



# OREGON PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES 2020 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Oregon's public universities are more diverse than ever before, with more first-generation students, students of color, more Pell-eligible students, and students from rural communities.

Diversity enhances the academic and cultural experience for all students, but it also means institutions and the state must step up to ensure traditionally underrepresented students are adequately supported.

Students in college today face unique barriers to graduation. Universities must continue to provide a highly trained, diverse, home-grown workforce and provide the facilities, services, and wraparound supports to ensure every student succeeds.

## Oregon's public universities endorse the following concepts for the 2020 legislative session



### HB 4055 - Address basic needs for students to promote success

Because too many students are unable to access adequate food and lack safe and stable housing, it dramatically impacts their ability to achieve their university degree. **Universities support studying the current needs of students to make policy and funding recommendations to the 2021 Legislature.**



### HB 4160 - Better outcomes for a new generation of Oregon university students

Increases in diversity are transforming university campuses and creating opportunities for a new generation of Oregon students. Yet outcomes and graduation rates for these traditionally underrepresented students are not keeping pace. **Universities support establishing a task force on student success for underrepresented students in higher education.**



### SB 1521 - Maximize the impact of transfer credits

Students deserve a seamless post-secondary experience. Critical to achieving that goal is alignment between classes that students need to attain a degree and credits they earn either in high school or community colleges. **The universities support the continued improvement of student transfer pathways to provide students the information they need to maximize their course-taking, reduce student debt, and increase collaboration.**



### Invest in modern, safe facilities

The recent HECC strategic capital report found that "Space needs may arise from changing pedagogical practices that are known to achieve better student success." Safe, modern, innovative buildings are critical to improving student outcomes. State investment in university infrastructure helps Oregon attract and retain our best and brightest. **The universities support significant capital investments toward the ranked capital project list submitted by the HECC for the 2020 session.**

