



Portland Vision

A Bridge to Excellence



Introduction

The University of Oregon has a long history in the city of Portland, where the law school first opened in the 1880s. From establishing a robust architecture program in the 1970s to creating a Portland-based home when the White Stag Block opened in Old Town in 2008, the university has been tied to the urban core of the state for many years.

The university's academic and research programs have grown significantly in Portland during the last decade, attracting a critical mass of faculty and students. The time has come for UO Portland to create a vision based on principles that inspire our work and guide our decision making.

At its foundation, the Portland vision incorporates the university's three priorities of access, excellence and experience, and also reflects the vision statement for the university as a whole:

We aspire to be a preeminent and innovative public research university encompassing the humanities and the arts, the natural and social sciences, and the professions. We seek to enrich the human condition through collaboration, teaching, mentoring, scholarship, experiential learning, creative inquiry, scientific discovery, outreach, and public service.

What follows is a broad vision created to inspire and guide us as we engage in strategic planning. By developing specific and measurable activities and goals, we will gain a road map that we can follow towards our vision.

UO Portland Vision

Portland is a port that opens all of Oregon to the world. Known as “Bridgetown,” twelve iconic bridges span the Willamette River throughout the city. The river serves as a link, unifying the University of Oregon’s Portland campus with its main campus in Eugene. UO Portland sits on this river, inhabiting an historic set of buildings, attached to a century-old bridge. Though nestled in history, UO Portland is also anchored in an exceptionally vibrant contemporary metropolis in the heart of the Pacific Northwest.

The bridges of Portland serve as a metaphor for the vision of UO Portland. The focus for UO Portland is on diverse opportunities, interdisciplinary study, and partnerships, as well as innovative and impactful research and teaching that are relevant to our students and our broader communities, both locally and globally.

Below, connections between people, ideas and innovations are described as a series of bridges that promote movement in both directions.

This is written in the present tense to capture UO Portland now as well as what is imagined for the years to come.

Learning — Doing

The White Stag Block, and its neighbor the Naito building, are home to distinctive graduate degree programs and other learning opportunities. Students are taught by talented faculty and distinguished practitioners. The programs in Portland provide students with critical experiential learning through access to cutting-edge industry expertise, mentoring, and networking opportunities in the economic center of our state. Additionally, executive education is offered in non-traditional formats to meet the needs of modern professionals. This includes students from the region and around the country and globe who fly in for short, intensive sessions meshed with distance education components. World-class career development series and academic conferences also bring international experts from both industry and the academy to our urban campus.

Students — Alumni

From high school students to prominent alumni, those who step through the front door of UO Portland enter into a realm of lifelong education. Strong connections with high school counselors and educators and strategic partnerships with community colleges in the region help pave the way for a growing and diverse student body in Eugene. Undergraduate students from Eugene visit and attend UO Portland to enhance their education in an urban setting, joining graduate students in internships, networking, and professional development opportunities. Our alumni are also engaged, attending events, volunteering individually and on UO boards, and sharing their expertise with our students.

Inquiry — Impact

What starts as a simple idea can become something that transforms lives. The research and collaboration at UO Portland make a difference in solving problems throughout the region and beyond. Discovery and creativity drive economic and social progress through faculty research, student engagement, and interdisciplinary collaboration with government and industry leaders. Faculty in both Eugene and Portland utilize the Portland region and our remarkable facilities as an expansive urban laboratory. Faculty and students collaborate across disciplines and geography to explore big-idea initiatives with measurable impacts.

University — Community

A sense of community goes beyond the classroom for UO Portland students and faculty. Business, public, and non-profit neighbors recognize the importance of having UO Portland in Old Town and the benefit of the university being actively engaged in city and regional affairs. Strategic alliances with civic, philanthropic, business, community, cultural, and educational institutions around the region – thanks in part to thousands of alumni – provide ongoing academic opportunities and increase the UO's visibility and contributions to the state.

Portland — The World

As home to some of the world's most innovative companies and NGOs, Portland has become a launching pad and a destination, especially among Pacific Rim countries. These relationships are increasingly mirrored in the UO Portland programs that draw a growing international student population and various enterprises interested in collaborative research and training through a global lens.

EUG — PDX

The bridge between Eugene and Portland is fundamental to facilitating the flow between the cities for students and faculty. This connection is essential for accomplishing everything described in this vision. We work to make the cities closer, more accessible, and appreciative of what each campus has to offer toward the university's overall vision of excellence.