



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

775 Court Street NE

Salem, OR 97301

(503) 378-5690

[www.oregon.gov/HigherEd](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)

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Co-Chair, Senator Rod Monroe  
Co-Chair, Representative Betty Komp  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Monroe and Komp,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the May 12 Higher Education Coordinating Commission's presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Representative Sprenger asked us to provide the graduation rates for Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients versus non-recipients. This data is only collected for universities, and we have included it at the conclusion of this letter in Table A.

Senator Roblan asked that we provide information on which indicators in high school (i.e. GPA, SAT, etc.) are the best predictors of postsecondary success and completion. As indicated during testimony, the Oregon University System researched this issue in the past. A 2003 OUS publication, "Looking Back along the Long and Winding Road," ([http://ous.edu/files/dept/ir/reports/Full\\_Report\\_ret\\_att\\_grad\\_87\\_95.pdf](http://ous.edu/files/dept/ir/reports/Full_Report_ret_att_grad_87_95.pdf)) included the finding that for OUS freshmen, high school GPA was the most reliable pre-college predictor of college graduation, better than SAT scores. A 2014 national study by the National Association of College Admissions Counseling showed a similar finding (see the CBS news story reporting on this study here: <http://www.cbsnews.com/news/confirmed-high-school-gpas-predict-college-success/>). We have also provided in Table B the retention and graduation rates of public university students at various GPA levels, from 2008 through 2013, which demonstrates the continuing correlation of GPA and student success in Oregon. We do not keep systematic data on the relationship between non-standardized predictors, including letters of recommendation, and postsecondary success.

Representative Huffman suggested that the HECC consider the Oregon Opportunity Grant eligibility for developmental not-for-credit coursework, and we appreciate the attention to deliberate use of state resources and the complexity of this public policy question. Representative Taylor asked that we provide information on what percentage of Oregon Opportunity Grant recipients complete at least one developmental education course. We do not have data specific to OOG recipients available at this time but we will continue to investigate this.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact our legislative deputy director Dana Richardson at [dana.richardson@state.or.us](mailto:dana.richardson@state.or.us).

Regards,

Ben Cannon  
Executive Director, HECC

**Table A. 6-Year Graduation Rates at Oregon's Public Universities  
(2006-07 High School Cohort)**

Oregon Opportunity Grant Recipients	64.1%
No Oregon Opportunity Grant	59.6%
Difference	+4.5%

Source: Oregon University System, Graduation Rate by First Time Freshman Cohort 2006-07, fall term, includes inter-OUS transfers.

**Table B.**  
**Retention of First-Time Freshmen\* by High School GPA**

Includes Students Transferring within OUS after Initial Enrollment  
 2007-08 IPEDS Fall Cohort  
 OUS Institutional Research Services - February 24, 2014

All Institutions		Status as of Fall:											
		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
HS GPA	Status												
3.75+	Continuing	2046	90	1971	86.7	1839	80.9	658	28.9	152	6.7	54	2.4
	Graduated	0	0	3	0.1	107	4.7	1200	52.8	1726	75.9	1842	81
	Stopped Out	227	10	299	13.2	327	14.4	415	18.3	395	17.4	377	16.6
	Total	2273	100	2273	100	2273	100	2273	100	2273	100	2273	100
	Status												
3.50-3.74	Continuing	1622	84.6	1475	76.9	1425	74.3	660	34.4	206	10.7	84	4.4
	Graduated	1	0.1	5	0.3	43	2.2	736	38.4	1180	61.6	1311	68.4
	Stopped Out	294	15.3	437	22.8	449	23.4	521	27.2	531	27.7	522	27.2
	Total	1917	100	1917	100	1917	100	1917	100	1917	100	1917	100
	Status												
3.25-3.49	Continuing	1535	80.4	1347	70.5	1272	66.6	700	36.6	246	12.9	110	5.8
	Graduated	0	0	2	0.1	21	1.1	537	28.1	967	50.6	1114	58.3
	Stopped Out	375	19.6	561	29.4	617	32.3	673	35.2	697	36.5	686	35.9
	Total	1910	100	1910	100	1910	100	1910	100	1910	100	1910	100
	Status												
3.00-3.24	Continuing	1236	73.3	1084	64.3	1008	59.8	601	35.6	223	13.2	109	6.5
	Graduated	0	0	0	0	19	1.1	346	20.5	700	41.5	826	49
	Stopped Out	451	26.7	603	35.7	660	39.1	740	43.9	764	45.3	752	44.6
	Total	1687	100	1687	100	1687	100	1687	100	1687	100	1687	100
	Status												
2.75-2.99	Continuing	682	70.5	593	61.3	582	60.1	394	40.7	125	12.9	74	7.6
	Graduated	0	0	0	0	4	0.4	148	15.3	371	38.3	426	44
	Stopped Out	286	29.5	375	38.7	382	39.5	426	44	472	48.8	468	48.3
	Total	968	100	968	100	968	100	968	100	968	100	968	100
	Status												
2.50-2.74	Continuing	240	64.5	196	52.7	179	48.1	123	33.1	61	16.4	37	9.9
	Graduated	0	0	0	0	3	0.8	41	11	96	25.8	115	30.9
	Stopped Out	132	35.5	176	47.3	190	51.1	208	55.9	215	57.8	220	59.1
	Total	372	100	372	100	372	100	372	100	372	100	372	100
	Status												
2.25-2.49	Continuing	82	56.9	53	36.8	51	35.4	45	31.3	21	14.6	10	6.9
	Graduated	0	0	0	0	1	0.7	5	3.5	18	12.5	29	20.1
	Stopped Out	62	43.1	91	63.2	92	63.9	94	65.3	105	72.9	105	72.9
	Total	144	100	144	100	144	100	144	100	144	100	144	100
	Status												
2.00-2.24	Status	17	44.7	15	39.5	13	34.2	10	26.3	5	13.2	2	5.3

	Continuing												
	Graduated	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	7.9	6	15.8
	Stopped Out	21	55.3	23	60.5	25	65.8	28	73.7	30	78.9	30	78.9
	Total	38	100	38	100	38	100	38	100	38	100	38	100
< 2.00	Status												
	Continuing	8	72.7	5	45.5	6	54.5	3	27.3	1	9.1	1	9.1
	Graduated	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9.1	3	27.3	4	36.4
	Stopped Out	3	27.3	6	54.5	5	45.5	7	63.6	7	63.6	6	54.5
	Total	11	100	11	100	11	100	11	100	11	100	11	100
No HS GPA	Status												
	Continuing	593	75.3	511	64.9	460	58.4	284	36.1	116	14.7	52	6.6
	Graduated	0	0	19	2.4	44	5.6	203	25.8	370	47	424	53.9
	Stopped Out	194	24.7	257	32.7	283	36	300	38.1	301	38.2	311	39.5
	Total	787	100	787	100	787	100	787	100	787	100	787	100
Grand Total	Status												
	Continuing	8061	79.8	7250	71.7	6835	67.6	3478	34.4	1156	11.4	533	5.3
	Graduated	1	0	29	0.3	242	2.4	3217	31.8	5434	53.8	6097	60.3
	Stopped Out	2045	20.2	2828	28	3030	30	3412	33.8	3517	34.8	3477	34.4
	Total	10107	100	10107	100	10107	100	10107	100	10107	100	10107	100

\*First-Time Freshmen: Students admitted on the basis of their high school performance (including a limited amount of college transfer credit) who carried a full-time course load during their first term of attendance. Includes continuing education enrollment and credit.  
Note: Two-year degrees earned in three years or less are counted as completions.