



## College and Career Readiness

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College and Career Readiness is an important focus at Oregon Connections Academy. Students have a wide range of course offerings to pursue their career and college plans including:

- 8 Advanced Placement Courses
- 19 career technical education (CTE) courses
- 7 Technology & Engineering Courses
- 19 Dual Credit Courses

Students also have the ability to participate in clubs such as First Generation College Club, Middle School Career Club, High School Career Club and College Planning Club. In addition, there are additional supports and activities available to support student's college and career goals including the following:

- Counseling LiveLesson sessions each Friday for high school students
  - Includes the Career Fireside Chats on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month
- College Admissions LiveLesson sessions
- Career/Vocational Options LiveLesson
- College Newsletter sent to high school students each month
- Chat with a Grad sessions
- Connexus tools such as the Progression Plan Manager and the College and Career Readiness Data View
- Required Career Explorations course for all students
- Required career-related Sr. Project and Job Shadow experience for all students

In order to truly understand the comprehensive focus at Oregon Connections Academy, data on important metrics is included on the following pages at both a state and national level for Connections Academy affiliated schools. This data demonstrates the rigor, quality, and recognition of our program and other public schools affiliated with our provider Connections Academy.

## Dual Credit

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Dual credit opportunities provide college level course work to high school students. Dual credit is a critical component at Oregon Connections Academy. When we discuss students being college and career ready, along with a rigorous curriculum aligned to standards, the best way for students to see college as a viable and realistic option is to begin building a college transcript while still in high school.

Oregon Connections Academy has successfully made it through the teacher and course approval for **19 courses**. While this is a great accomplishment, not every course that goes through the approval process gets approved. There are strict course alignment and teacher approvals that must be met.

**Oregon Connections Academy is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year with dual credit options for students partnering with Linn Benton Community College (LBCC).**

- **Total credits awarded over the last 3 years: 1779 credits!**
- **641 college credits have been taken already by 115 current high school students.**
- **Giving students a leg up: 35 students who qualify for FARM (Free and Reduced Meals) earned an individual average of 4.7 credits. These are students who likely would not have been able to get a head start on college earned credit.**
- **ORCA's Dual Credit creates equity and options for rural students. Approximately 8% of ORCA's students are from rural communities. Rural communities have limited or no options for dual credit.**
- **130 students have graduated over the last two years with 1138 college credit through ORCA.**
- **Oregon University System now has more students prepared for college because of this program.**

Not just any teacher or any high school course aligns with college curriculum and meets the standards to be a dual credit course. The first layer of a high school course approval for dual credit is for the high school teacher to meet the qualifications of being a college professor. High school teachers must have a minimum of 27 graduate credits in the designated field to be considered for a college position in Oregon—or to be an instructor of a dual credit course. Once the teacher has been deemed to meet the minimum standards of being a college professor then the high school course must go through an alignment process with the college course. At this point, course objectives, sample assessments and sample student work are shared. If the college can say with fidelity that the courses align, then the course is approved for dual credit.

Our partner Connections Academy has collaborative partnerships in other states with many colleges and universities for dual credit. The impressive list demonstrates the acceptance of full time online learning by higher education and the importance of ensuring that Oregon students have the same advantages as students across the United States. The following colleges and universities have partnered with Connections Academy affiliated schools to offer dual enrollment to students:

Anoka Community College -- Cambridge, MN  
Anoka Ramsey Community College -- Anoka, MN  
Anoka Ramsey Community College -- Coon Rapids, MN  
Anoka Technical College --  
Anoka Technical College -- Anoka, MN  
Anoka Technical College -- Minneapolis, MN  
Ashworth  
Baker College  
Bob Jones University  
Bowling Green State University  
BRCC  
BYU  
California University of PA  
CC of Philly  
Central Lakes College -- Brainerd, MN  
Central Ohio Technical College  
Century College  
Century College -- White Bear Lake, MN  
Chemeketa CC  
Citrus College  
Clark State Community College  
Cleveland State University  
Clovis Community College  
CNM  
Coast Community College  
College of Charleston  
Columbus College of Art and Design  
Columbus State Community College  
Corban  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Cuyahoga Community College  
Cuyahoga Community College - Western Campus  
Defiance College  
Delgado  
Delgado Community College  
Delta College  
Dillion County Technical Center  
El Camino College  
Evergreen CC  
Georgia Regents University  
HACC  
Halstrom Academy

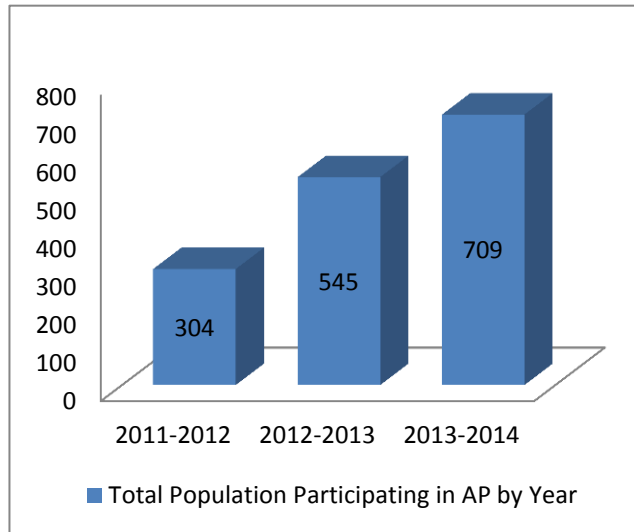
Hennepin Technical College -- Brooklyn Park, MN  
Hennipen Tech College  
Henry Ford College  
Hibbing Community College -- Hibbing, MN  
Hocking Technical College  
Horry Georgetown Technical College  
Inver Hills Community College  
Inver Hills Community College -- Inver Grove Heights, MN  
Irvine Valley College  
Johnson County Community College  
Kalamazoo Valley Community College  
Lake Erie College  
Lake Superior College -- Duluth, MN  
Lakeland Community College  
Linn Benton Community College  
Lorain County Community College  
Luzerne County Community  
Marion Technical College  
Mesaland Community College  
Miami University - Hamilton  
Miami University - Hamilton Campus  
Michigan State University  
Midlands Technical College  
Minneapolis Community and Technical College -- Minneapolis, MN  
Minnesota State University -- Mankato, MN  
Minnesota West Community and Technical College -- Worthington, MN  
MN State Community and Tech -- Moorhead, MN  
Modesto Junior College  
Mody Bible Institute  
MState -- Wadena, MN  
NE Technical College  
Nelson Academy of Ag Sciences Online  
New Mexico Jr. College  
NMSU  
Normandale Community College -- Bloomington, MN  
North Central State College  
North Central University -- Minneapolis, MN  
North Hennepin Community College -- Brooklyn Park, MN  
North Hennipen Community College -- Brooklyn Park, MN  
Northwest State Community College  
Northwestern  
Northwestern University  
Northwestern University -- Saint Paul, MN  
Oakland Community College  
Ohio Christian University  
Ohio State University Newark Campus  
Oklahoma City Community College  
Owens Community College

Piedmont Tech  
Piedmont Technical College  
Pierce Community College  
Riverland Community College -- Owatonna, MN  
Rochester Community and Technical College -- Rochester, MN  
Rochester Tech and Community College  
Saint Paul College -- Saint Paul, MN  
Salina Area Technical College  
San Joaquin Delta College  
San Jose City Colllege  
Santiago Community College  
Sinclair Community College  
South Central College  
Southwest Minnesota State University -- Marshall, MN  
St. Cloud State University -- St. Cloud, MN  
TCC  
Thaddeus Stevens College  
Tri-County Tech  
Tri-County Technical College: Easley Campus  
Trident Technical College  
Univeristy of Minesota - Twin Cities -- Minneapolis, MN  
University of Akron  
University of Central Oklahoama  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Cincinnati-Clermont  
University of Dayton  
University of Findlay  
University of Minnesota  
University of Minnesota -- Morris, MN  
University of Minnesota -- Twin Cities  
University of Minnesota - Twin Cities -- Minneapolis, MN  
University of Northwestern -- St. Paul, MN  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pittsburg @ Bradford  
University of Rio Grande  
University of Toledo  
University of West Georgia  
USC: Beaufort  
Valley Forge Christian College  
Washington State Community College  
Wichita Area Technical College  
Wilmington College  
Winona State Univeristy -- Winona, MN  
York College of PA  
Zane State College

# Advanced Placement

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Advanced Placement courses play a crucial role in preparing a student for college level work. **Approximately 6% of ORCA's 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> graders participated in Advanced Placement Courses in 2013-14.** The 2013-14 school year saw growth in Advanced Placement participation across all Connections Academy affiliated schools as documented in the chart below.



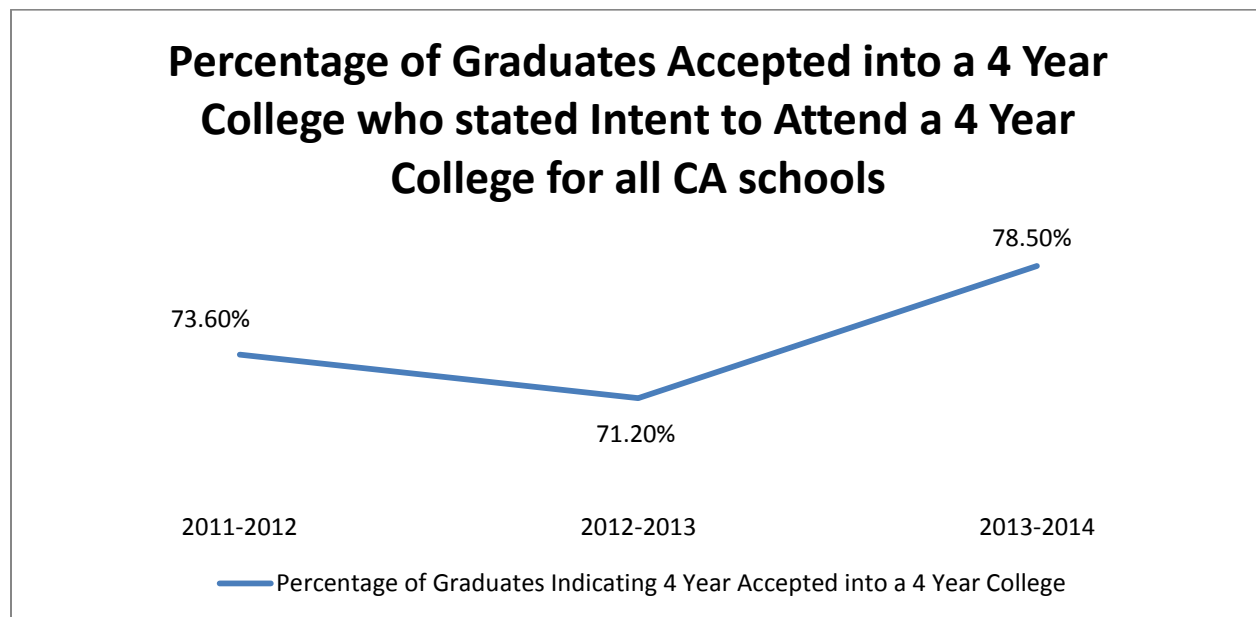
# Post-Graduation Plans

Many students enter ORCA with a variety of college and career pathways. The following data examines the post-graduation plans of ORCA graduates as reported by students through a survey administered in the fall of 2013. **The majority of ORCA students have plans to enter into 2 or 4 year colleges but many also have plans for a career, vocational training, or the military.**

Post Graduation Plans 2013-2014									
	2 YR	4 YR	Vocational	Military	Work	Gap Year	Mission Work	Other	Undecided
<b>ORCA</b>	44.10%	12.60%	8.30%	1.20%	28.00%	0.40%	1.20%	2.40%	2.00%

## 4 Year College Acceptances

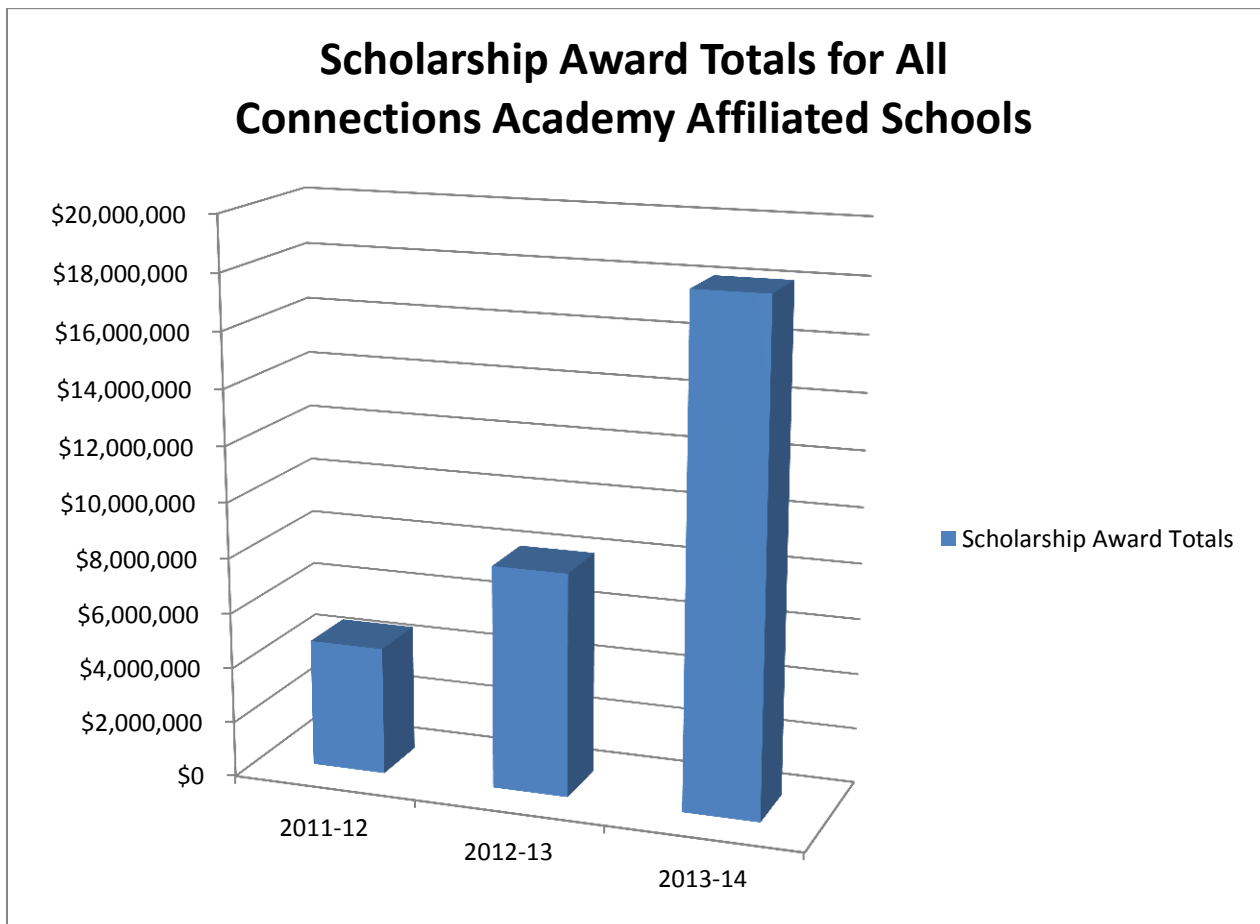
**100% of ORCA students who stated an intent to attend a 4 year college were accepted into a 4 year college** while the national average for Connections Academy affiliated schools was 78.5 percentage points. ORCA students demonstrate a high level of success in this area. The following chart represents data from all Connections Academy affiliated schools for acceptance into 4 year colleges of students who indicated plans to attend.



# Scholarships

Over the past school year, the average amount of scholarship money awarded to each scholarship recipient increased by over \$2000. Over \$18 million in scholarships was awarded in 2013-2014 at Connections affiliated schools, more than doubling the amount awarded the previous school year. **ORCA students received \$225,575 in scholarships in 2013-14. All but one of the ORCA students from last year's class who reported scholarship awards also earned credit through our Linn Benton Community College dual credit program.**

The following represents data for all Connections Academy affiliated schools.



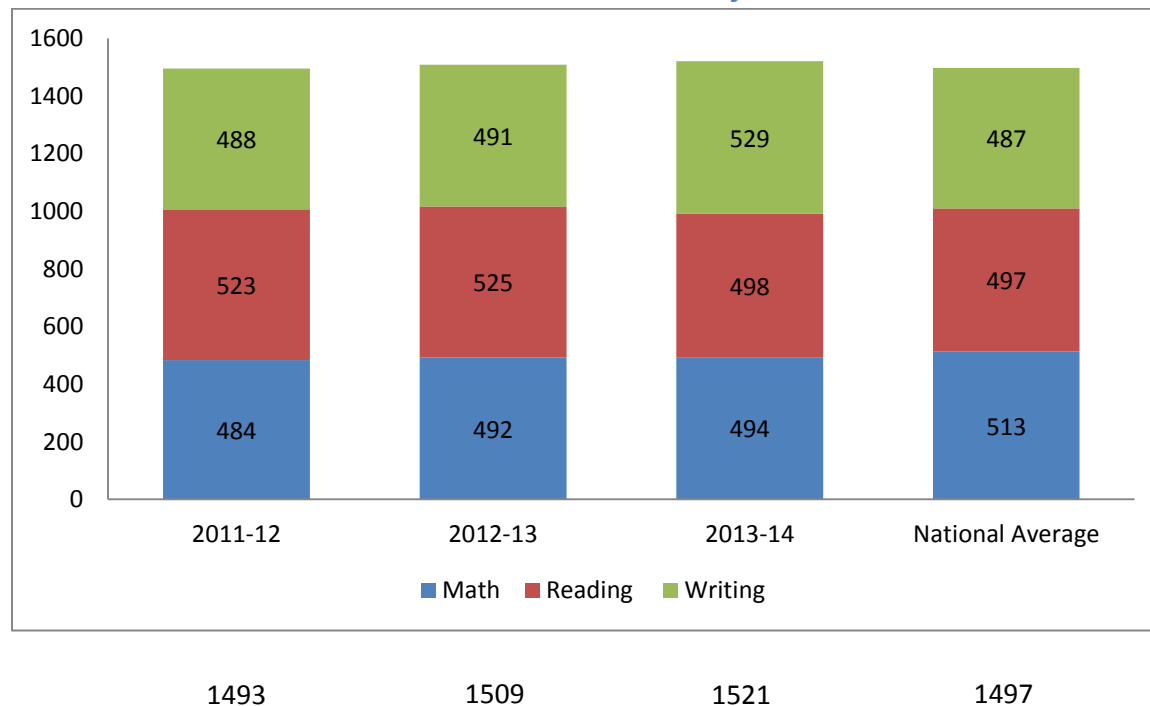
	Total all Connections Academy Grads	Scholarship Award Totals	Average Award per Graduate
<b>2013-2014</b>	2854	\$18,009,472.00	\$6310.26
<b>2012-2013</b>	1916	\$8,066,481.00	\$4210.06
<b>2011-2012</b>	1366	\$4,624,961.51	\$3385.77



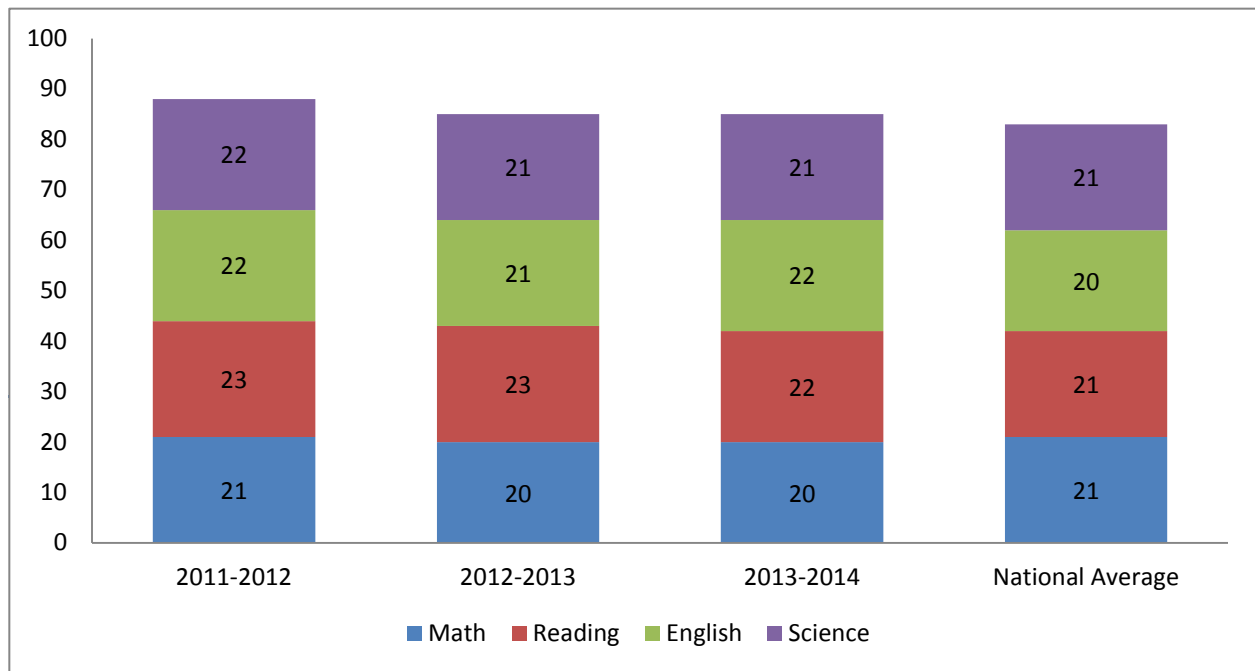
# ACT and SAT Performance

**ORCA students scored 1575 for a combined score exceeding both the national average and Connections affiliated school averages on the SAT.** A total of 696 Connections Academy affiliated students took the SAT test, earning on average a combined score of 1521, thus exceeding the national average score of 1497. Students performed above the national average on both the reading and writing portions of the test, while scoring slightly below average on the Math portion. A total of 989 students took the ACT during the 2013-14 school year and earned on average a composite score of 21, thus meeting the national average. The following charts summarize the performance of all students from Connections Academy affiliated schools for SAT and ACT:

## SAT Performance for all Connections Academy Affiliated Schools



## ACT Performance for all Connections Academy Affiliated Schools



# College Acceptances by State

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Students at Connections Academy-supported schools have been accepted by many colleges across the country. The following list accepted Connections Academy graduates into their schools. Schools [highlighted in blue](#) represent 'Most Competitive' or 'Highly Competitive' schools as ranked by Barron's.

## **Alabama**

Auburn University  
Birmingham-Southern College  
Judson College  
Oakwood University  
Spring Hill College  
Troy University  
University of Alabama  
University of Alabama at Birmingham  
University of Mobile

## **Arizona**

Arizona State University  
Grand Canyon University  
Northern Arizona University  
Prescott College  
University of Arizona  
University of Phoenix

## **Arkansas**

[Hendrix College](#)  
University of Arkansas  
Williams Baptist College

## **California**

Biola University  
California Baptist University  
California College of the Arts  
California Lutheran University  
California State Polytechnic University:  
Pomona  
California State University: Bakersfield  
California State University: East Bay  
California State University: Fresno  
California State University: Fullerton  
California State University: Long Beach  
California State University: Northridge  
California State University: Sacramento  
California State University: San  
Bernardino

Chapman University  
Concordia University  
Dominican University of California  
Humboldt State University  
Laguna College of Art and Design  
Loyola Marymount University  
Mills College  
[Pepperdine University](#)  
Point Loma Nazarene University  
San Francisco Conservatory of Music  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
Simpson University  
[Stanford University](#)  
[University of California: Berkeley](#)  
University of California: Davis  
University of California: Irvine  
[University of California: Los Angeles](#)  
University of California: Riverside  
University of California: San Diego  
University of California: Santa Barbara  
University of California: Santa Cruz  
University of La Verne  
University of Redlands  
University of San Diego  
University of the Pacific  
Vanguard University of Southern  
California  
Westmont College  
Whittier College  
Woodbury University

## **Colorado**

Adams State College  
Colorado Christian University  
Colorado State University: Fort Collins  
Colorado State University: Pueblo  
Johnson & Wales University: Denver  
University of Colorado at Boulder

University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

University of Colorado at Denver

University of Denver

University of Northern Colorado

### **Connecticut**

Post University

University of Hartford

University of New Haven

### **Delaware**

University of Delaware

Wesley College

### **District of Columbia**

[American University](#)

Catholic University of America

[George Washington University](#)

Howard University

### **Florida**

Barry University

Eckerd College

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Florida Atlantic University

Florida Gulf Coast University

Florida Institute of Technology

Florida International University

Florida Memorial University

Florida Southern College

Florida State University

Jacksonville University

Lynn University

New College of Florida

Nova Southeastern University

Palm Beach Atlantic University

Rollins College

Southeastern University

Stetson University

University of Central Florida

[University of Florida](#)

[University of Miami](#)

University of North Florida

University of South Florida

University of Tampa

University of West Florida

### **Georgia**

Agnes Scott College

Albany State University

Berry College

Brenau University

Clayton State University

Columbus State University

[Georgia Institute of Technology](#)

Georgia State University

Kennesaw State University

Mercer University

Oglethorpe University

Savannah College of Art and Design

Savannah State University

Spelman College

[University of Georgia](#)

University of West Georgia

Valdosta State University

### **Hawaii**

University of Hawaii at Manoa

### **Idaho**

Idaho State University

University of Idaho

### **Illinois**

Bradley University

Columbia College Chicago

DePaul University

Eureka College

Illinois State University

Olivet Nazarene University

St. Xavier University

University of Illinois at Chicago

University of Illinois at Urbana-

Champaign

### **Indiana**

Anderson University

Ball State University

Bethel College

Butler University

DePauw University

Earlham College

Grace College

Hanover College

Indiana Institute of Technology  
Indiana State University  
Indiana University Bloomington  
Indiana University East  
Indiana University Northwest  
Indiana University South Bend  
Indiana University Southeast  
Indiana University-Purdue University  
Indianapolis  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
Manchester College  
Marian University  
Purdue University  
Purdue University Calumet  
Saint Joseph's College  
St. Mary-of-the-Woods College  
Taylor University  
Trine University  
University of Evansville  
University of Indianapolis  
University of Southern Indiana  
Valparaiso University

#### **Iowa**

Buena Vista University  
Central College  
Drake University  
Cornell College  
Drake University  
Iowa State University  
Luther College  
St. Ambrose University  
University of Iowa  
University of Northern Iowa

#### **Kansas**

Fort Hays State University  
Kansas State University  
Newman University  
Pittsburg State University  
University of Kansas  
Wichita State University

#### **Kentucky**

Bellarmino University  
Berea College  
Brescia University  
University of Kentucky

University of Louisville  
Western Kentucky University

#### **Louisiana**

Centenary College of Louisiana  
Louisiana College  
Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge  
Louisiana Tech University  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Nicholls State University  
Our Lady of Holy Cross College  
Southeastern Louisiana University  
University of Louisiana at Lafayette  
University of Louisiana at Monroe  
University of New Orleans

#### **Maryland**

Capitol College  
Frostburg State University  
Goucher College  
Loyola University Maryland  
Mount St. Mary's University  
Stevenson University  
Towson University  
University of Maryland: College Park  
University of Maryland: Eastern Shore

#### **Massachusetts**

Bay Path College  
Emerson College  
Lesley University  
Pine Manor College  
Simmons College  
[Wellesley College](#)  
Wheelock College

#### **Maine**

University of Maine at Farmington

#### **Michigan**

Albion College  
Andrews University  
Calvin College  
Central Michigan University  
Concordia University  
Davenport University

Eastern Michigan University  
Ferris State University  
Hope College  
Michigan State University  
Michigan Technological University  
Oakland University  
Saginaw Valley State University  
Spring Arbor University  
[University of Michigan](#)  
University of Michigan: Dearborn  
University of Michigan: Flint  
Wayne State University  
Western Michigan University

### **Minnesota**

Bemidji State University  
Bethel University  
Hamline University  
Minnesota State University Mankato  
Minnesota State University Moorhead  
North Central University  
Northwestern College  
Saint Cloud State University  
University of Minnesota: Duluth  
University of Minnesota: Twin Cities  
University of St. Thomas  
Winona State University

### **Missouri**

Columbia College  
Evangel University  
Missouri State University  
Stephens College  
University of Missouri: Columbia  
University of Missouri: Kansas City

### **Mississippi**

Jackson State University  
Millsaps College  
Mississippi University for Women  
University of Southern Mississippi

### **Montana**

Carroll College  
Montana State University: Billings  
Montana State University: Bozeman  
University of Montana

### **Nebraska**

Union College  
University of Nebraska - Omaha  
York College

### **Nevada**

Sierra Nevada College  
University of Nevada: Las Vegas

### **New Hampshire**

New England College  
Plymouth State University  
Southern New Hampshire University  
University of New Hampshire

### **New Jersey**

[Princeton University](#)  
Richard Stockton College of New Jersey  
Rider University  
Rowan University  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey: New Brunswick/Piscataway Campus  
William Paterson University of New Jersey

### **New Mexico**

University of New Mexico

### **New York**

Alfred University  
American Musical and Dramatic Academy  
City University of New York: Baruch College  
City University of New York: Brooklyn College  
Elmira College  
Fordham University  
Hofstra University  
Iona College  
Le Moyne College  
Marymount Manhattan College  
[New York University](#)  
Pace University  
Skidmore College  
St. John's University  
State University of New York at Albany

State University of New York at Stony Brook  
Syracuse University

### **North Carolina**

Bennett College for Women  
Campbell University  
Elon University  
Gardner-Webb University  
Lees-McRae College  
North Carolina State University  
University of North Carolina at Asheville  
University of North Carolina at Wilmington

### **North Dakota**

North Dakota State University

### **Ohio**

Ashland University  
Bluffton University  
Bowling Green State University  
Capital University  
[Case Western Reserve University](#)  
Cedarville University  
College of Mount St. Joseph  
College of Wooster  
Columbus College of Art and Design  
Franciscan University of Steubenville  
John Carroll University  
Kent State University  
Miami University  
Notre Dame College  
[Ohio State University: Columbus Campus](#)  
Ohio State University: Lima Campus  
Ohio State University: Mansfield Campus  
Ohio State University: Marion Campus  
Ohio University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Dayton  
Wilmington College  
Wittenberg University  
Wright State University  
Xavier University

### **Oklahoma**

East Central University  
Oklahoma State University  
University of Oklahoma

### **Oregon**

Concordia University  
Corban University  
Eastern Oregon University  
Lewis & Clark College  
Northwest Christian University  
Oregon Institute of Technology  
Oregon State University  
Portland State University  
Southern Oregon University  
University of Oregon  
University of Portland  
Western Oregon University  
Western Oregon University  
Willamette University

### **Pennsylvania**

Albright College  
Alvernia University  
Arcadia University  
Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania  
[Bucknell University](#)  
Cabrini College  
[Carnegie Mellon University](#)  
Chestnut Hill College  
Cheyney University of Pennsylvania  
Clarion University of Pennsylvania  
DeSales University  
DeVry University: Fort Washington  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania  
Eastern University  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania  
Elizabethtown College  
Geneva College  
Immaculata University  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
King's College  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
La Roche College  
La Salle University

Lebanon Valley College  
Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania  
Lycoming College  
Mansfield University of Pennsylvania  
Marywood University  
Messiah College  
Millersville University of Pennsylvania  
Penn State Altoona  
Penn State Erie, The Behrend College  
Penn State University Park  
Philadelphia Biblical University  
Philadelphia University  
Point Park University  
Robert Morris University  
Rosemont College  
Saint Joseph's University  
Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania  
St. Vincent College  
Susquehanna University  
Temple University  
[University of Pennsylvania](#)  
University of Pittsburgh at Bradford  
University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown  
[University of Pittsburgh at Pittsburgh](#)  
[Villanova University](#)  
Washington & Jefferson College  
Waynesburg University  
West Chester University of Pennsylvania  
Westminster College  
Widener University  
Wilkes University  
York College of Pennsylvania

#### **Rhode Island**

Johnson & Wales University: Providence

#### **South Carolina**

Charleston Southern University  
Clemson University  
Coastal Carolina University  
Coker College  
College of Charleston  
Francis Marion University  
Lander University  
Limestone College  
Newberry College

South Carolina State University  
The Citadel  
University of South Carolina  
University of South Carolina at Aiken  
University of South Carolina Upstate  
Winthrop University

#### **Tennessee**

Belmont University  
Carson-Newman College  
Lee University  
Lincoln Memorial University  
Lipscomb University  
Milligan College  
Southern Adventist University  
Tennessee State University  
Tusculum College  
[Vanderbilt University](#)

#### **Texas**

Baylor University  
Concordia University Texas  
Houston Baptist University  
Lamar University  
LeTourneau University  
Lubbock Christian University  
Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio  
Sam Houston State University  
[Southern Methodist University](#)  
St. Edward's University  
Stephen F. Austin State University  
Tarleton State University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Southern University  
Texas State University: San Marcos  
Texas Woman's University  
University of Houston  
University of Houston-Victoria  
University of St. Thomas  
University of Texas at Arlington  
University of Texas at Austin  
University of Texas at Dallas  
University of Texas at San Antonio



**Utah**

Southern Utah University  
University of Utah  
Utah State University  
Westminster College

**Virginia**

Ferrum College  
George Mason University  
Hampton University  
Liberty University  
Mary Baldwin College  
Roanoke College  
[University of Virginia](#)  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University  
Virginia Union University

**Vermont**

Champlain College  
Norwich University

**Washington**

Gonzaga University  
Seattle Pacific University  
Seattle University  
Washington State University

**West Virginia**

American Public University  
Bethany College  
Concord University  
Shepherd University  
West Virginia University

**Wisconsin**

Carthage College  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire  
University of Wisconsin-La Crosse  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

**Wyoming**

University of Wyoming

**International**

Franklin College Switzerland

# Conclusion

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Colleges and universities continue to grow their online learning programs. A recent report by Babson (2014) documented there are approximately 3.8 million students enrolled in full time online learning in higher education and over 95% of public higher education institutions with 5,000 or more total students report distance education offerings. In addition, 71% of higher education chief academic leaders report that online learning is critical to their long-term strategy. Online learning is critical in higher education and students who graduate from K-12 full time virtual schools are accepted throughout the country.

Legislative and policy makers in Oregon need to recognize that universities determine whether graduates meet their high academic standards. In fact, students who graduate from a virtual school program may be better prepared for online college coursework because their experience in online learning prepared them for setting goals, independence, and organizational techniques.

Evidence is provided in this brief that demonstrates that academic rigor can be demonstrated by high quality programs and that universities can determine whether a school's graduates meet their academic requirements. The following summarizes key findings of this brief:

- Online learning is accepted at higher education institutions across the country.
- ORCA students participated at a very high level in dual credit programs with many students represented from low socio-economic and rural communities.
- ORCA's students are receiving a high level of scholarship awards for their preparation for college.
- Connections Academy schools have demonstrated academic achievement on SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement assessments.
- Connections Academy schools focus on college and career readiness through its curriculum and its support services.
- Colleges and universities accept students who graduate from a full time virtual school program as demonstrated in the list of college acceptances by Connections Academy affiliated schools.
- Colleges and universities have partnered with Connections Academy across the country vetting both the curriculum and the teachers for academic rigor for dual credit courses.
- Preparing a student for life after high school is an important mission of Oregon Connections Academy.