

# Overview of Private Career Schools & PCS Licensing Unit



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# What are career schools?

- They are private, postsecondary institutions that offer career or vocational training. Primarily for-profit, but a few are incorporated as nonprofit entities.
- They are licensed, certificate-granting institutions.
- They collectively enroll about 30,000 new students and graduate about 18,000 students in Oregon each year.
- Their graduates contribute to the middle '40' in Oregon's 40-40-20 goal.



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# What training do they provide?

- Oregon has about 223 private career schools which provide significant technical and vocational training opportunities for Oregonians in many diverse fields, such as:

- Healthcare



- Insurance



- Tax Preparation



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# What does the PCS Licensing Unit do?

- License career schools doing business in Oregon.
- Approve programs offered by new and existing schools.
- Investigate and responds to complaints regarding career schools.
- Provide significant technical assistance to licensees and license applicants.



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# How is the PCS Licensing Unit funded?

- The PCS Licensing Unit is funded through the fees it collects for issuing licenses, teacher registrations, and copies of transcripts.
  - It does not receive any General Fund dollars.
- The PCS Licensing Unit's licensing fee schedule is set in statute at ORS 345.080(1).
  - The fees have not been changed since 1999 – 14 years ago.
  - The Unit's expenses have not remained at 1999 levels.



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# How is the PCS Licensing Unit Staffed?

- Licensing Unit staff presently includes:
  - 3 Permanent positions; and
  - 2 Limited Duration positions.
    - Limited Duration positions expire on June 30, 2013.
  - Permanent positions will carry over to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission when authority for the program transfers on July 1, 2013. Limited Duration positions won't.
- Licensing Unit and career schools program will transfer to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission on July 1, 2013.



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# But what about the SAA?

- The State Approving Agency (SAA) was appointed by the Governor pursuant to a contract between Oregon and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- The SAA is not part of PCS.
- The SAA approves accredited degree and certificate programs offered by private, for-profit institutions for participation in VA educational benefit programs.
- The SAA is funded with federal dollars earned under state's contract with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.



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# If you have any questions...

- Please visit our website: <http://www.ode.state.or/go/pcs>
- Licensing Unit staff are available to answer your questions. Contact Matthew Barber at [matt.barber@state.or.us](mailto:matt.barber@state.or.us) or (503) 947-5716.



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