

Southern Oregon University Mission

Southern Oregon University is a contemporary public liberal arts and sciences university. It provides access to opportunities for personal, intellectual, and professional growth through quality education and scholarship. The University is a vital partner in the healthy development of its region and state in association with civic, national, and international engagements. It is Oregon's Center of Excellence in the Fine and Performing Arts.

Southern Oregon University Goals – Horizon of 2007 (Draft)

University Distinctiveness

- Develop our unique niche in practical liberal learning and its scholarship in the arts, sciences, and professions.
- Grow with our rising reputation as a leading public liberal arts and sciences university and expand our offerings outside of Ashland.
- Forge partnerships that best achieve our vision and seize opportunities that benefit the region and state.
- Encourage more visible engagements with compelling civic and economic challenges to enhance learning, scholarship, and service.
- Improve the flow and flare of communications about the University's distinctiveness, special strengths, and diverse stakeholders.

Student Learning

- Synthesize liberal learning, professional practice, and civic responsibility in the classroom and other inclusive learning communities.
- Focus graduate education on contemporary societal needs and regional strengths for liberal learning, practice, and scholarship.
- Align continuing professional education and lifelong learning programs to suit learners' needs and achieve cost-effective practices.
- Advance clear ideals regarding the value of diversity in twenty-first-century liberal education, employability, and a just society.

Organizational Vitality

- Align priorities, expectations, and capacities with the forward direction of our university and its greatest strengths and promise.
- Improve decision making by better linking institutional research, planning, and budgeting at all levels.
- Diversify funding sources and create more organizational flexibility to accelerate momentum toward our vision.
- Create opportunities for faculty and staff to achieve expectations and rewards as they contribute to SOU's mission and distinctiveness.
- Strengthen our human, physical, and technological infrastructure, focusing on Ashland and Medford.
- Build the University's capacity for greater autonomy, consistent with evolving OUS Board policy and strategic planning.
- Enhance internal communications to nurture an informed, engaged, stimulated, and cohesive University community.