



Oregon Core to College

Project Overview

Oregon's "Core to College: Placement Proficiency Aligning Standards," grant (often referred to as simply "Core to College," "CTC," or "PPAS") aims to foster long-term collaborations between state postsecondary education and K-12 entities that will improve student college and career readiness, provide more seamless transitions for prospective students, and increase student access and success in postsecondary education. Core to College is grounded in the internationally-benchmarked Common Core State Standards (CCSS), which Oregon adopted in 2010 and plans to have fully implemented statewide in 2014-15. The project will help to establish a shared statewide definition of college- and career-readiness which can signal a student's preparedness for credit-bearing courses and career certificate programs in postsecondary education.

Oregon is one of ten states awarded the Core to College grant—Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Washington are also engaged in this effort. Core to College will run through the end of 2014, which supports and aligns with our statewide standards shift.

The project steering committee reflects a significant partnership among the major Oregon education sectors: the Department of Education (ODE), Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), and Oregon University System (OUS). Lisa Reynolds, the project's Alignment Director, is based in the Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

Funding for the Core to College project is provided by the Lumina Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The partners developed Core to College with the assistance of Education First Consulting, which will provide continuing project management. Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, the program's fiscal sponsor, is responsible for grant decisions and all aspects of ongoing grant administration.

Project Goals

- Successful implementation of CCSS and aligned assessments
- Shared ownership of college readiness throughout P-20 education so that all students will be college ready in literacy and mathematics no later than the end of high school and will be competitive in a global workforce

Project Outcomes

- Increased understanding of CCSS across Oregon postsecondary education institutions, particularly in math and English departments as well as teacher preparation programs
- Statewide agreement on the definition of college- and career- readiness
- Postsecondary use of the summative SMARTER Balanced (SBAC) assessment of CCSS as a means to signify student readiness for enrollment in credit-bearing courses
- K-12 and postsecondary alignment to CCSS in teacher development and education

For more information, please contact Lisa Reynolds, Core to College Alignment Director: lisa.reynolds@state.or.us