

# CAREER **PATHWAYS**

Opportunities at Oregon's Community Colleges

You can find a better job.

You can build a better life.

You can go back to school.

# No Excuses

You may have heard it before, but it's true: Education pays. The more you learn, the more you earn. With more education, you're also less likely to be unemployed because you'll have the skills that employers are looking for in jobs where demand is strong. Getting an education opens doors. It also gives you the opportunity to find a career that fits what you're good at and what you like to do.

The beauty of adult education at Oregon's community colleges is you can start where you are, you can work at your own pace, you can fit school around the rest of your life, and you can get help when you need it.

Anyone can go to college.

That includes you.



If you want to build a better life for yourself, you have to mean it. That means no excuses.

Here's some great news: You don't have to do it all on your own. Oregon's community colleges have programs and resources to help you get over the hurdles that may have stopped you before.

We can help you do this.

## "I'm not ready."

We'll get you ready.

ESL and GED classes, along with other programs, can give you the basic skills needed to help you succeed in school and in your future career. Classes are self-paced so you can learn at your own speed. They're also organized so instructors can give you personal attention.



## "I didn't like school."

This isn't high school.

Adult education is different—and you'll notice the difference almost immediately. Adult students go to school with a purpose—a better job and a bigger paycheck. You'll find many people in school who are just like you.

Once you've covered the basics, you can choose a career field that interests you. Oregon's community colleges have developed Career Pathways to give you a clear direction toward your career goals. You're in charge of where you go and what classes you take to get there. You won't waste time or money taking classes you don't need.

Hannah did not speak English until she was 13 and did not attend public school. She needed intensive assistance in reading, writing and mathematics, but she earned a GED in 1981. A single mother, Hannah continued working while she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, both with honors. Today, she's working on her doctorate.

## "I can't afford college."

Yes you can.

Adult Basic Skills courses are available to anyone at any level of need. And once you're ready to transition to certificate or degree programs, classes are affordable. On average, tuition at Oregon community colleges is less than half of a public university. Compared to private institutions, community colleges are even more affordable.

And you're not on your own. You may qualify for financial aid to help pay for school. In addition to student loans, you can apply for a variety of grants and scholarships—money that doesn't have to be paid back. The financial aid office at your local community college can show you all the resources available.



Michelle dropped out of high school because she felt she didn't fit in. She got her GED at 16, and with help for a learning disability, she began taking college courses. Michelle loved being a college student because she was treated as an adult, and she earned a transfer degree—with honors—in 2003. Today, Michelle is continuing her education to become a college professor so she can help students who face the same challenges she did.

## “I have kids.”

Do it for them.

Education can help you get a better job and earn more money. Which means you can provide a better future for your kids.

Many community colleges have on-site childcare or can refer you to qualified providers. You may also qualify for free childcare or assistance with childcare and transportation expenses.

## “I won't fit in.”

You'd be surprised.

Oregon's community colleges serve Oregonians of all ages, backgrounds, and incomes: You'll find students just like yourself here. You're an adult, and we treat you that way—with dignity and respect.

With a focus on learning for earning, you'll find college is much different from how you might remember high school. Community colleges also offer multiple resources and programs to help you adjust to going back to school.

A married mother of four, Gisela went to school to learn parenting and job skills so she could better support her family. She earned a GED in 2004, and a year later, Gisela and her husband bought their first home. Gisela is continuing her education to become a social worker. She also wants to give her children the opportunity to have a college education and be active members of their community.



## “I don't have time for college.”

You can make time.

Community colleges offer flexible schedules. You can take classes days, evenings and weekends. Many classes are self-paced so you can fit school around the rest of your life. Once you reach college-level courses, online programs give you even more flexibility to take courses when it's convenient.

Because life doesn't stop while you're in school, you can take classes at your own speed. You don't have to do everything at once. Instead, you can start along a Career Pathway, pause when you need to, then pick up right where you left off.

For example, if you need a job right away, you can choose a short pathway, one where you can

earn a certificate that will qualify you for a good job in just a few months. Later on, you can pick up where you left off on your Career Pathway, taking more advanced classes while you continue to work. Even better, you can apply the courses you took to get your certificate towards earning your associate's degree. This can help you move up in your current job and bring home a bigger paycheck.

While you're working on your associate's degree, you can also take classes that will transfer to a four-year university—so you can go on to earn a bachelor's degree. The further you go along a Career Pathway, the more career opportunities that are open to you and the more you can earn.



# You can do this They did!



Carlos was a clerk at a 7-11 store when he started taking ESL classes to improve his reading, writing and grammar. That helped him earn a promotion at the convenience store. Later, a grocery store recruited Carlos to work as a supervisor. He's now an assistant manager there and plans to return to college for a certificate in Human Resources.



Noriko was a registered nurse in Japan when she met her future husband, an Oregonian. After getting married, she moved to the United States and started taking ESL and computer classes. She has since enrolled in a program to prepare immigrants who were registered nurses in their native countries to become licensed nurses in Oregon.



Mohammed had heard the United States was the land of opportunity. He started from scratch when he came here from the United Arab Emirates in 2000. After completing advanced ESL classes in a year, he began taking other courses and earned a university transfer degree in 2005. Now, he's studying to be a mechanical engineer and working for Nike.

## Get started. Take the first step.

Let's go!

Contact the Adult Basic Skills office at your local community college. Advisors can help you explore Career Pathways that meet your needs and your interests. They'll help you identify where you want

to go in life and how you can get there. You can also learn more about financial aid, scholarships, childcare assistance and other resources available to help you.

Take the first step to a better future. Start where you are. Once you start, you can go anywhere.

Blue Mountain CC, Pendleton, 541-278-5803  
Central Oregon CC, Bend, 541-504-2950  
Chemeketa CC, Salem, 503-399-5224  
Clackamas CC, Oregon City, 503-657-6958 x2595  
Clatsop CC, Astoria, 503-338-2408  
Columbia Gorge CC, The Dalles, 541-506-6041  
Klamath CC, Klamath Falls, 541-880-2226  
Lane CC, Eugene, 541-463-5214  
Linn-Benton CC, Albany, 541-917-4710

Mt. Hood CC, Gresham, 503-491-7251  
Oregon Coast CC, Newport, 541-265-2283  
Portland CC, Portland, 503-788-6255  
Rogue CC, Grants Pass, 541-245-7701  
Southwestern Oregon CC, Coos Bay, 800-962-2838  
Tillamook Bay CC, Tillamook, 503-842-8222  
Treasure Valley CC, Ontario, 541-881-8822 x265  
Umpqua CC, Roseburg, 541-440-4603

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