

## Oregon's Adult Learner College Line

A partnership between the state of Oregon and the [US Department of Education](http://www.ed.gov)

Ask us about resources for your education by phone Monday through Friday 9 to 9  
1-877-848-4669



1-877-84U-4NOW

State of Oregon  
Oregon University System  
[www.ous.edu](http://www.ous.edu)

- [Eastern Oregon University](http://www.eou.edu)
- [Oregon Institute of Technology](http://www.oit.edu)
- [Oregon State University](http://www.orstateu.edu)
- [OSU Cascades Campus](http://www.osucascades.edu)
- [Portland State University](http://www.psu.edu)
- [Southern Oregon University](http://www.sou.edu)
- [University of Oregon](http://www.uoregon.edu)
- [Western Oregon University](http://www.wou.edu)

## Finding Your Path

by Debbie Porter

Embarking on a journey such as going to college, especially later in life, can seem like a daunting task. Here are some helpful hints to make your transition smoother.

### Support Abounds for Returning Adult Students

Partly because of the economic downturn and also because in tough times, those with more education can better weather the storm, adults are streaming back to college as never before.

Record numbers of students of all ages have applied to college in 2009, stretching the resources of higher education to the limit.

The up-side of a huge shift in higher education numbers is, more than ever, colleges are offering services to students from all backgrounds, including

us returning adults. Numerous resources exist on campus and even online.

Community colleges have always focused on resources for commuter and 'older students.' In fact, it is often easier to find support structures for non-traditional (non-trad) students at some colleges than for students who have just finished high school. Some examples of these are clubs and meetings for 'non-trads,' parent support groups and clubs, designated lounges and recreational outings.

**On-campus resources:** check with the student center on campus or type 'adult student' into the search box on the school's main web page.

Ask other students where they find support on campus and ask if they will show you around. Form a study group with your **(continued on page 3)**

### OSAC, The Oregon Student Assistance Commission

OSAC handles hundreds of scholarships for Oregon companies and foundations each year: students can apply for all the scholarships for which they qualify with just one application. Some awards are based on financial need; others are based on academic achievement and still others are based upon the intended area of study.

Many awards are specifically for returning adult students and even for graduate students.

The process starts in January 2010 for the fall 2010 academic term, but a student can prepare now by writing a personal statement (on why you want to get more education and about your specific career goals) and by volunteering in your communities. Most scholarship committees will choose someone who has volunteered to help others over someone who has not.

To view the new handbook of 2010 OSAC scholarships, look here:

[http://www.osac.state.or.us/doc/2010-11\\_eApp.pdf](http://www.osac.state.or.us/doc/2010-11_eApp.pdf)



## Oregon's Adult Learner College Line: web links

**Featured links** to career exploration and tips on obtaining funding for education.

### Financial Aid web sites

For students at the beginning of the college financial aid process, file the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) online.

Go to [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

You will need your 2008 federal income tax information. To sign the form electronically, you will need a four digit Personal Information Number (PIN): go to [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov).

Questions about how college financial aid works? <http://studentaid.ed.gov>

### [17 OR Community Colleges](#)

click the link for info on skills training, associate's degrees, local learning centers, university education partnerships

### [Oregon Independent Colleges Association \(OICA\).](#)

Private Institutions of Higher Education

For degree offerings and links to OICA member schools:

[www.oicanet.org](http://www.oicanet.org)

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## Calendar: Exploring Your Education Options

Oregon veterans can access state benefit information and retail discounts at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODVA/>

General benefit information is available at <http://www.gibill.va.gov/>

[The Oregon Student Assistance Commission](#) has timely tip sheets for Oregon students. Here's the latest:

[Tip Sheet #8 - New Deal For Veterans](#)

*The government has moved to increase the Hope Tax Credit for college students and their families for the 2009 and 2010 tax years .*

*Access the credit on federal income tax forms. More info: <http://www.irs.gov/>*

We are fortunate to have a state agency in Oregon, the Oregon Student Assistance Commission or OSAC.

See all the great work that OSAC does on its web site:

[www.osac.state.or.us](http://www.osac.state.or.us)

Events in Oregon that can help you learn about college. Also note timelines for scholarships

### October

**11: College Fair**, Mid-Willamette, Lane Community College Gym Bldg. 5, Eugene, Oregon Noon-3pm

**12: College Fair**, Douglas County, Roseburg High School, Roseburg, Oregon, 11:30am-3pm

**13: College Fair**, Central Oregon, Deschutes County Fairgrounds, Redmond, Oregon, 9:30am-12:30pm

**15: College Fair**, Southern Oregon, Medford Armory, Medford, Oregon, 9am-noon

**21: Performing and Visual Arts College Fair**, Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union Ballroom, 1825 SW Broadway Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Portland, OR 7-9pm

**22: Idealist Graduate Degree Fair**, Portland State University, Smith Memorial Union Ballroom 1825 SW Broadway Avenue Portland, Oregon. 5-8pm

**25-26: Fall National College Fair**, Oregon Convention Center, Portland Oregon. Sunday 1pm-5pm and Monday 9am to 12 noon. FREE

### November

**In November:** Preview OSAC (Oregon Student Assistance

Commission) scholarships at [www.getcollegefunds.org](http://www.getcollegefunds.org)

**23: College Night in Oregon**, statewide. 6:30-9pm. Info at [www.collegenightinor.org](http://www.collegenightinor.org)

### December

**31: File the 2010-2011 FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) for the academic year beginning in fall, 2010 at 12:01am, January 1, 2010!

### January 2010

**1: Apply for OSAC Scholarships** through March 1, 2010

**30: College Goal Oregon—Statewide** [www.collegegoaloregon.org](http://www.collegegoaloregon.org)

## Go the Distance: Degrees in Oregon via Online Delivery

Oregon community colleges offer a wide range of Certificates of Completion, Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science and Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer (AADT) degrees **completely online**.

For more information, see Oregon Colleges online at <http://oregoncollegesonline.com/degrees.html>

Here is the current list of program links, according to the official state web site, [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov):

### Certificates:

Certificate in Business Software - Chemeketa

Computer-Assisted Drafting (CAD) - Chemeketa

Certificate in Management and Supervisory Development - Portland

1 year Certificate Childhood Education & Family Studies - Southwestern

Web Production Specialist Certificate - Southwestern

### Associate of General Studies:

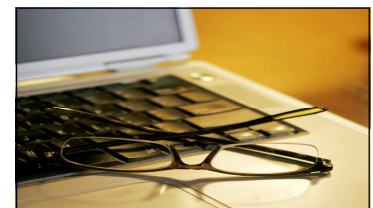
Chemeketa AGS

### Associate of Science

AS Childhood Education & Family Studies (Southwestern CC)

### Associate of Applied Science:

Fire Protection Technology - Fire Suppression-(Chemeketa)



Fire Protection Technology - Fire Prevention-(Chemeketa)

Hospitality & Tourism Management AAS - (Chemeketa)

Childhood Education & Family Studies (Southwestern CC)

**Associate of Arts Oregon Transfer degrees (AADT):**

Chemeketa AADT

Lane AADT

Portland AADT

## Training for Careers of the Future

Oregon Careers is an annual publication of WorkSource Oregon and the Oregon Employment Department.

Oregon Careers 2009 lists 8 health career areas with 'large or very large' numbers of people in Oregon's workforce which also have **'substantial or above average' potential for hiring** the most numbers of college-trained or trade-trained workers annually.

These industries provide **essential services** and have good potential for opportunities for new workers as **record numbers of skilled workers retire** in the next few years.

**Selected 2009 health occupations in demand with entry level and median annual salaries for trained, experienced workers:**

- ◆ Dental assistant  
\$26,874 -- \$36,130
- ◆ Dental hygienist  
\$66,622 -- \$77,002
- ◆ Fitness trainer, aerobics instructor  
\$16,678 -- \$32,448
- ◆ Home health aide  
\$17,430 -- \$20,301
- ◆ Nursing assistant  
\$19,302 -- \$24,918

- ◆ Pharmacist  
\$79,019 -- \$104,998
- ◆ Pharmacy technician  
\$22,818 -- \$33,176
- ◆ Registered nurse  
\$50,523 -- \$69,014

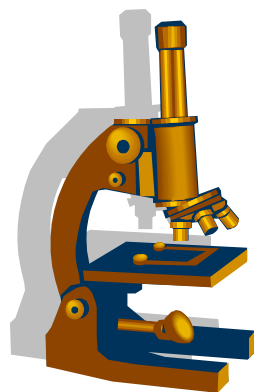
The various professions of **physician** and careers for **specialist doctors** in all fields are in strong demand in Oregon and are not listed because salary information is not available.

**Health careers, above every other sector, are expected to increase by 27.7% by the year 2016.**

### OLMIS

A helpful tool from The Oregon Employment Department and WorkSource Oregon is the [Oregon Labor Market Information System or OLMIS](#).

OLMIS' Educational Information Center has extensive information on careers, job descriptions and specific training programs.



**(Support story can't from page 1)** classmates in your most difficult class; chances are there are several students who will appreciate having a 'study-buddy'. Then ask in the tutor center if a tutor is available in that subject for group sessions.

**College clubs** are typically based on special interests or an academic focus, so the age of a student is not a factor. Indeed, more experienced students have much to offer college clubs in the form of real world knowledge, problem solving skills and creativity.

### Regarding Non-traditional students:

**"the age of a student is not a factor...more experienced students have much to offer... in the form of real world knowledge, problem solving skills and creativity."**

The **online communities** are brimming with support groups and resources for returning adults. ANT-SHE, the Association for Non-Traditional Students in Higher Education ([www.antshe.org](http://www.antshe.org)) features resources, web links and support. Adults can find answers to education questions, goal setting advice and even homework help sites at [www.adultstudent.com/](http://www.adultstudent.com/)

Most of all, as you learn to ask questions, advocate for yourself and help others do the same, you will become a successful lifelong learner.

Bon Voyage!

### Education Statistics: Returning Adult Students

**"Overall, the adult-learning boom is a positive trend, one that holds tremendous promise for individual Americans and for the nation as a whole.**

**In fact, it is a trend we must embrace if we hope to return the united States to a position of global leadership in college degree attainment."**

Jamie P Merisotis, President and CEO, Lumina Foundation for Education. Quoted in the Fall, 2009 Focus magazine

**Oregon's Independent Colleges and Universities offer a great variety of Health Care, Allied Health, Health Sciences programs:**

[Concordia University](#): Health & Medical Admin. Serv., Athletic Training/Trainer Pre-Med., Nursing, Health Serv. Training. [Corban College](#): Pre-Dentistry, Pre-Med., Pre-Pharmacy, Pre-Veterinary, Pre-Nursing. [George Fox University](#): Athletic Trainer/Trainer. [Linfield College](#): Health Sciences, Athletic Training/Trainer, RN Training. [Marylhurst University](#): Art Therapy/Therapist. [National College of Natural Medicine](#): Naturopathic Medicine, Naturopathy. [Pacific University](#): Optometry, Occupational Therapist, Physical Therapist. [Oregon College of Oriental Medicine](#): Master's, Traditional Oriental Medicine, Doctor of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. [University of Portland](#): RN Training, Nursing Administration (Post RN), Adult Health Nurse, Nursing. [Warner Pacific College](#): Health Sciences, Health and Medical Preparatory degrees. [Western Seminary](#): Marriage and Family Therapy/Counseling. [Western States Chiropractic College](#): Chiropractic DC.,DCM. [Willamette University](#): Athletic Trainer/Trainer, Music Therapy/Therapist.

For a list of all Oregon Independent Colleges Association (OICA) institutions, please visit [www.oicanet.org](http://www.oicanet.org)

**Things People Say:** There are many reasons to pursue college at any age!

**Student Success Story** by Della Abrahams

As a young girl growing up in rural Colorado, I always heard that education was not only the key to getting out of the 'sticks', but was also the only reliable avenue for success in the modern world as a woman.

I took this advice to heart and was eager to do what I needed in order to go to college. At my small town high school, most kids did not choose college as their next step and I made the difficult decision to leave my long time best friends behind, in exchange for a university education.

people were up against so many walls because they never had access to a good education.

The individuals I worked with came from difficult lives and backgrounds, many of them with nothing beyond a 5<sup>th</sup> grade education. As I worked with them and saw the dedication and the tireless efforts to give their children what they did not have, I was honored to be involved and do what I could to share with them the wealth that I had received in the form of a public education.

"The individuals I worked with came from difficult lives and backgrounds"

Luckily, with the full support of my parents behind me, I was able to attend a university and graduate within four years of finishing high school, with a Bachelor of Science in Sociology.

Looking back, going to college was never out of the question for me and was an opportunity that I worked hard for throughout, but was never denied. I did not face the kinds of barriers that many do when it comes to accessing education.

This reality was not something I truly felt until I began volunteering with a community center that provided assistance to immigrants, refugees and their children. I quickly realized after working with the clients at the center that so many

Today I am pursuing a second degree, a Masters of Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, in hopes that I can continue to help others reach the benefits of learning.

Della Abrahams is one of four college resource operators on Oregon's Adult Learner College Line.

If you have a college success story, or input about the Oregon Adult Learner College Line newsletter, please share it with us by e-mailing:  
[adultLearnerLine@OUS.edu](mailto:adultLearnerLine@OUS.edu)



**Oregon Public Universities offer**

**Unique Graduate Degrees**

These are just a few examples of the exciting programs (most items below are web links)

University of Oregon: [www.uoregon.edu](http://www.uoregon.edu)  
Many Arts and Science topics, Applied Information Management, Journalism, Architecture & Allied Arts, Law, Business, many more

Western Oregon University: [www.wou.edu](http://www.wou.edu)  
Criminal Justice, Education, History, Contemporary Music, Rehabilitation Counseling, many more

Eastern Oregon University: [www.eou.edu](http://www.eou.edu)  
Science Education, Education, Business Administration

Southern Oregon University: [www.sou.edu](http://www.sou.edu)  
Management, Music Conducting, Elementary, Secondary or Environmental Education, Mathematical & Computer Science, many more

Portland State University: [www.pdx.edu](http://www.pdx.edu)  
Social Work, Urban and Public Affairs, including Health, Criminal Justice, Planning, Engineering and Computer Science, Anthropology, Environmental Sciences & Resources, Economics, many more

Oregon Institute of Technology: [www.oit.edu](http://www.oit.edu)  
Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering

Oregon State University: [www.oregonstate.edu](http://www.oregonstate.edu)  
Many Science topics, Pharmacy, Education, Forestry, Contemporary Hispanic Studies, Business and Engineering, many more

**It's not too late—  
You can go to college!  
It's Possible!**

[www.oregonopportunities.gov](http://www.oregonopportunities.gov)

**Call, chat or e-mail us a question!**

**1-877-848-4669**