



Oregon Core to College

Background

Core to College is a three-year, multi-state grant initiative sponsored by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors with funding provided by the Lumina Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Along with nine other states, Oregon received the Core to College grant in December 2011.

All Core to College states have adopted the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in K-12 education, which will be fully implemented in Oregon in 2014-15. The CCSS were designed to provide students with a rigorous foundation in mathematics and English Language Arts/literacy which enables them to meet postsecondary expectations for the knowledge and skills of entry-level students. Given these new standards, the Core to College project seeks to improve alignment between the postsecondary and K-12 sectors and to provide more seamless educational transitions which enable access to postsecondary education and support student persistence and success.

Intended outcomes

- Increased understanding of CCSS across Oregon postsecondary education institutions
- Statewide agreement on a consistent and robust definition of college and career readiness
- Postsecondary use of the summative assessment of CCSS as a means to demonstrate readiness for transferrable, entry-level, credit-bearing college courses
- K-12 and postsecondary alignment to CCSS in teacher development and education

Project Leadership

As an intentionally collaborative initiative, the cross-sector character of Core to College is reflected throughout the project. Oregon's steering committee includes members of the Department of Education (ODE), Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development (CCWD), Oregon University System (OUS), the Oregon Education Investment Board (OEIB), and administrative leadership across the field. Lisa Reynolds of CCWD serves as the project's Alignment Director.

Primary Activities 2012-13

- Meeting with statewide groups to develop collaborative alignment strategies
- Working with task forces from college and university campuses to define college and career readiness and determine implications of the CCSS for postsecondary institutions in Oregon
- Participating in a College and Career Readiness research alliance led by Education Northwest
- Collaborating with Education Northwest to develop and pilot writing alignment workshops
- Supporting math-focused partnerships between local school districts and partners at Lane Community College and University of Oregon, and Tillamook Bay Community College and Oregon State University
- Supporting the ODE cross-sector alignment project for educators associated with Career and Technical Education

Upcoming Event: “Alignment for Student Success”

A statewide convening for the Core to College project will be held on March 15 at Lane Community College. For more information on this or other Oregon Core to College work, please contact the Alignment Director at lisa.reynolds@state.or.us or visit www.oregoncoretocollege.org.