



Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education – An Oregon Innovation

A national model of educating health care workforce to serve more communities

Nearly 15 years ago, Oregon's health educators, clinicians, and health policy makers created a shared vision to address the state's nursing workforce shortages and inadequate rural access to baccalaureate education. These leaders launched the Oregon Consortium for Nursing Education (OCNE), an innovative approach to nursing education that ensures a high standard of patient care and better skilled nurses for Oregon's aging and increasingly diverse population. OCNE transformed nursing education in Oregon. The consortium improved access to baccalaureate education, particularly in rural areas, and increased faculty opportunities for collaboration across campuses.

Since its creation, OCNE has become a nationally recognized model for its excellence in coupling clinical skills with a competency-based curriculum. OCNE has dramatically expanded Oregon's nursing program capacity and enrollment. Originally consisting of only OHSU's nursing campuses (Ashland, Portland, La Grande, Monmouth and Klamath Falls) and several community college nursing programs, OCNE has responded to the growing state health care education needs by adding an OHSU online degree and programs in 11 out of the 17 Oregon Community Colleges. Clatsop Community College in Astoria admitted its first OCNE class in fall 2016 and our newest partner, Columbia Gorge Community College, will begin delivering the OCNE nursing curriculum in Fall 2018. OCNE is committed to partnering with other community colleges throughout Oregon to expand access to nursing education.

Number of graduates

Since the first Oregon students graduated from the OCNE program in 2008, this partnership has made it possible for Oregon's public health care university to award 2,345 students Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees. 96 percent of these graduates pass their credentialing exam (NCLEX-RN) on their first attempt. As of the Fall of 2016, 764 students are currently enrolled in OHSU's School of Nursing BSN programs.

How it works

As part of the consortium, each partner school retains full responsibility and accountability for its baccalaureate nursing program. OCNE coordinates with each member college to develop a curriculum and its academic and service policies, which requires the same campus review and approval process as any other academic program at that school.

Through inter-institutional agreements, each partner school implements the shared curriculum and policies, and works within OCNE for evaluation and any needed modifications. Students have many options of how to complete their four year program, one of which is that they can to start and finish a four-year Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing at their local community college, taking their final courses online.

National model

Nationally, OCNE has inspired nursing faculty around the country to engage in nursing education innovation that aligns with emerging health care needs and health care system changes. More than 30 states and five nations have modeled programs based on OCNE's partnerships and curriculum.

Continued

Member colleges:

- Blue Mountain Community College
- Clackamas Community College
- Clatsop Community College
- Columbia Gorge Community College
- Lane Community College
- Mt. Hood Community College
- OHSU Ashland
- OHSU Klamath Falls
- OHSU La Grande
- OHSU Monmouth
- OHSU Portland
- OHSU RNBS Online
- Portland Community College
- Rogue Community College
- Southwestern Oregon Community College
- Treasure Valley Community College
- Umpqua Community College

For example, OCNE programs have been adopted in Massachusetts, Texas, New York, and rural North Carolina. State and regional consortia have been developed in California and Hawaii. New Mexico, Wyoming, Minnesota and Maine all continue to consult the OCNE model for their state's nursing programs.

Questions?

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