



Oregon Core to College Project Focus: Defining College and Career Readiness

The internationally-benchmarked Common Core State Standards are designed to provide students with a rigorous educational foundation. The underlying expectation is that in meeting or exceeding these standards, students will have the academic foundation necessary for success in postsecondary education and career certificate programs and pathways. The key question is: what do we, in Oregon, mean to signify by the term “college and career readiness”? We must develop a definition that can be affirmed by all education sectors and will enable prospective students to better understand the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind which demonstrate readiness for postsecondary success.

Below are two draft definitions to use as starting points, as you and your colleagues begin to work with college and career readiness teams. These definitions were created following a review of current literature and examples from other states; they have been vetted by the Core to College Leadership Team and revised by the Oregon Community College Council of Instructional Administrators. How would you “unpack” the starting point in order to specify the knowledge, skills, and habits of mind expected for success in college-level coursework and career-certificate programs? What comprehensive definition would you put forth?

Purpose:

Develop a congruent, consistent message which can serve as a foundation for articulating the expectations for postsecondary success.

Anticipated Process:

Draft definitions will be developed and reviewed through institutional working groups, regional and statewide meetings in order to arrive at the comprehensive synthesis for a recommended definition in Spring 2013.

Starting points:

- A. A student who is ready for college and career can qualify for and succeed in entry-level, college-credit courses leading to a degree, certificate, or career pathway-oriented training program.

- B. A college and career ready person is proficient in the core academic subjects and in technical topics, understands their own interests, talents, and weaknesses, effectively navigates pathways that connect education and employment, and has the skills, attitudes, and work ethic necessary for engaging in today’s ever-changing global economy.

Next step:

Working from either starting point as your base (modifying as necessary), specify the types of knowledge, skills, and habits of mind which demonstrate readiness for college and career. Please submit your institution’s draft definition to Lisa Reynolds at the email address below by January 18, 2013.