



Oregon Core to College Project Focus: Defining College and Career Readiness

The internationally-benchmarked Common Core State Standards are designed to provide students with a rigorous educational foundation. The underlying expectation is that in meeting or exceeding these standards, students will have the academic foundation necessary for success in postsecondary education and career certificate programs and pathways. The key question is: what do we mean by “college and career readiness”? Once we clarify this umbrella term, we’ll be better positioned to determine the content of our expectations for what students know and can do to demonstrate proficiency.

Below are a few definitions to consider, as you and your colleagues begin to establish college and career readiness working groups. What resonates? What would you change? What definition seems most useful, as a touchstone for further elaboration? What definition might your group or institution recommend?

Purpose:

Develop a congruent, consistent message which can serve as a foundation for articulating the knowledge and skill expectations necessary for student success.

Anticipated Process:

Discussion through institutional working groups to arrive at a recommended definition by November 14, 2012; institutional definitions to be discussed and synthesized in regional meetings through December 2012; statewide convening to identify and recommend a synthesis definition in January 2013.

Samples:

A student who is ready for college and career can qualify for and succeed in entry-level, credit-bearing college courses leading to a degree, certificate, or career pathway-oriented training program.

A college and career-ready student qualifies for and succeeds in career pathways and entry-level credit-bearing courses leading to certificates and degrees.

Postsecondary and workforce readiness describes the knowledge, skills, and behaviors essential for high school graduates to be prepared to enter college and the workforce and to compete in the global economy.

A career-ready person is proficient in the core academic subjects and in technical topics, has a good understanding of their interests, talents, and weaknesses, and has a solid grasp of the skills and skills and dispositions necessary for engaging in today’s fast-paced, global economy.