ACADEMIC INFORMATION AND POLICIES

This section provides details concerning what each student needs to know about the College’s academic expectations. For answers to specific questions about College policies, please contact Enrollment Services at welcome@cocc.edu or 541-383-7500.

GRADING POLICY

End-of-term grades are available via the student’s Bobcat Web account only and will not be mailed or given out over the phone.

Only the grades in the following list may be assigned. All courses graded with a P, NP, W, X, I and IP do not apply to GPA.

To calculate GPA, multiply the number of credits for each course by the grade points for the grade received in that course (grade points listed below). Add these numbers together and divide by the total number of graded credits for that term (include “F” grades and exclude P, NP, W, X, I and IP grades).

Grade points

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A−</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B−</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Courses in which “D” grades are earned may not be used in the AAOT or to fulfill foundational requirements in other certificate or degree programs and may have limitations in specific certificate or degree programs. “D” grades are not considered passing for pre-requisite courses.

F 0 not passing
P pass: not computed in GPA, applies toward percentage of credits completed, may be awarded only in authorized classes
NP no pass: not computed in GPA, may be awarded only in authorized classes
W withdraw: not computed in GPA, must be assigned by Records Office
IP course in progress
I incomplete: not computed in GPA, will convert to “F” if requirements of the Incomplete Grade Contract are not met by the end of the following term
X audit: not computed in GPA, does not meet graduation requirements; not eligible for financial aid

Pass (P)/No Pass (NP)
“Pass” is interpreted as a “C” or better. The “pass/no pass” option is used for certain courses where it is deemed inappropriate to use the regular grading system. Credits are awarded but not calculated in GPA.

Challenge course pass/no pass
All challenge examinations will be graded on the “pass/no pass” basis. The standard for a “P” in challenge courses is performance at the level of a grade of “B-” or better. Credits are awarded but not calculated in GPA.

Withdrawal (W)
Students who withdraw from full-term courses between the eighth week of the term and the Wednesday before finals week will receive a “W” on their transcripts. Note: Permission of the instructor is required to withdraw from the course. A “W” is not computed in a student’s GPA.

In Progress (IP)
This notation is made on a transcript if the course ends after the normal grading period. At the end of the course, a grade will be entered.

Incomplete (I)
An Incomplete (I) grade is assigned when a student successfully completes approximately 75 percent of course requirements, but for reasons acceptable to the instructor, the student is unable to complete remaining requirements during the given term. An “I” grade is not a substitution for a failing grade, but indicates that there is a reasonable expectation that the student will pass the course. An incomplete grade will not count toward academic warning, but it may affect Financial Aid and Satisfactory Academic Progress.

Students may request an Incomplete (I) grade by contacting the instructor prior to the end of the term. Students must complete the remaining requirements within one quarter after the end of the original course (summer term excluded) unless the instructor designates a later completion date. Instructors will submit a grade change to the Admissions and Records office within one week of the student completing the course requirements; if no grade is submitted, it is assumed the student did not complete the requirements and the “I” grade will convert to an “F.” (Note that if the student has earned a different grade without completion of these requirements, the instructor has the option to submit that letter grade instead.)

Students and instructors are strongly encouraged to complete an Incomplete Grade Contract in order to outline remaining requirements. Please see “Incomplete Grade Contract” on COCC’s website for more information.

Audit (X)
Students who want the experience of taking a particular class but do not want to receive college credit may register as audit students in any of the College’s courses. Audit students are not required to meet specific course requirements but should
participate fully in class activities. If students wish to audit a class, they must indicate so at the time of registration and note the following:

- “X” appears on the transcript.
- “X” is not figured into a student’s GPA.
- Tuition is the same as classes taken for credit.
- Audited courses do not meet graduation or transfer requirements and are not eligible for financial aid.
- A student may convert “audit” status to “regular” status, and vice versa, before the end of the seventh week of the term for full-term classes.

**GRADE CHANGES**

The responsibility of assigning grades at COCC is entirely the instructor’s. A student who disputes the final grade (A–F, P, NP) in a course should meet with the instructor to review the grade. If not satisfied, the student may meet with the department chair, who can further review the grade with the instructor. If the student believes that the grade is arbitrary or capricious, the student has recourse through the College’s grade appeal procedure found in the Academic Procedures Manual on the COCC website.

Students who wish to change a grade to or from "W" or "X" must submit a petition directly to Enrollment Services – Admissions and Records. Requests for grade changes are considered only within one year of the grade being awarded.

**MIDTERM GRADE REPORTS**

Midway through each term, instructors have the option to file grades of “D” and “F” or “NP” for those students whose performance indicates it, including those who are not regularly attending class. It is entirely the instructor’s discretion to submit or not submit a midterm grade report. If an instructor submits a midterm grade, the student will be sent an email at his/her college email address.

Students must take responsibility for withdrawing if they do not wish to continue in a class.

**DEAN’S LIST**

Students enrolled in 12 or more graded credits who receive a term GPA of 3.60 or better will have a Dean’s List notation on their official transcript each term that the GPA is earned. The Dean’s List will also be published each term.

**REPEAT GRADE POLICY**

Courses in music or theater performance, studio art, Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) and HHP activity classes may be repeated for credit. The grades and credits for such courses will be recorded on the transcript and totaled cumulatively. In some cases, there may be a limit to the number of total credits allowed from those courses when used toward a certificate or degree.

Students may choose to repeat other courses. The original course and grade will remain on the transcript, with an “R” indicating it is later repeated. The original course grade will not be counted in that term’s GPA or the cumulative GPA. Students may repeat a course as many times as they wish; however, only the original/first course’s grade will be excluded from the term and cumulative GPA and only the most recent course will be used toward graduation requirements. There is no limit to the number of courses a student may repeat, unless otherwise stated in specific program requirements. If students wish to use the grade repeat policy for music or theater performance, studio art, Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) and HHP activity classes, they must complete a student petition and submit it to the Admissions and Records office; the course repeat policy will automatically happen for all other coursework. See the COCC website for an illustration of the repeat grade policy.

Note: This option became available fall 2006. A student must be a student under a catalog in which this policy was in place in order to take advantage of the repeat grade policy (e.g., former students cannot request a grade change unless they enroll in the repeated course fall 2006 or later).

**TRANSFER REPEAT POLICY**

If a student takes the same course twice, whether at COCC or another institution, only one course may be used to satisfy a certificate or degree requirements. If two or more of the same courses exist, the College will use the following criteria to determine which course applies to needed requirements:

- The most recent COCC course with a grade “C” or better.
- If both courses came from other institutions, the transfer course with the best grade will be selected.
- Some degrees and certificates have specific policies on permissible age of transfer courses. Please refer to the applicable Program Description.

**ACADEMIC WARNING POLICY**

Students are considered to be in good academic standing if they earn a minimum 2.0 GPA each term. Certificate- and degree-seeking students not meeting this requirement receive an academic warning. All students on academic warning will be sent an email to their COCC email address specific to their situation the day after grades are processed; it is the responsibility of the students to monitor their academic standing and complete academic warning requirements in a timely manner.

Academic warning descriptions and requirements are as follows:

**First Academic Warning**

When students earn less than a 2.0 term GPA, they are placed on First Academic Warning. At this stage, students are encouraged to meet with their advisor prior to registration.

**Second Academic Warning**

When students earn less than a 2.0 term GPA for two consecutive terms, they are placed on Second Academic Warning. At this stage, students are required to meet with an academic advisor and complete the Second Academic Warning
Third Academic Warning
When students earn less than a 2.0 term GPA for three consecutive terms, they are placed on Third Academic Warning. In order to attend classes, students must complete the Academic Reinstatement petition with their advisor and submit the petition to Enrollment Services no later than 5 p.m., on Monday of the second week of the following term. The Academic Reinstatement Committee will review completed petitions no later than Wednesday of that week. The Committee has three options:

- Approve the petition as is: Students continue attending classes, following the requirements of the petition. If students fail to follow the academic plan or requirements, their registration in classes may be voided and their petition is considered "denied."
- Approve the petition with revisions: If students fail to follow the revised academic plan or requirements, their registration in classes may be voided and their petition is considered "denied."
- Deny the petition: If denied, students will not be allowed to continue or register for classes; any current registrations will be voided and a full-tuition/fee refund will be issued. (Bookstore expenses may not be refundable.) Students may petition for reinstatement the following term or cease to attend classes for one calendar year. After one year, students may re-enroll and begin classes as if no academic warnings existed (grades on students’ transcripts remain the same).

All petitions are final and are not subject to appeal unless there is information pertinent to the outcome that was not submitted at the time of the initial request.

Note: All students on third academic warning are required to participate in an activity (or activities) specifically chosen to address why they received three academic warnings. Depending on circumstances, this could be attending a study skills class or workshop; meeting with a personal counselor to talk about time management, stress management, depression or other personal situations; attending a career counseling workshop or class; or other option recommended by the advisor. If students do not follow through with this activity or activities, they will be dropped from that term’s classes. Financial aid recipients will need to pay back a prorated amount of their funding. (See the Financial Aid withdrawal penalty policy on page 13.)

If students are preregistered and fail to complete the petition, their registrations will be voided and a full tuition and fees refund issued, except books. Third academic warning students will be prevented from registering for one calendar year or until such time as their Academic Reinstatement petition is approved.

Fourth Academic Warning
When students earn below a 2.0 term GPA for four consecutive terms, they receive a Fourth Academic Warning and are blocked from all registration in credit classes for one calendar year. After one year, students may re-enroll and start their academic record as if no academic warnings existed. The students’ transcripts, however, will remain the same.

Notes:
1. Students who do not have an assigned advisor may request one through the CAP Center or Enrollment Services – Admissions and Records.
2. Students on academic warning may not be self-advised, and students who were self-advised must meet with an advisor.
3. Students may not change advisors while on academic warning.

ADVANCED STANDING AND TRANSFER CREDIT
In keeping with the philosophy that college-level knowledge can be validated and documented in various ways, Central Oregon Community College recognizes many educational experiences for credit. A guiding principle of our transfer credit practice is that acceptable transfer credit is applied in the same manner as is COCC credit.

Transfer credits earned at another regionally accredited institution generally will be accepted as they apply to COCC degree requirements. Students who wish to use previous college credits toward a COCC degree should order official transcripts from the previous college. COCC will articulate the transcript toward the certificate or degree listed on the student’s admission application. The articulation will be viewable on GradTracks, COCC’s online degree audit tool.

Limits on college credit transfer are:
- Subject matter may not duplicate that for which credit has previously been awarded in transfer or at COCC.
- Credit earned in noncollegiate and nonaccredited institutions:
- Credit awarded by another institution for life experience is not transferable to COCC.
- Courses which espouse a particular religious view normally do not equate to COCC courses.
- In some cases, science credits more than five years old may not be applicable to specific programs.
- Transfer credit is only considered for courses where a grade (of A, B, C, D, pass, satisfactory) and credit have been awarded. Note that a “D” will not be accepted for the AAOT degree, foundational requirements and for some programs. (See individual program requirements.)
- Students working toward a COCC degree must complete a minimum of 24 COCC credits. Certificate-seeking students must complete a minimum of 18 COCC credits. Challenge, Advanced Placement (AP), College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and Credit for Prior Certification (CPC) credits do not meet this requirement.

Noncollegiate and nonaccredited institutions:
COCC will evaluate records for Career and Technical Education students from noncollegiate and nonaccredited institutions (such as business and trade schools) under the following guidelines:
- Only coursework that is technical in nature and certificate- or degree-applicable will be evaluated.
- Coursework will be evaluated by the appropriate Career and
Technical Education program director.

- Sufficient documentation (transcripts, certificates, course descriptions, etc.) must be submitted to enable an informed review. Documentation must be received directly from the originating institution or program. The American Council on Education (ACE) guides will assist in evaluating the credentials. In some cases, COCC faculty will be consulted for evaluation of a particular credential.

- Material must be equivalent to regular credit courses offered at COCC. Credit is not considered based on what the student "knows," but on the content of, and recorded achievement in, the course itself.

- Material may not duplicate that for which credit has previously been awarded in transfer or at COCC.

Advanced Placement Exams (AP)
Credit will normally be awarded following approved guidelines from COCC academic departments. Typically, credit is considered only when it is equivalent to regular course offerings at COCC and when it is not duplicated.

Advanced Placement (AP) will be evaluated at COCC as listed below.

- AP Language and Composition, score 3+ WR 121
- AP Lit and Comp, score 3+ 4 credits in one of: ENG 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109 (No writing credits earned with Literature and Comp tests)
- AP French Language, score 3 FR 101, 102, 103
- AP French Language, score 4 FR 103, 201, 202
- AP French Language, score 5 FR 201, 202, 203
- AP Spanish Language, score 3 SPAN 101, 102
- AP Spanish Language, score 4 SPAN 103, 104
- AP Spanish Language, score 5 SPAN 201, 202, 203
- AP Biology, score 4+ BI 101, 102, 103
- AP Chemistry, score 4+ CH 201, 202, 203
- AP Physics B, score 4+ PH 201, 202, 203
- AP Physics C, score 3+ PH 211, 212
- AP Math Calculus AB, score 3 MTH 251
- AP Math Calculus BC, score 3 MTH 251
- AP Math Calculus BC, score 4+ MTH 251, 252
- AP Statistics, score 4+ MTH 252, 253
- AP Comp Science A, score 4+ EC 201
- AP Comp Science A, score 5+ EC 201
- AP US Government, score 3-5 EC 201
- AP US History, score 4+ HST 201
- AP European History, score 4+ HST 101, 102
- AP Psych, score 3+ 4 credits, psychology electives, discipline studies list
- AP Microeconomics, score 3+ EC 202
- AP Macroeconomics, score 3+ EC 202
- AP World History, score 4+ 8 credits, history electives (not discipline studies)

International Baccalaureate (IB)
COCC recognizes International Baccalaureate (IB) achievement by awarding credit to students who score 5 or above on Standard or High-level exams. A grid outlining how credit will be awarded is posted on the COCC website. Credit is applied to a student’s record after the student has been admitted to COCC and final transcript documents have been received by the Admissions and Records office.

Credit for Prior Learning
Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is defined as credit earned through evidence-based assessment of learning that occurs outside of traditional college-level coursework. The Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities limits credit to a maximum of 25% of the credits needed for a degree. COCC awards credit through these types of assessments:

- ACE Credit Recommendation (Military Service, non-collegiate learning)
- College Level Exam Program (CLEP)
- Credit for Prior Industry Certification
- Institutional Challenge Exams

ACE Credit Recommendation
The American Council on Education (ACE) is a college credit recommendation service that evaluates workforce training and makes suggestions for college credit. In most cases COCC will accept the recommendations in the National Guide. To be considered for college credit, students must submit official ACE transcripts.

The ACE guidelines will be used when considering military credit for courses (not occupations) documented on the DD-214 and/or other official training documents. Typically, credit is considered only when it is equivalent to regular course offerings at COCC, and when it is applicable to a student’s degree requirements.

College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
Exams will be evaluated at COCC as listed below. Following scores are listed as minimum.

- CLEP English Comp, No credit
- CLEP Humanities, score 50+ 9 credits of Arts and Letters discipline studies list
- CLEP Am Lit, score 50+ ENG 253, 254, 255
- CLEP Eng Lit, score 50+ ENG 101, 102, 103
- CLEP Foreign Language, (no more than 12 credits per language) French: score 50+ FR 101, 102, 103
- French: score 50+ French: score 50+ SPAN 101, 102, 103
- Spanish: score 50+ Spanish: score 50+ SPAN 201, 202, 203
- CLEP General Math, No credit
- CLEP College Algebra, score 50+ MTH 111
- CLEP College Mathematics, score 50+ MTH 105
- CLEP Calculus with Elem. Function, score 60+ MTH 251
- CLEP Calculus with Elem. Function, score 60+ MTH 251, 252
- CLEP Biology, score 50+ BI 101, 102, 103
- CLEP Chemistry, score 50+ CH 221, 222, 223
- CLEP General Exam in Natural Sciences, score 50+ 9 non-lab science credits for “additional courses” or electives
- CLEP Princ. of Mgmt., score 70+ equivalent course credit as elective in business
- CLEP Accounting, score 70+ equivalent course credit as elective in business
- CLEP Intro Business Law, score 70+ equivalent course credit as elective in business
- CLEP Princ. of Marketing, score 70+ equivalent course credit as elective in business
- CLEP US History I, score 50+ HST 201
- CLEP US History II, score 50+ HST 202
- CLEP Western Civ I, score 50+ HST 101
- CLEP Western Civ II, score 50+ HST 102
- CLEP both Western Civ I and II, scores of 50+ HST 101, 102, 103
- CLEP Sociology, score 50+ SOC 201
- CLEP Microeconomics, score 50+ EC 201
- CLEP Macroeconomics, score 50+ EC 202

Students may arrange to take the CLEP tests at the COCC Tutoring Center, 541-383-7539.
Credit for Prior Certification (CPC)
Several COCC Career and Technical Education programs offer credit for prior certification if students have completed a course, training or other program that is taught to state, national or other officially recognized standards. Credit is not awarded for other life experiences. Students interested in receiving credit for prior certification must submit official copies of prior certifications to the Admissions and Records office, along with a Credit for Prior Certification request form. Admissions and Records will then forward the documentation to the appropriate department for review and notify the student of any outcomes. If credit can be awarded, the student must pay a $40/course fee prior to having credits transcribed.

Credits will be posted at the top of the student’s transcript in a section titled “Credit for Prior Certification” so as to not be confused with regular COCC coursework. COCC’s transcription of credit does not guarantee that the credit will be accepted by another higher education institution. Each institution establishes its own credit for prior certification policy and will evaluate prior certification based on that policy.

Credits transcribed for prior certification may not be used to acquire full-time status or to meet eligibility requirements for any other purpose, such as financial aid, veteran benefits or scholarships. For Career and Technical Education programs, a maximum of 24 credits for prior certification will be awarded for associate degrees; 12 credits for certificates. With the exception of apprenticeship programs, credit for prior certification does not apply toward the minimum 24 COCC credits required to complete a COCC degree (18 COCC credits for a certificate).

Challenge Courses
Students who feel they have knowledge and experience similar to a particular course and who cannot gain credit by other means may challenge a course and receive credit for the course. However, in some cases, students may wish to discuss course requirement waivers with program faculty. There is no limit on the number of credits that may be earned by challenge with the following exceptions:

- Students cannot challenge courses at a lower level than ones in which they have already demonstrated competency, nor at a level lower than ones in which they have already registered.
- Students may not challenge courses which they have already taken.
- Students may not challenge courses in which the methods listed under Advanced Standing (see below) have been met.
- Challenge requires papers or tests demonstrating competency.
- Challenge courses do not apply toward meeting residency requirements for certification or degree.
- Challenge courses do not count in determining financial aid eligibility.

In order to assess whether or not the student has a reasonable chance of successfully challenging a course, a student must receive permission from a faculty member in the subject area and the department chair prior to challenging a course. If approved, the student and department complete the Challenge Petition form. This must be completed by the end of the sixth week of the term. The challenge paper or final must be completed prior to the end of the term.

Challenged courses are charged the regular tuition rate payable at the time the completed petition is submitted to Enrollment Services – Admissions and Records. It is the student’s responsibility to schedule challenge examinations with the instructor. The exam may be rescheduled only at the instructor’s discretion, in extraordinary circumstances. A grade of Pass or No Pass is assigned, where a Pass is earned for performance equivalent to a grade of “B” or better. A student may not rechallenge a course if they do not pass the first attempt. Go to www.cocc.edu/General-Procedures-Manual/Academic and read “Course Challenge Petition to complete details.

Computer competency requirement
Some COCC associate degrees (AS, AAS and AGS) require students to demonstrate basic computer skills prior to graduation. To meet this requirement, students must successfully complete CIS 120 Computer Fundamentals, or pass Key Application and either IC3 Fundamentals or IC3 Advanced Level exams. A $30 fee is charged for each test; one free retake is included in the $30 fee. If a student needs to retake the exam a third time, another $30 fee is charged. Successfully passing all three exams will award 4 credits for CIS 120. Passing two of the exams does not provide students with course credit; instead, a notation is placed on the student’s record so that the testing may be used to meet degree requirements. Students who have proof they have previously received the IC3 certification will also receive a notation that the competency requirement has been met (documentation must be submitted to the Admissions and Records office).

Note: CIS courses may be required in some AS or AAS programs and the competency test will not substitute for that requirement. See individual program descriptions for details.

INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS

International credentials will be evaluated using the following principles:

- Coursework must be completed at a nationally recognized, university-level institution and must be at a level of achievement comparable to COCC’s A, B, C and D grades. Note that a "D" will not be accepted for the AAOT degree and foundational requirements and for some programs. See individual program descriptions, pages 46-186. The applicability of such transfer credit will be evaluated as is credit from U.S. institutions.
- NAFSA: Association of International Educators and American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) guidelines will be used in evaluating the credentials.
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students may use GradTracks, COCC’s online degree evaluation tool to track progress to completion. Students who wish to earn a certificate or associate degree from COCC should submit an online Application for Degree up to two terms prior to the intended term of completion. The application may be found at www.cocc.edu/admissions/graduation-and-honors/graduation/. After the evaluation, students receive a notification of audit results via COCC email. COCC provides advising toward its certificates and degrees; however, students are ultimately responsible for being informed about degree requirements and for selecting appropriate classes.

Please note that during the 2014-15 academic year, COCC transitioned from automatic degree awarding.

A certificate or degree is awarded when it meets the applicable course requirements listed in this catalog and the student has met the following guidelines:

- Complete the minimum number of credits required for the degree (see pages 34-42)
- Earn a minimum 2.0 cumulative grade-point average at COCC
- Owe no debt to the College
- Complete at least 24 degree-applicable residency credits for an associate’s degree; 18 certificate-applicable residency credits for a certificate
- Meet at least one of the following criteria:
  1. The student’s default catalog year is the year the student began or any subsequent catalog year
     a. The student's choice of catalog years is limited to two years of student admittance, the default catalog year will be updated yearly to the subsequent catalog year.
     
     2. The student transfers back to COCC other college credit and meets degree requirements listed in the current college catalog or the previous two catalog years.

When a student’s completion of degree requirements coincides with the last term attended, the degree will be posted in that term. When the student uses transfer credit after an absence from the College, the degree will be posted in the term in which the degree evaluation was successfully completed, and when it has been determined all degree requirements have been met.

Multiple/concurrent degrees

Students applying for multiple/concurrent degrees must meet the degree requirements outlined above and as listed for each degree on the following pages. For each additional degree, students must complete at least 15 COCC credits that are different from those used for the other degree(s) and are applicable to the additional degree requested.

Graduation Honor Roll

Graduates will be listed on the transcripts of COCC graduates based on their cumulative GPA from the end of the term prior to the student’s graduation:

- 3.60–3.74 honors
- 3.75–3.89 high honors
- 3.90–4.00 highest honors

Graduates participating in commencement exercises will receive honor cords. Graduates with a 4.00 cumulative GPA will have an asterisk by their name in the annual commencement program.

Commencement

A commencement ceremony is held once each year in June, following the end of spring term, for students who have earned a certificate (45 credits or more) or an associate degree. All graduates who have completed their degrees in the previous academic year—beginning summer term—may participate. Those students who complete their required coursework in the summer term immediately following the commencement ceremony may also participate. Commencement information is sent in April to all students who applied for a degree or certificate. Students must submit their online Application for Degree by May 1 in order for their name to appear in the commencement program. Students wishing to participate in the commencement ceremony must submit participation confirmation in their Bobcat Web Account when made available and attend the commencement rehearsal.
TRANSFERRING CREDITS TO A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY

As a general rule, four-year institutions of the Oregon University System will accept up to 124 lower-division quarter hours of transferable college credit. It is ultimately the responsibility of the students to know and meet the course requirements of the four-year college or university to which they wish to transfer. Students may obtain assistance from academic advisors.

Grades of A, B or C earned in transfer courses (numbered 100-299) are generally accepted by other colleges; other grades may have limited transferability. COCC has also made arrangements with select programs at four-year colleges and universities for the transfer of certain Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses.

Students seeking a Bachelor of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree should be aware of foreign language and other degree or major-specific requirements. See pages 34-37 for a listing of degree requirements between COCC and various universities.

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL RECORDS AND DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Enrollment Services – Admissions & Records maintains all official academic records of enrolled students including transcripts, registration forms, transfer credits and degree evaluations. For record-keeping purposes, the College considers Web registration as part of a student’s official record. Enrollment Services – Financial Aid maintains all student aid and scholarship records.

Central Oregon Community College follows the Federal Health Education and Welfare Guidelines for the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974–Pell-Buckley Amendment (FERPA), which gives students attending post-secondary institutions the right to inspect their educational records. Those rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review their education records within 45 days of the day COCC receives a request for access.

2. The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Students should write the registrar, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the College decides not to amend the record as requested by the student, COCC will notify and advise the student of the decision and of his or her right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. The College also will provide additional information regarding the hearing procedures.

3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by COCC in an administrative, supervisory, academic, research or support staff position (including law enforcement unit personnel and health staff); a person or company with whom COCC has contracted (such as an attorney, auditor or collection agent); a person serving on the Board of Directors; or a student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an educational record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by COCC to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202-5901.

DIRECTORY/RELEASE OF INFORMATION

The College does not publish a student directory. Requests for directory information must clearly state the student’s name.

Central Oregon Community College considers the following information to be directory information and may release it if requested on an individual basis:

• student’s full name
• terms of attendance (not daily attendance)
• major field of study
• full- or part-time enrollment status
• degrees, certificates and honors awarded
• address and telephone number
• email address
• participation in officially recognized activities and sports
• most recent previous school attended
• class standing (freshman or sophomore status)

Students who do not wish the above information to be released by the College must submit a signed statement requesting that this information be withheld. Contact Enrollment Services for the necessary form and additional information. The request to withhold information remains in effect until the student submits a signed statement indicating that directory information may be released. Students should keep the College notified of current addresses and telephone numbers. Students can update this information through the College website, www.cocc.edu, via the Bobcat Web Account.
Information such as grades, progress in coursework, financial aid status and class schedule will not be released, except as authorized by law. If students wish to have this information released to parent/guardians, employers or other non-college entities, students must submit a Release of Information form, in writing, to Enrollments Services – Admissions and Records in the Boyle Education Center. The release is valid until June 30 of each year and must be refiled annually.

RELEASE OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION FOR MILITARY RECRUITING PURPOSES

Under the Solomon Amendment Interim Rule to implement the National Defense Authorization Act of 1995 and of 1996, and the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act, 1997, schools receiving Title IV funding must provide military access to directory information for students 17 years of age or older. For purposes of the act, directory information is defined as name, address, telephone listing, date and place of birth, level of education, degrees received and the educational institution in which the student most recently was enrolled. Students who have formally requested COCC to withhold all directory information from third parties will not be included.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER/INFORMATION CONSENT

The College adheres to the following policy statement of the Oregon Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development:

“Providing your social security number is voluntary. If you provide it, the College will use your social security number for keeping records, doing research, aggregate reporting, extending credit and collecting debts. Your social security number will not be given to the general public. If you choose not to provide your social security number, you will not be denied any rights as a student. Providing your social security number means that you consent to use of the number in the manner described.”

OAR 589-004-0400 authorizes Central Oregon Community College to ask students to provide their social security numbers. The numbers will be used by the college for reporting, research and record keeping. The numbers will also be provided by the college to the Oregon Community College Unified Reporting System (OCCURS), which is a group made up of all community colleges in Oregon, the State Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development and the Oregon Community College Association. OCCURS gathers information about students and programs to meet state and federal reporting requirements. It also helps colleges plan, research and develop programs. This information helps the colleges to support the progress of students and their success in the workplace and other education programs.

OCCURS or the College may provide a student’s social security number to the following agencies or match it with records from the following systems:

- State and private universities, colleges and vocational schools, to find out how many community college students go on with their education and to find out whether community college courses are a good basis for further education.
- The Oregon Employment Department, which gathers information, including employment and earnings, to help state and local agencies plan education and training services to help Oregon citizens get the best jobs available.
- The Oregon Department of Education, to provide reports to local, state and federal governments. The information is used to learn about education, training and job market trends for planning, research and program improvement.
- The Oregon Department of Revenue and collection agencies only for purposes of processing debts and only if credit is extended to the student by the College.

State and federal law protects the privacy of student records. The social security number will be used only for the purposes listed above. However, there may be times when solicitation and disclosure of a student’s social security number is mandated by federal law.

CONCERNS PROCEDURE

COCC has a college concerns procedure designed to provide employees, students and citizens a way to appeal decisions made within the College. Contact Student Life at 541-383-7590 for a copy of the procedure, or view it online at www.cocc.edu/Human-Resources/Employment/Equal-Opportunity/.

CONCERNS REGARDING GENDER DISCRIMINATION, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, OR MISCONDUCT, DATING VIOLENCE, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND STALKING

Students or employees who believe they have experienced or witnessed discrimination, sexual harassment, or misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking are encouraged to report this information to the College’s EEO/Title IX Officer, 541-383-7216 or the Director of Student Life, 541-383-7592. These staff can provide assistance and resources and discuss possible responses for the situation. Do not wait to report concerns until the situation becomes too serious (i.e., severe, pervasive or persistent). Off-campus harassment, misconduct or violence by members of the College community should be brought promptly to the attention of the College staff listed above.

NO RETALIATION STATEMENT

No one at the College may reprimand, discriminate or otherwise retaliate against an individual for initiating an inquiry or complaint in good faith, nor against other individuals who share information related to the complaint.
STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to provide for the maximum safety, convenience and well-being of the total College community, certain standards of behavior have been established at COCC. Upon admission to the College, all students accept an unqualified commitment to adhere to such standards and to conduct themselves in a manner appropriate to an educational environment, one which reflects respect for themselves and the College. Such actions as academic dishonesty, abuse of property, harassment, any violation of federal or state law, possession of alcoholic beverages, and possession of illegal drugs are in violation of the College’s standards and are cause for disciplinary action. The disciplinary action taken by the College covers a range of possibilities up to and including dismissal from college. A comprehensive Student Rights and Responsibilities guide is available online at www.cocc.edu/Student-Life/Student-Policies/.

ALCOHOL AND DRUG POLICY

In compliance with the Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-690, Title V, Subtitle D) and the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), it shall be the policy of Central Oregon Community College to maintain a drug-free campus for all employees and students. It is the responsibility of the College to notify students and staff of college policy. In accordance with this intent, the following policy is in effect:

Drug-free campus
The unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol is prohibited on the College campus, in all College facilities or as part of any College-sponsored activity. Violators of this policy will be prosecuted to the full extent of state and federal law and, in addition, there are specific consequences for employees and for students which are stated in the College Drug-Free Campus Procedures.

Employees and students can find assistance, abuse prevention resources, and health risks information associated with the use of illicit drugs and the abuse of alcohol, and warning signals, online at www.cocc.edu/Student-Life/Student-Resources/Abuse-Prevention-Information/.

NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

There will be no discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, sex, marital status, national origin, ethnicity, color, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status or any other classes protected under Federal and State statutes in any educational programs, activities or employment. Persons having questions about equal opportunity and non-discrimination should contact the Equal Employment Officer c/o COCC’s Human Resources office, 541-383-7216.

SMOKING POLICY

Smoking is banned in all of the buildings of Central Oregon Community College. Smoking or the use of smokeless tobacco is limited to campus parking lots unless otherwise noted. Use in parking lots adjacent to buildings must be 25 feet away from any portion of the building. During high fire danger periods, smoking will be banned completely.