

## **Portland State University Info Guide**

### **History:**

- First opened in 1946 as the Vanport Extension Center.
- Originally an educational institute for World War II Veterans.
- After a devastating flood in 1948, PSU relocated three times until finding its permanent home in 1952, in Portland, Oregon.

### **General Information:**

- Coed
- Public Research University
- 20,969 Undergraduates and 5,052 Graduates
- Faculty to Student Ratio: 1:19
- Located at 1825 SW Broadway, Portland, Oregon 97201
- Mascot: Victor E. Viking
- School Colors: White and Green
- Motto: “Doctrina urbi serviat” or “Let knowledge serve the city”
- Contact Information:
  - 503-725-3000 (Main)
  - 800-547-8887 (Outside Portland)
- Rankings:
  - One of the Nation’s Most Innovative Universities
  - Oregon’s Most Affordable Research University
  - One of the Nation’s Most Diverse Universities

### **Campus:**

- 50 acres
- Urban Campus (Located in Downtown Portland)
- 10 Cultural + Resource Centers
- On-Campus Rec Center
- Bike paths leading out to the city

- Virtual Tour of Campus: [Experience Portland State University in Virtual Reality.](#)  
[\(youvisit.com\)](#)

### **What's Nearby:**

- Portland Art Museum
- The Oregon Historical Society
- Forest Park
- Washington Park
- Willamette River
- Mount Hood
- Columbia River Gorge
- Portland Saturday Market
- Neighborhoods:
  - Alberta Street
  - Pearl District
  - Northwest (Nob Hill)
  - Chinatown



### **Admissions:**

- 96% Acceptance Rate
- SAT Range: 1000-1220
- Act Range: 18-24
- SAT Code: 4610
- ACT Code: 3492
- Not part of Common App and Coalition App. [Apply Here](#)
- \$50 Application Fee. Free with a Fee Waiver (Find Out If You Qualify [Here](#))
- Rolling Admissions (Doesn't Offer Early Decision and Early Action)
- Honors College Admissions Info [Here](#)
- Required:
  - High School GPA (2.5 or higher = automatic admission if college-prep coursework requirement is met)

- High School Transcript
  - College Prep Courses
- Recommended:
  - Recommendation letters
- Neither Required nor Recommended:
  - High School Rank
- Considered But Not Required:
  - SAT and ACT Scores
- High School Transcripts may be submitted electronically via a secure delivery service, for example, [Parchment](#), or sent directly from a school official to [admission@pdx.edu](mailto:admission@pdx.edu).

Transcripts can also be mailed in their original sealed envelopes to:

- Portland State University
- Office of Undergraduate Admissions
- PO Box 751
- Portland, OR 97207-0751

### **First Year Snapshot:**

- High School GPA: 3.75+
- High School Mean GPA: 3.47
- Average Class Size: 30
- Retention Rate: 72.6

### **Core Curriculum:**

- **University Studies:**
  - [Freshman Inquiry](#)
  - [Sophomore Inquiry](#)
  - [Upper Division Cluster](#)
  - [Senior Capstone](#)
- **University Honors College:**
  - [First Year: Global City](#)
  - [Second Year: Urban Discourses](#)

- [Third Year: Theory and Practice](#)
- [Fourth Year: Honors Thesis](#)

### **Academics:**

- 105 majors (below)
- Average GPA: 3.46
- **Special Study Options:**
  - Accelerated Program
  - Co-Op
  - Dual Major
  - Dual Enrollment of High School Students
  - English as a Second Language (ESL)
  - Honors Program
  - Independent Study
  - Study Abroad
  - Liberal Arts/Career Combination
  - Teacher Certification
  - Internships
  - Exchange Student Program

### **Majors and Minors:**

- **Undergraduate:**
  - Accounting
  - Accounting Post Baccalaureate Certificate
  - Advanced Proficiency in Russian
  - Advertising Management (minor available)
  - African Studies
  - American Sign Language (minor)
  - Anthropology (minor available)
  - Applied Health and Fitness
  - Applied Linguistics (minor available)

- Arabic (minor available)
- Architecture (minor available)
- Art History (minor available)
- Art History Postbaccalaureate
- Art Practice (minor available)
- Arts and Letters
- Asian Studies
- Athletic and Outdoor Industry
- Biochemistry
- Biology (minor available)
- Black Studies (minor available)
- Business Blockchain
- Business (minor)
- Business Technology and Analytics
- Campaigning to Win a U.S. Political Campaign
- Chemistry (minor available)
- Chicano/Latino Studies (minor available)
- Child, Youth, and Family Studies (minor available)
- Chinese (minor available)
- Civic Leadership (minor)
- Civil Engineering
- Classical Studies (minor)
- Climate Change Science and Adaption (minor)
- Comic Studies
- Communication (minor available)
- Communication Sciences and Disorders
- Community Development (minor available)
- Computer Application (minor)
- Computer Engineering
- Computer Science (minor available)
- Conflict Resolution (minor available)

- Consumer Retail Pre-Baccalaureate
- Creative Writing
- Criminology and Criminal Justice (minor available)
- Criminology and Criminal Justice Postbaccalaureate
- Cultural History of the Arts
- Data Science
- Design Management (minor)
- Earth Science
- Economics (minor available)
- Electrical Engineering (minor available)
- Elementary Education (minor)
- Elementary Education Science (minor)
- English (minor available)
- Entrepreneurship
- Environmental Engineering (minor available)
- Environmental Geology (minor)
- Environmental Science (minor available)
- Environmental Studies
- European Studies
- Film (minor available)
- Film Studies (minor)
- Finance
- Food, Beverage and Goods Leadership
- Forest Ecology and Management
- French
- Geographic Information Systems (minor)
- Geography (minor available)
- Geology (minor available)
- German (minor available)
- Graphic Design (minor available)
- History (minor available)

- Human Resource Management
- Indigenous Nations and Native American Studies (minor available)
- Institutional Economics
- Intercultural Competence for the Workplace
- International Business
- International Development Studies
- International and Global Studies (minor available)
- Italian (minor)
- Japanese (minor available)
- Judaic Studies (minor available)
- Lake and Reservoir Management
- Latin American Studies
- Law and Legal Studies (minor)
- Liberal Studies
- Management and Leadership
- Marketing
- Mathematics (minor available)
- Mathematics for Middle School Teachers (minor)
- Mechanical Engineering
- Medieval Studies (minor)
- Middle East Studies
- Modern Hebrew (minor)
- Music History (minor)
- Music (minor)
- Music: Composition
- Music: Education
- Music: Jazz Studies
- Music: Musicology/Ethnomusicology
- Music: Performance
- Music: Theory
- Music: Voice

- Persian (minor)
- Philosophy (minor available)
- Physics (minor available)
- Political Economy (minor)
- Political Science (minor available)
- Pre-Chiropractic Medicine
- Pre-Dental Hygiene
- Pre-Dentistry
- Pre-Law
- Pre-Medical Laboratory
- Pre-Medicine
- Pre-Naturopathic Medicine
- Pre-Nursing
- Pre-Occupational Therapy
- Pre-Optometry
- Pre-Pharmacy
- Pre-Physical Therapy
- Pre-Physician Assistant
- Pre-Public Health
- Pre-Radiation Therapy
- Pre-Teacher Education
- Pre-Veterinary Medicine
- Psychology (minor available)
- Public Health Studies: Community Health Promotion (minor available)
- Public Health Studies: Health Services Administration
- Public Health Studies: Healthy Aging (minor available)
- Public Health Studies: Human Lactation
- Public Health Studies: Pre-Clinical Health Sciences
- Public Health Studies: School Health Education
- Quantitative Economics
- Real Estate Property Management (minor available)



- Russian (minor available)
- Science
- Science, Technology, and Society Interdisciplinary (minor)
- Secondary Education (minor)
- Sexuality, Gender, and Queer Studies (minor available)
- Social Innovation (minor)
- Social Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship
- Social Science
- Social Work
- Sociology (minor available)
- Sonic Arts and Music Production
- Space and Planetary Science (minor)
- Spanish (minor available)
- Special Education (minor available)
- Speech and Hearing Sciences
- Supply and Logistics Management
- Sustainability (minor)
- Sustainable Urban Development (minor)
- Systems (minor)
- Teaching English as a Second Language
- Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language
- Theater Arts (minor available)
- Transformative Messaging
- Urban and Public Affairs
- Water Resources (minor)
- Women's Leadership
- Women's Studies (minor available)
- World History (minor)
- World Language Pedagogy
- Writing (minor)

- **Graduate:**

- [majors and minors](#)
- **Schools and Colleges:**
  - College of the Arts
  - College of Education
  - College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
  - College of Urban and Public Affairs
  - Graduate School
  - Maseeh College of Engineering and Computer Science
  - OHSU-PSU School of Public Health
  - School of Social Work
  - The School Of Business
  - University Honors College

**School Strengths (popular majors):**

- **Undergraduate:**
  - Psychology
  - Biology
  - Computer Science
  - Marketing
  - Accounting
- **Graduate:**
  - Social Work
  - Education (M.Ed)
  - Electrical and Computer Engineering
  - Computer Science
  - Education Leadership and Policy

**Finance:**

- **Tuition:**
  - In-State Tuition: \$9,578 a year
  - Out-of-State Tuition: \$28,410 a year

- **Financial Aid:**

- Net Price (Average Cost After Financial Aid): \$12,710 a year
- Average Total Aid Reward: \$7,519
- Students Receiving Financial Aid: 82%

- **Loans:**

- Federal Loans: Low-Interest loans that require repayment after you're no longer enrolled at PSU. Examples: Federal Direct Subsidized/Unsubsidized Loans, Federal Direct Parent Plus Loan, and Federal Direct Graduate Plus Loan.
- Private Loans
- PSU Short-Term Loans
- More Loan Info [Here](#)

- **Tuition Programs:**

- Four Years Free Requirements:
  - Oregon Resident
  - Oregon High School Graduate
  - Pell Grant-Eligible according to FAFSA
  - First-Time PSU Student
  - Enroll Full Time (12 credits per term minimum)
  - Start In Fall Term

\*Doesn't cover room and board, books + supplies, transportation, personal expenses, or the one-time matriculation fee.

- Transfers Finish Free Requirements:
  - Oregon Resident
  - Admissible to PSU as a transfer student
  - Pell Grant-Eligible according to FAFSA (not eligible if you have exhausted the lifetime Pell eligibility prior to matriculation)
  - First-Time PSU Student
  - Enroll Full Time (12 credits per term minimum)
  - Start In Fall Term

\*Doesn't cover room and board, books + supplies, transportation, personal expenses, or the one-time matriculation fee.

- Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) Requirements:
  - All applicants are automatically considered

\*Doesn't cover housing, meals, books, or personal expenses.

- Out-Of-State Opportunity Scholarship Requirements:
  - Nonresident of Oregon
  - First-Time PSU Student
  - Enroll Full Time (12 credits per term minimum)
  - Start in Fall Term

\*GPA determines money offered

- Other:
  - Average Housing Cost: \$6,780 a year
  - Average Meal Plan Cost: \$4,392 a year
  - Books and Supplies: \$1,263 a year

### **Opportunities:**

- **Study Abroad:**
  - 200+ programs in 80+ countries (Germany, Uruguay, Thailand, etc.)
  - Programs range from 2 weeks to an academic year
  - Financial aid is available
- **Internships:**
  - Can be paid or unpaid
  - Limited time
  - Can earn credits (depends on major)
- **Research:**
  - Transportation Research and Education Center
  - Institute for Sustainable Solutions
  - Digital City Testbed Center
  - Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative
  - More [Here](#)
- **Scholarships:**

- PSU scholarship applications are accepted from October 1st to February 1st and applicants are notified by early May
- Recipients will need to submit a “Thank You” note to their donor
- [PSU's Scholarship Database](#)

### **Housing:**

- It is not required to live on campus
- Pets are allowed in dorms
- **Special Interest Housing:**
  - Housing for disabled students
  - Housing for international students
  - Housing for students with families
- **First Year Academic Experience Communities:**
  - Race and Social Justice
  - Design and Society
  - Health, Happiness, and Human Rights
  - Portland
  - Work of Art
- **Themed Communities:**
  - Stem
  - Viking
  - Honors
- **First Year Residence Halls:**
  - Broadway ([room tour](#))
  - Ondine ([room tour](#))
  - Stephen Epler ([room tour](#))
- **Second Year Residence Hall:**
  - St. Helens ([room tour](#))
- **Additional Residence Halls:**
  - Blackstone
  - Blumel

- King Albert
- Montgomery Court
- [Information on each building](#)

## **Dining:**

- **Meal Plans:**
  - All Access Plan (19 swipes/week, 50 dining dollars, and 5 guest passes)
  - 15 Meal Plan (15 swipes/week, 100 dining dollars, and 5 guest passes)
  - 10 Meal Plan (10 swipes/week, 300 dining dollars, and 3 guest passes)
  - Economy 10 (10 swipes/week and 3 guest passes)
- **Where To Eat On-Campus:**
  - Victor's Dining Center
  - Love Belizean
  - Smith's Kitchen
  - Smith's Place
  - Bowery Bagels
  - Café Yumm!
  - The Fourth Street Food Carts
  - Library Taphouse and Kitchen
- **Where To Eat Off-Campus:**
  - Poompui Thai Food
  - Dogs and Fries
  - McMenamins Market Street Pub
  - Chef Q
  - Laughing Planet
  - Hot Pot City
  - Ole Café

## **Transportation**

- Biking (visit on-campus [PSU Bike Hub](#) for route info, self-service, and full-service repairs)
- Walking (Portland is one of America's most walkable cities)

- Portland Streetcar (free for PSU students)
- Cars (Students are permitted to have a car)
- More Information: [pdx.edu/transportation/new-students](https://pdx.edu/transportation/new-students)

### **Student Life:**

- **Athletics:**
  - Basketball (Men's and Women's)
  - Cross Country (Men's and Women's)
  - Tennis (Men's and Women's)
  - Track and Field (Men's and Women's)
  - Football (Men's)
  - Golf (Women's)
  - Softball (Women's)
  - Soccer (Women's)
  - Volleyball (Women's)
- **Greek Life:**
  - Sororities:
    - Alpha Chi Omega
    - Delta Gamma
    - Kappa Delta Chi
  - Fraternities:
    - Phi Delta Epsilon
    - Phi Delta Theta
    - Omega Delta Phi
- **Clubs and Organizations:**
  - Peer Mentor Program
  - Sustainability Leaders Network
  - Anime Club
  - PSU Film Network
  - Organization of International Students
  - Women in STEM

- Jewish Student Union
- Mixed Me
- [Masterlist](#)
- **Resource Centers:**
  - Veteran's Resource Center (VRC)
  - Resource Center for Students with Children (RCSC)
  - Women's Resource Center
  - The Transfer and Returning Student Resource Center (TRSRC)
  - Queer Resource Center (QRC)
  - [More](#)

**Diversity:**

- White: 50.8%, Latino: 16.2%, Other: 8.8%, Asian: 8.3%, Multi-Ethnic: 5.9%, International: 5%, Black or African American: 3.5%, Native American: 1%, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 1%
- First-Generation Students: 37%, Students with Children: 25%

**Notable Alumni:**

- Courtney Love: Singer, songwriter, and actress.
- Mark Dacascos: Actor, martial artist, and television personality.
- Julius Thomas: Former football player.
- YUNHWAY: Rapper and model.
- Aminé: Rapper, singer, and songwriter.