

SSCM: Student Success and Completion Model

A Formula for Allocating State Funding to the Public Universities

The Student Success and Completion Model (SSCM) is the student-outcomes driven formula used by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) to allocate the *Public University Support Fund*. The SSCM distributes the largest portion of the PUSF funding based on outcomes (degree and certificate completions). The model also provides meaningful incentives to support success of historically underrepresented students – low income, underrepresented minorities, rural students, and veterans – as well for statewide priority degree areas including STEM, healthcare, and bilingual teacher education.

Accountable for Outcomes

The SSCM distributes the *Public University Support Fund* among the public universities using three categories:

- **Outcomes Funding** uses three-year rolling averages of degree and certificate completions. Undergraduate degrees to Oregon residents are weighted more than graduate degrees. Additional funding is provided for completions by underrepresented students and priority STEM + Health degrees.
- **Activity-Based Funding** uses three-year rolling averages of student credit hour activity (enrollment), with program and course level weightings.
- **Mission Support Funding** consists of base funding for each university (base amounts for OSU, PSU and UO are capped) as well as several mission components: regional access funding for the technical and regional universities and OSU's Cascades Campus; research support for all universities based on levels of federal research activity; and public service support for all universities on a per resident student FTE basis with an allocation cap.

Public University Support Fund



Student Success & Completion Model

2021-23 Legislatively Approved Budget (in millions)

Mission Support	\$ 149.4
Activity-Based (Student Credit Hours)	\$ 300.2
Completions (Degrees & Certificates)	<u>\$ 450.4</u>
	\$900.0

EOU	\$ 43.7
OIT	\$ 60.4
OSU	\$ 270.5
OSU-CC	\$ 17.8
PSU	\$ 224.5
SOU	\$ 52.5
UO	\$ 168.3
WOU	<u>\$ 62.3</u>
	\$900.0

Origin of the SSCM

Beginning in 2013, the State restructured operational funding to the public universities. Previously, state support for universities' operations came through an *Education and General (E&G)* appropriation. The 2013-15 Governor's Budget divided the E&G appropriation into two new categories:

- The *Public University Support Fund (PUSF)* to support the operation of instructional and support services to students and faculty, research, campus public service programs, and administrative support services.
- *State Programs* as an umbrella category for line-item funding for a variety of institutes, centers, and programs that address economic development, natural resources, and other issues.

In House Bill 3120 (2013), the Legislature charged the HECC with developing, in consultation with the public universities, an allocation formula for the *Public University Support Fund*. The HECC led a workgroup of administrators, faculty, and student leadership from the seven public universities to develop the model. The SSCM is one of the few outcomes-based funding models in the country and creates clear accountability between university performance – degree completion for resident students – and funding. The SSCM began in 2015-16, with some elements phased in over three years. The transition included “stop loss” and “stop gain” features to prevent large swings in funding for any single institution.

The HECC established review cycles – a two-year review focused on definitions and technical issues and a six-year comprehensive review to ensure SSCM aligns with state priorities and evolving institutional context. The 2020 review focused on simplifying and modernizing elements of the formula. In 2022 a technical workgroup review resulted in rule amendments to align technical calculations with the Commission’s intended policy.

For More Information

Please contact Dana Richardson, Oregon Council of Presidents, at richardsond@mail.wou.edu, or the government relations staff member from any of the seven public universities. Thank you for supporting Oregon’s students.