

## Status Report: Institutional Accreditation, Program Accreditations and Academic Programs in Development or Review

### INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION

Oregon State University is accredited by the NWCCU, one of seven institutional accreditation agencies in the U.S. recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. In July 2019, the Board of Commissioners of the NWCCU reaffirmed OSU’s institutional accreditation through 2026. In April 2022 OSU submitted the Mid-Cycle Evaluation Report and hosted a virtual site visit. As part of that process, the Commission requested OSU submit an Ad Hoc Report with visit in spring 2023, addressing Recommendation 1: Spring 2022 Mid-Cycle Review, and Recommendation 2: Spring 2019 Mission Fulfillment and Sustainability. The Spring 2023 site visit occurred on April 6, and NWCCU has sent the *Ad Hoc/Special Evaluation, Peer Evaluation Report*. On July 21, NWCCU formally notified OSU that Recommendations 1 and 2 have been fulfilled.

The following is OSU’s institutional accreditation evaluation schedule, based on NWCCU’s 2020 Standards for Accreditation and Eligibility Requirements:

- Annual Report – due August 15 of each year
- Progress Report – submitted fall 2020
- Mid-Cycle Evaluation (Year Three Report) – April 25 & 26, 2022
- Ad Hoc Report with site visit – spring 2023
- Policies, Regulations, and Financial Review (PRFR – Year Six Report) – spring 2025
- Evaluation of Institutional Effectiveness (EIE – Year Seven Report) with visit – spring 2026

### PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS

In addition to institutional accreditation, individual academic and administrative programs may hold a specialized or professional accreditation that is evaluated on a regular cycle by the respective accrediting body.

Reviews still in progress from AY 2023 or scheduled for AY 2024 are summarized in the tables below. Changes since the [January 2024](#) report to the committee are shown in [blue](#) text:

Accreditation Reviews and Site Visits in Progress or Scheduled AY 2023		
Unit	Program/Unit and Accrediting Body	Status
<b>Administrative Units - Specialized and Professional Accreditations</b>		
College of Science	<b>Chemistry (Track One)</b> [American Chemical Society (ACS)]	August 2022 report submitted. ACS review January 2023. Report expected in 2024.

Accreditation Reviews and Site Visits in Progress or Scheduled AY 2024		
Unit	Program/Unit and Accrediting Body	Status
<b>Academic Program Accreditations</b>		
Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine	<b>Oregon Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory</b> [American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, (AAVLD)]	Scheduled for review this AY.
College of Agricultural Sciences	<b>Animal and Rangeland Sciences</b> [Society for Range Management (SRM)]	Site visit November 15-16, 2023. <a href="#">Final determination letter (with approval) expected winter 2024.</a>
College of Education	<b>Counseling</b> [Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)]	Self-study submitted July 2023. <a href="#">Corvallis Virtual Site visit expected April 22-24, 2024.</a> <a href="#">Cascades visit took place Feb 12-14, 2024</a>
College of Forestry	<b>Wood Innovation for Sustainability</b> Society of Wood Science and Technology (SWST)	Site visit December 4-6, 2023. <a href="#">Waiting on final determination.</a>
Division of Student Affairs	<b>Student Health Services Laboratory</b> [Commission on Office Laboratory Accreditation (COLA)]	Site visit Fall 2023. Final determination expected winter 2024.
Research Office	<b>Institutional Animal Care and Use Program</b> Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care, International (AAALAC)	Site visit summer 2024. <a href="#">Visit date will be determined after OSU submits report in March.</a>

**Architectural Engineering Accreditation**

The Architectural Engineering (ARE) undergraduate program, launched in Fall 2019, submitted a self-study for consideration of accreditation by ABET in the summer of 2022 (ABET will only consider an accreditation request after the first student has graduated from a program; for ARE that occurred in January 2022). In January 2024, ABET informed the program that it would not be accredited. The ABET reviewers determined there were insufficient basic mathematics and science credit requirements within the program’s curriculum. All other program elements were aligned with standards.

An updated curriculum has been proposed, approved, and fully implemented since summer term 2023. The curriculum satisfies all ABET requirements.

The College of Engineering has conducted a root cause analysis to determine why this error occurred. The analysis found that the problem arose in the initial development of the curriculum, which focused primarily on the necessary engineering and architectural engineering courses, and neither the program nor the college had sufficient internal proposal development controls in place that would have facilitated the double-checking of the curriculum design for basic courses.

To prevent the error from occurring again, the College of Engineering has taken two steps. First, the college has hired an Assistant Dean for Curriculum and Assessment, with forty percent of their time committed to assessment and accreditation. This person works closely with each unit to ensure alignment with continued or future accreditation standards. Second, the college has implemented a policy for new program proposals and existing program changes that mandates an audit of credit counts for ABET compliance. The college will only approve curricular changes once this audit is completed. The step directly eliminates the cause of the failure in oversight in the original process.

**Implications.** Immediately upon discovering the deficiency, the college added eight additional math and science credits to the program. In addition, the college has made substantial efforts to encourage all students in the program under the previous catalog to take additional courses to meet the appropriate math and science minimums. The program provided scholarship support for these students.

Despite these actions during the accreditation review process, ABET ruled it would not accredit because there is no way to ensure a student who entered the Architectural Engineering program before June 26, 2023 would complete the minimum number of credit hours in basic mathematics and sciences.

Students and graduates of the ARE program who want to be licensed in the profession will be directly impacted by ABET's decision. Most states, including Oregon, provide paths for graduates of unaccredited programs who want to become licensed. However, these paths take more time or resources than if the program were ABET accredited. The College of Engineering has engaged with the Oregon Licensing Board, which has begun to support affected students by working to develop a path for license qualification.

Not all graduates of the ARE program will seek licensing. Many career opportunities exist that do not require licensing.

The College of Engineering will seek ABET accreditation for ARE as soon as possible. Specifically, the College plans to start the ABET accreditation process in winter 2025, the earliest date allowable within the ABET review cycle. A delay in seeking accreditation could occur should there still exist students in the program at that time who remain under the previous catalog requirements. All these students are on track to graduate by the needed time, and the College is working closely to support and advise them.

This accreditation update was inadvertently left off previous reports.

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW

Proposals for new academic programs are initiated by academic units with the knowledge and approval of academic leadership. Program proposals go through approval processes involving the Faculty Senate, the Provost's Office, the Board of Trustees, and externally with the Statewide Provosts Council, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, and the NWCCU.

The sections below list the following:

1. New programs that are coming to the board for approval.
2. Significant changes to existing programs (e.g., name changes, changes to modality).
3. Program proposals that are in the curriculum process and will likely come before the Board of Trustees for consideration of approval at an upcoming meeting.

### New Programs

None

### Significant changes to Existing Programs

1. **BA/BS in Economics** at OSU-Cascades, change delivery modality to hybrid (combination of in person and Ecampus courses). The program requirements are changed to indicate that the degree program on the OSU-Cascades campus will be a hybrid program. OSU-Cascades does not have the capacity to offer a fully in person economics degree at this time. Many students have expressed an interest in getting a degree in economics, and the hybrid format allows them to do so while remaining at OSU-Cascades.
2. **BA/BS in Political Science** at OSU-Cascades, change delivery modality to hybrid (combination of in person and Ecampus courses). The program requirements are changed to indicate that the degree program on the Cascades campus will be a hybrid program. OSU-Cascades does not have the capacity to offer a fully in person political science degree at this time. Many students have expressed an interest in getting a degree in political science, and the hybrid format allows them to do so while remaining at OSU-Cascades.
3. **BS in Manufacturing Engineering UG Major**, suspended. The major enrolls fewer than a dozen new students per year who declare the Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering only. Most students who declare the Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering as a major do so as a dual major with the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering or the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering. Given this trend, two new options in the Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering were established, Product Design and Manufacturing and Materials Design and Manufacturing, and one new option was established in the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, Industrial Automation. These options incorporate all of the courses and learning outcomes from the Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering.
4. **Design and Human Environment (MA/MS/PhD)**, terminated. This program has been suspended since 2015.

**Proposals in Process**

- 1. The College of Business has proposed a MS in Supply Chain and Logistics Management, a new degree program to be offered at OSU-Corvallis. This program is expected to be ready for consideration by the board in approximately six months.

**ACTIONS FROM NWCCU RELATED TO ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

The following table summarizes new options, minors, and certificates approved by the NWCCU since the last report to the committee.

College	Program Name	Type of Program	Date Approved NWCCU
College of Liberal Arts	Latinx/a/o Studies	Minor	November 7, 2023
College of Liberal Arts	Public Policy Analysis	Graduate Certificate	January 23, 2024
College of Agricultural Sciences	Marine Mammal	Graduate Certificate	January 24, 2024