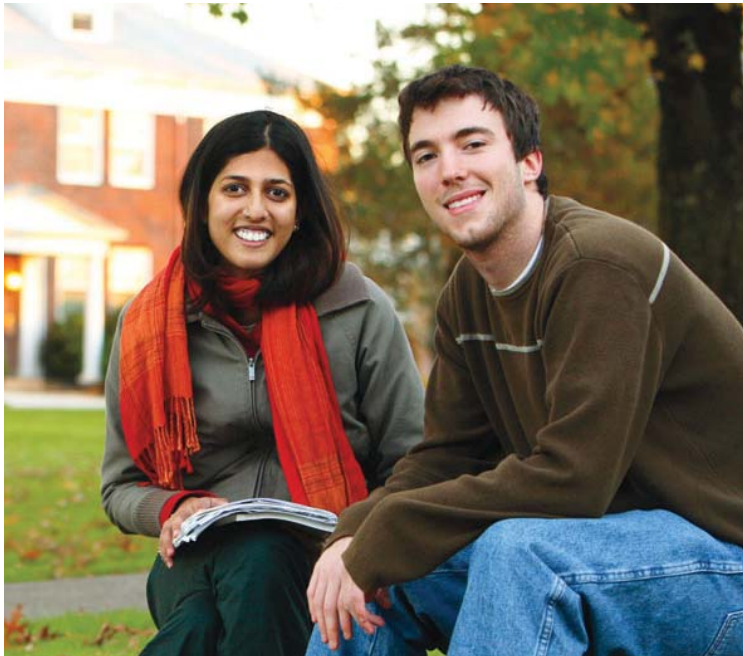
On their behalf, the OICA provides government relations and public policy development, research and statistical analysis, intra- and inter -sector communications and a variety of coordinated group services among its member institutions.



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Oregon's Independent Colleges & Universities

# Helping Dreams Come True

Investing in Students

## Quick Facts About Independent Higher Education

	In Oregon	Percent of All Oregon Higher Education
Total Enrollment, Fall, 2009 .....	41,446.....	17 %
Minority Enrollment .....	6,659.....	17 %
Bachelors Degrees Awarded in 2008-09 (incl. minorities) .....	4,978 (626).....	28% (26%)
Advanced Degrees Awarded in 2008-09 (incl. minorities) .....	2,786 (314).....	42% (43%)
Total Bach. & Grad. Degrees Combined in 2008-09 (incl. minorities) .....	7,764 (940).....	32% (30%)
Total Degrees (incl. Associate) Awarded in 2008-09 .....	8,689 (1,081).....	27% (26%)
Biological & Biomedical Sciences.....	278.....	26 %
International Relations .....	41.....	51 %
Master of Business Administration.....	624.....	64 %
Education.....	1,760.....	43 %
- Elementary Teacher Education .....	652.....	83 %
All Health Professions.....	1,408.....	36 %
Nursing – Bachelors Degrees .....	386.....	65 %
Clinical and Counseling Psychology .....	205.....	99 %
Chiropractic Medicine.....	99.....	100 %
Physician Assistant .....	82.....	51 %
Mental / Social Health Services .....	113.....	80 %
Optometry.....	93.....	100 %
Rehabilitation / Therapeutic Services.....	97.....	91 %
Alternative Medicine .....	168.....	100 %
Legal Professions & Studies.....	415.....	65 %
Total Out-of-State First-time Freshmen in 4-Year Institutions (fall, 2008) .....	2,799.....	36 %

Yearly \$ infusion by 14,200 out-of-state student (fall, 2009) into Oregon's economy..... \$497 million  
 Total economic impact of independent sector student spending in Oregon ..... \$3.1 billion  
 More than 6,500 employees, paying annual 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 a critical gap.

## Demographic Diversity

Minority students, fall, 2009:

At independent institutions .....	15.9 %
At state universities.....	15.9 %
At community colleges.....	16.5 %

Women students, fall, 2009:

At independent institutions .....	60 %
At state universities.....	53 %
At community colleges .....	55 %

Students age 25 and older, fall, 2008:

At independent institutions .....	45 %
At state universities.....	35 %
At community colleges.....	46 %

## 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.

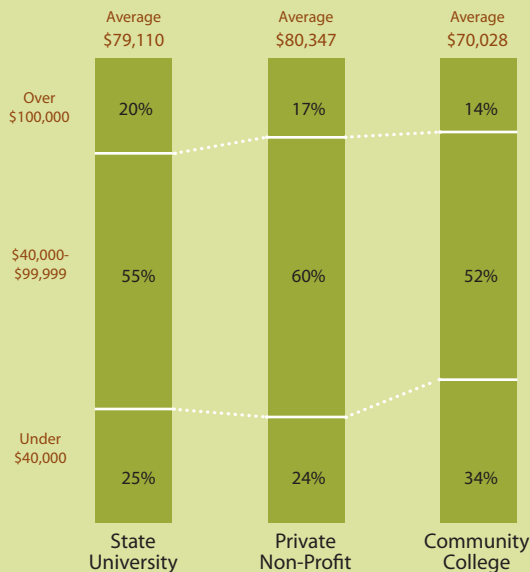
**Fact:** At OICA institutions the majority of student aid is in the form of grants that do not have to be repaid.

At Oregon's private non-profit colleges and universities 69 percent of all students graduating in 2008 finished their degrees with outstanding student loans averaging \$23,052. In the same year, at Oregon's public universities, 59 percent of all graduates finished their degrees with debt averaging \$20,291.

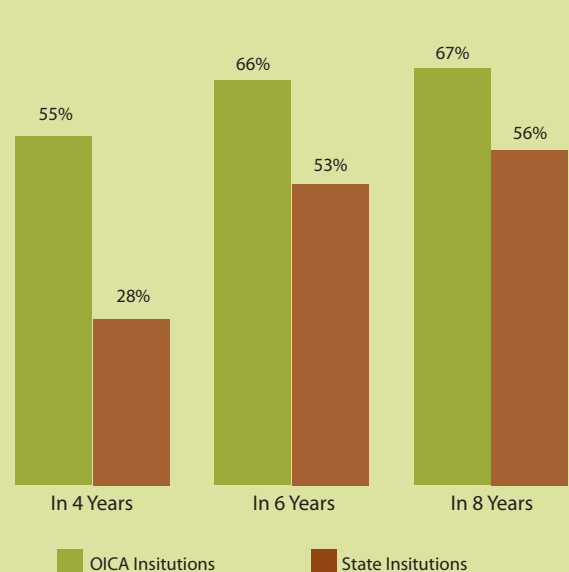
More than half of all that student borrowing was for unsubsidized "loans of convenience" and not for documented immediate need.

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, 2004



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 \$20,000 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 \$600 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 2008-09 school year each tax dollar Oregon invested in student aid at an OICA institution was matched by 45 private dollars raised by the institution for student grants and scholarships.

In fall of 2009 Oregon's independent institutions enrolled 41,446 students. Trying to provide comparable capacity at state universities would entail replacing all the freely donated private investments in independent institutions with billions of public tax dollars for capital investment and operating subsidies. Absorbing private sector capacity into state universities would also greatly reduce the diversity of academic opportunity, would probably result in thousands of resident Oregonians leaving the state for the private postsecondary education experience 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.