



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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TO: Board of Trustees, Oregon State University  
FROM: Ben Cannon, Executive Director, HECC  
DATE: January 12, 2024  
SUBJECT: 2023 Q4 Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) Updates

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This document highlights some of the recent actions and initiatives of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). For more information on our work, initiatives, and programs, go to: [www.oregon.gov/highered](http://www.oregon.gov/highered) or [sign up for our mailings lists for email updates.](#)

## HECC Elects Sandy Rowe as Chair, Greg Hamann as Vice Chair, and Welcomes New Commissioners

At its November meeting, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission unanimously elected Sandy Rowe as the incoming Chair of the Commission, and Greg Hamann as incoming Vice Chair, effective January 1, 2024. Chair Terry Cross concluded his service as Chair and Commissioner in December and was recognized for his service at the December HECC meeting. The HECC also welcomed Commissioners Gayle Yamasaki and Rachel Biscoe to fill the Congressional District 2 seat and Community College Student seat respectively. They were confirmed by the Senate on September 27, 2023. You can learn more about [Commission membership here.](#)

## HECC Initiates Development of its Fourth Strategic Plan

At its October meeting the HECC endorsed a [proposal for development of a new HECC Strategic Plan](#) to be completed by Fall, 2024. The proposal emphasized the new Strategic Plan should build on prior planning efforts, including the [HECC's Strategic Framework 2017-2021](#) and its [2021 Strategic Roadmap](#), but should focus particularly on how the HECC will exercise its leadership and statutory authorities to advance State objectives for postsecondary education and workforce development. It suggested that the planning horizon should be about 5 years.

At its November 9 and December 14 meetings, the Commission discussed the Commission's existing vision, [equity lens](#), goals, and tools ("action areas"). The next step will occur at the February 8 meeting when the Commission is scheduled to introduce the contractor, update the project plan and begin to identify strategies.

## HECC Adopts Common Course Numbering for 2024-25

In December, the [HECC approved eight courses for Common Course Numbering](#), as recommended by the Transfer Council at their November meeting. Approved courses for alignment included BA 101Z Introduction to Business, BA 211Z Principles of Financial Accounting, BA 213Z Principles of Managerial Accounting, ENG 104Z Introduction to Fiction, ENG 105Z Introduction to Drama, ENG 106Z Introduction to Poetry, PSY 201Z introduction to

Psychology I, and PSY 202Z Introduction to Psychology II. The remaining three courses (Math) will be forwarded to the HECC Commission as soon as the question regarding courses credits has been resolved. For more information on Common Course Numbering, you can visit the [HECC website Common Course page here](#).

### **Resources on New 2024-25 FAFSA/ORSAA Applications**

The federal government has soft launched the simplified Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as of December 30, 2023, and the HECC will open the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) soon. To get the latest information on the new applications, prepare to complete the forms, and/or guide students through the process, please check the dedicated HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) webpage. Additional resources can also be found on our webpage, including registration links to upcoming webinars.

HECC- Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) Resources

- [OSAC Webpage on FAFSA and ORSAA changes](#)
- [FAFSA/ORSAA Update Training Video \(Winter 2023\)](#)
- [Upcoming webinars on '24-25 FAFSA/ORSAA](#)

Federal Student Aid info:

- [Federal Student Aid: FAFSA Simplification Information](#)

### **Application Open for Oregon Tribal Student Grant for 2023-24**

Current, new, and continuing students who are members of Oregon's 9 federally recognized tribes are encouraged to apply for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant for the 2023-24 academic year. The Oregon Tribal Student Grant provides funding for eligible Oregon tribal students to offset the cost of attendance at eligible Oregon colleges and universities. Additional details including [information on eligibility and how to apply are on our website here](#). The final deadline to apply for the 2023-24 academic year is April 5, 2024.

### **Request for Applications Open for 2023-2024 OregonServes AmeriCorps Planning Grant Opportunity**

Planning grants empower recipients to create and build their organization's capacity with AmeriCorps, by supporting the cost of creating and planning an AmeriCorps program. Applicants can request up to \$75,000 to plan their AmeriCorps program in Oregon. OregonServes will accept applications on a rolling basis until March 1, 2024. For more information, visit the OregonServes [webpage](#) or contact [oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:oregon.serves@hecc.oregon.gov).

### **Computer Science Education Statewide Implementation Plan Released**

The Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) are pleased to announce the release of [Oregon's Computer Science Education Statewide Implementation Plan](#). Detailed in the plan are strategies, measures for monitoring progress, considerations that provide context and details, a potential timeline, and a discussion of funding. The purpose of the plan is to provide direction and a reference for educators, policymakers, industry professionals, and community members moving forward.

More information about the Computer Science Education Statewide Implementation Plan can be found on the [ODE Computer Science Initiative Website](#). Questions may be sent to: [ODE.CSInitiative@ode.oregon.gov](mailto:ODE.CSInitiative@ode.oregon.gov).