

# B-2-0 Central Oregon Community College Guidelines for Public Records Requests

Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes, every person has a right to inspect any *nonexempt* public record. (See Oregon Revised Statute, Public and Private Records; Public Reports and Meetings, Chapter 192, for definitions of *exempt* public records.)

"Public record" means any writing containing information relating to the conduct of the public's business that is prepared, owned, used, or retained by a public body regardless of physical form or characteristics, including, but not limited to, handwriting, typewriting, printing, photographing, and every means of recording, including letters, emails, digital records, pictures, sounds, or symbols, or combination thereof, and all papers, maps, files, facsimiles, or electronic recordings.

Inspection and copying of a public record shall be done during regular business hours at the office where the record is located, or another facility designated by the College. College records shall not leave College premises for the purposes of public record disclosure. The College may directly supervise the inspection or copying of College records, may list records inspected or copied by or at the request of a requestor, and may contemporaneously copy for the College's own purposes records inspected or copied by or at the request of the requestor. The College may provide a copy of a record in lieu of the original to protect the original record. The College may provide a redacted copy in lieu of an original record in order to delete exempt material.

## How to Request a Public Record from Central Oregon Community College

There are two types of public records requests:

### Informal Requests

The first type of public records request is one that is verbally or electronically submitted by the requesting party for records that are incidental, readily accessible or reproducible at negligible cost, and are typically available for general public distribution.

### Formal Requests

All other public records requests must be submitted in writing and will be granted or denied in accordance with Oregon Public Records Law.

Any party requesting a fee reduction or waiver shall fully cooperate with the college in identifying the reason(s) for the fee-reduction request. In order to determine whether or not the requested public records are exempt from disclosure, qualify for fee reduction or waiver, or if the documents meet the "public interest test," requesting party/parties must fully disclose their intended purpose of the

request. Each request must reasonably describe the records being sought. This means that a request must be specific enough to permit a college staff person who is familiar with the subject matter to locate the record in a reasonable period of time.

### **Guidelines for Public Records Requests**

1. Requesting parties shall pay a deposit of ~~\$25 (twenty-five dollars)~~ **\$50 (fifty dollars)**, at the time of submitting their public records request to the College. Any overpayments to the College by the requesting party will be promptly refunded after the nonexempt public records are disclosed to the requesting party. Deposit must accompany the ~~Public Record(s) Request Form, Public Records Request Form~~ (pdf). Mail request form and deposit to:

#### **Central Oregon Community College**

Director of College Relations  
Boyle Education Center  
2600 NW College Way  
Bend, OR 97703

2. The College requires that the requesting party make payment to the College for the balance of the reasonable costs over and above the ~~\$25-50~~ deposit, prior to the release of the public records. (e.g., public records will be made available to the requesting party only upon payment in full to the College, and prior to release/disclosure of the records.) These reasonable costs shall include, but are not limited to: actual personnel costs; reproduction costs; delivery expenses; and attorney's fees, if any, for reviewing, redacting or segregating the public records into exempt and nonexempt records.
3. Pursuant to ORS 192.440, the College shall provide the requesting party with an estimate, in writing, if the public records request is expected to exceed ~~\$2550~~. After receiving the estimate, requesting party shall notify the College whether it wants the College to proceed with making the public records available.
4. Requesting party shall be charged at the rate(s) established below:
  - a. If the public records request requires a nominal amount of staff time (less than 30 minutes, which includes searching, locating, retrieving, copying, transporting, conveying, etc.), copies shall be made at no charge, unless the number of copies requested exceeds 10 pages.
  - b. Records that require only a nominal time of staff time (less than 30 minutes), but the number of copies exceeds 10 pages, shall be charged for the actual cost of staff time, including fringe benefits, plus copying/delivering charges and attorney's fees, if any, for reviewing, redacting or segregating the public records into exempt and nonexempt records. Copying charges shall be at the rate of \$0.10 (ten cents) per page.
  - c. Records that require more than a nominal amount of staff time (30 minutes or more), will be provided to the requesting party for the actual cost of staff time, including fringe benefits, plus copying/delivery charges. Copying charges shall be at the rate of \$0.10 (ten cents) per page.

Personnel costs shall be computed on the basis of quarter hours, rounded up, for time expended by College staff and/or the College's attorney(s). Attorney fees, if any, shall be limited to the cost of time spent by attorney(s) for the College in reviewing the public records, redacting material from the public records or segregating the public records into exempt and nonexempt records.

5. The fee may be waived or reduced if the furnishing of the copies is determined by the College to be in the public's best interest as set forth in ORS 192.440(4).

6. The College may charge for search time even if the Custodian of the record fails to locate any records in response to the request, or even if the records located are subsequently determined to be exempt from disclosure. When the amount of staff time used exceeds the amount of the ~~\$25.00~~50 deposit, the requesting party's deposit shall be forfeited.
7. In most cases, the college will be able to respond to the request for public records within 14 working Days (depending the nature and size of the request). While the college shall make every attempt to respond to the request within this timeframe, requests shall not affect the operations of the college nor interfere with the regular discharge of the custodian's duties.