

WOU Boilerplate (long version)

Western Oregon University (WOU) is a comprehensive, master's degree institution with a strong history of providing quality higher education to a diverse student body. Founded in 1856, WOU, the oldest institution in the Oregon University System, has continued to adapt and transform itself to respond to the needs of society and the changing world. The university's mission to support the advancement of knowledge for the public good is based upon its distinguished history as a normal school and evolution to a leading public liberal arts institution. Among public master's institutions, WOU ranks in the nation's top 10 (7th) institutions closing the gap in graduation rates between underrepresented minority students and non-underrepresented students.

WOU is committed to ensuring that students receive a personalized education in a public university setting. Students from all backgrounds excel in academic programs recognized at state, regional and national levels. Students enjoy personalized advising, encouragement and direction to guide them to self-discovery, intellectual development, service to their community and timely degree completion. WOU's campus life supports each student with a challenging curriculum, productive interactions with professors and peers, and enriching collegiate activities. In addition to teaching excellence, WOU's faculty members are engaged in wide-ranging scholarship as well as community-based projects, including many faculty-student collaborations. The picturesque, award-winning campus blends welcoming traditional features with 21st century convenience, including many multimedia classrooms, extensive wireless web access and a state-of-the-art library.

The more than 5,500 students on campus, including approximately 5,000 undergraduates and almost 600 graduate students, represent over 15 states and 18 countries. The university offers international opportunities for students such as exchanges, study abroad programs, service learning, and internships in over 60 countries. In addition, a number of teaching abroad opportunities are available for faculty.

Within the Oregon University System, WOU has the most ethnically diverse student body with the highest percentage of Latino students of any Oregon four-year college or university. Almost half of WOU's undergraduates are first generation college students. Three out of four students are on financial aid. Over 300 faculty members (more than 40 who speak Spanish fluently) enhance a student-faculty ratio of approximately 18 to 1. Students matriculate in over 45 majors within either the College of Education or the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. WOU collaborates with the Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) to provide a pre-nursing and nursing program resulting in a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Western Oregon University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE), and the Oregon State Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC).

WOU faculty and staff recognize the importance of the connection between quality teaching, research and community service. External funding has grown consistently each year resulting in several nationally recognized research centers

including the Teaching Research Institute, Regional Resource Center on Deafness, National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness, Western Community Policing Institute, and the Sarah Jane Brain Foundation Center of Excellence in School Reintegration. Fiscal year 2009 marked a record setting year in both submissions and dollar amount of external funding.