



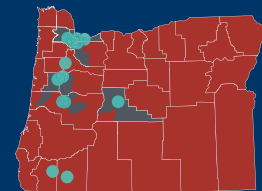
Transforming the Rural Health Landscape for the Oregon of Tomorrow:

Oregon Tech's Rural Health Initiative

Oregon's Rural Health Crisis

Oregon's rural communities face a health emergency that requires immediate action:

- **Alarming Healthcare Forecasts:** The demands placed on the healthcare system, which is already stretched thin, will only worsen as thousands of practicing providers are expected to leave the field due to on-going burnout and early retirement, as well as the looming "silver tsunami" – a demographic shift resulting in significantly larger numbers of the aging population.
- **Dangerous Wait Times:** Rural Oregonians often face significantly longer wait times for primary care appointments compared to their urban counterparts. This disparity is driven by healthcare workforce shortages, with rural areas experiencing higher demand and fewer providers available to meet patient needs.
- **Economic Burden:** Healthcare disparities in rural Oregon impact entire communities, leading to missed work, costly emergency care, and preventable health crises. This creates a financial strain on families, businesses, and local economies.



**2.5 million
Oregonians in crisis.**

**One innovative
solution.**



**A New Public
Osteopathic Medical
School at Oregon Tech.**

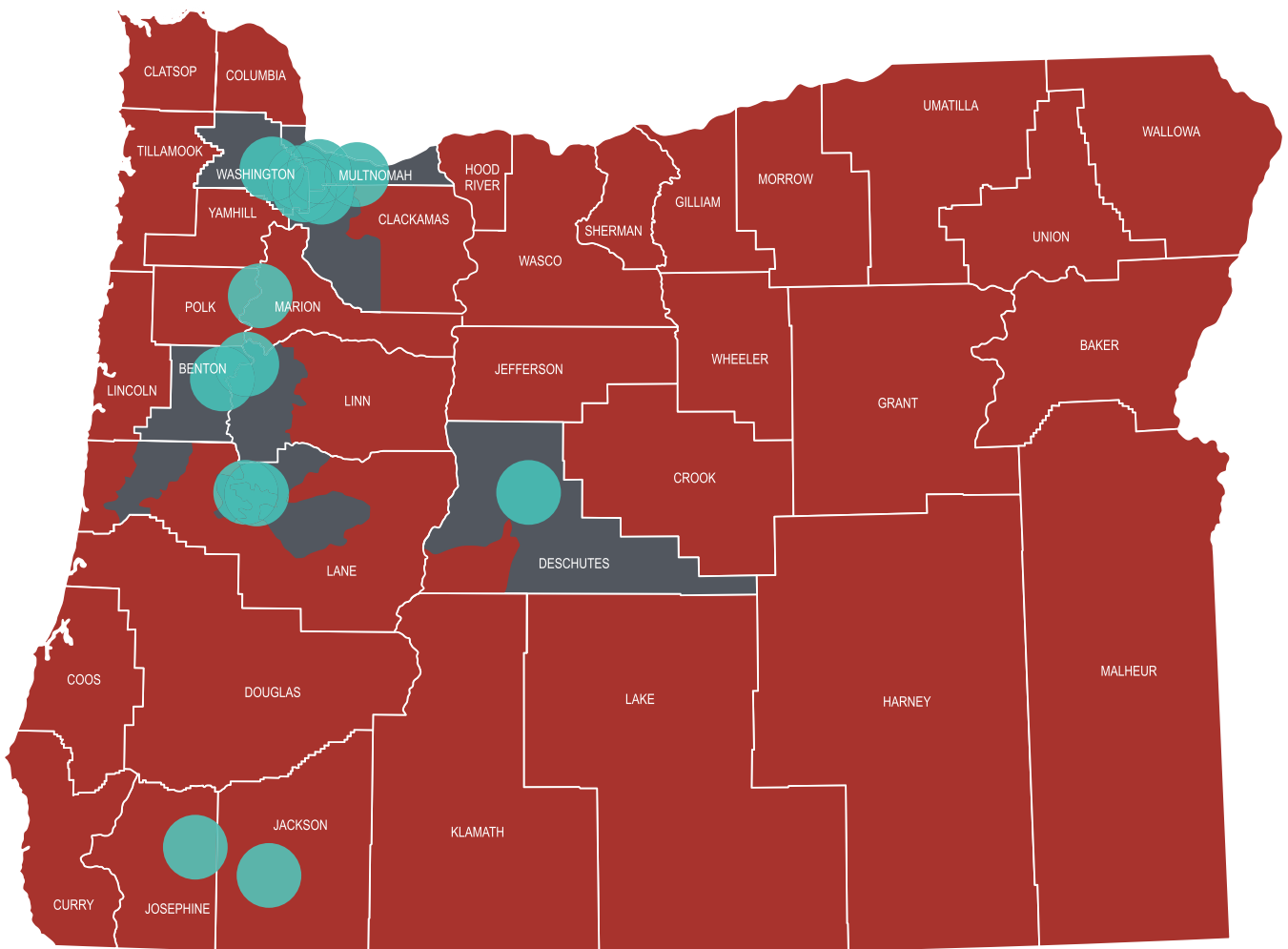
Act NOW.

- **Untenable Provider Ratios:** Most rural counties have citizen to Provider ratios that are beyond comprehension. In Klamath County, for example, the citizen to Provider ratio for primary care (2,000 to 1) is almost twice that of the state (1,200 to 1) and is predicted to reach 3,560 to 1 in the next decade given the rising population and diminishing provider pool.
- **Critical Provider Shortages:** Nationally, it is projected that there will be a shortage of up to 40,000 primary care providers in the next decade. Currently, 2.5 million Oregonians live in areas that are designated as Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA), creating healthcare deserts across our state.

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Rural Healthcare Provider Shortage



Designated as Health Professional Shortage Area for Primary Care

NOT Designated as Health Professional Shortage Area for Primary Care

Urban Area

The Current Oregon Rural Health Landscape

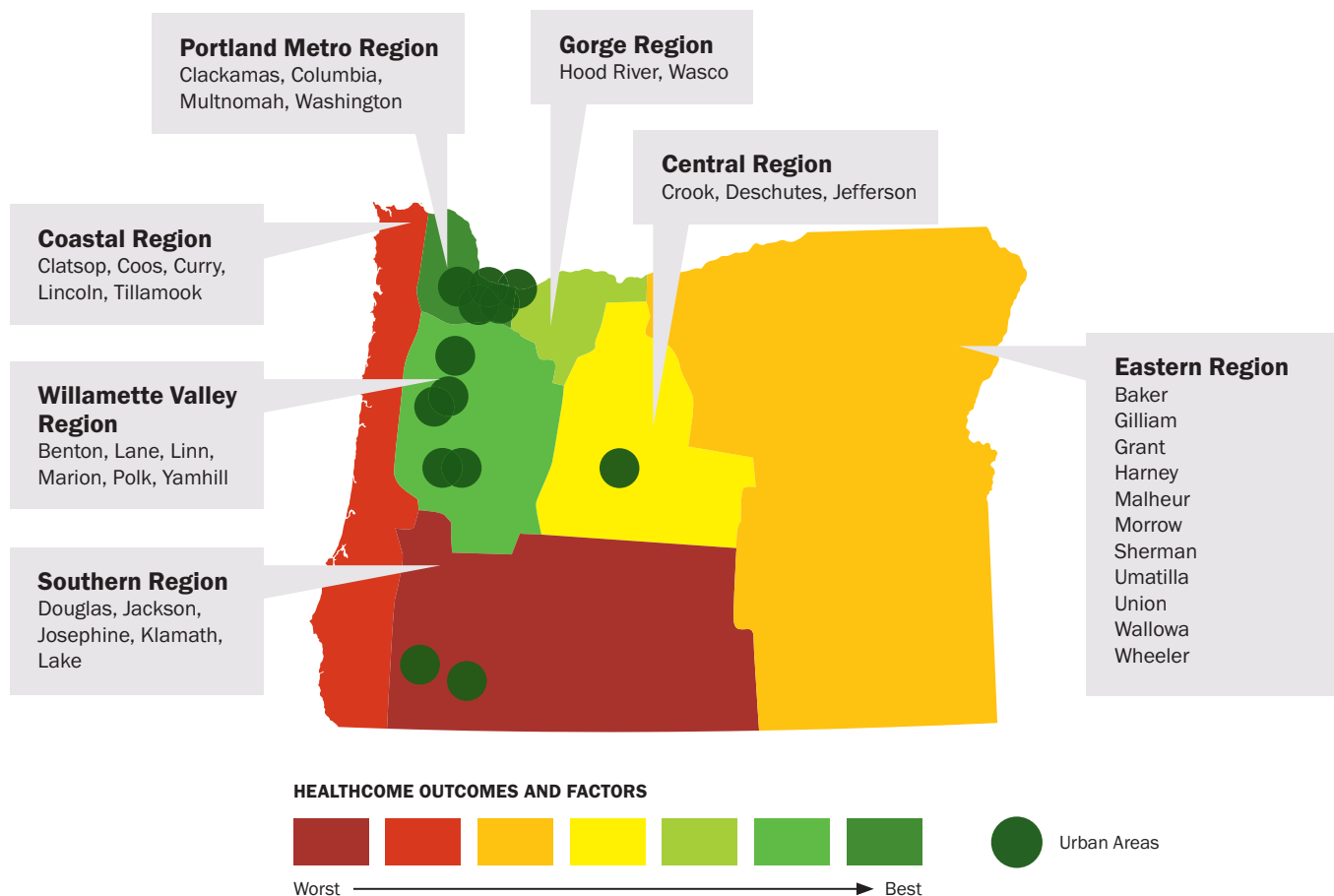
Reduced access to providers has significantly impacted health outcomes in rural areas across the state:

- **Preventable Tragedies:** Annually across rural Oregon an average of 2,700 more premature deaths occur than in urban population centers.
- **Lower Life Expectancy:** Oregonians living in rural areas are expected to live on average four years less than their counterparts in urban areas.
- **Increased Risk of Suicide:** The rate of completed suicides in rural Oregon is 1.75 times that of completed suicides in urban parts of the state.
- **Poor Quality of Life:** Rural Oregonians report significantly worse quality of life than those living in urban areas, indicating more days with Poor to Fair health as well as an increase occurrence of *Poor Physical and Mental Health Days*.

Health inequity across Oregon is easily recognizable when looking at the state, with the worst health outcomes occurring among rural regions (red and yellow), and the best health outcomes occurring within urban areas (green).

“After relocating for employment, my family was unable to establish with a primary care physician for over a year. Upon eventually meeting with a provider, we were told that my wife had a potentially severe health condition which had likely been worsening all that time. Had we been able to establish sooner, the risk to her health would have been significantly less. Lack of access to care in our rural area is a real problem.”

– Klamath County Resident





Growing Our Own Solution

Given the existing Oregon provider shortage and its impact upon health outcomes, the crisis within the state has reached a critical mass. The status quo is insufficient, with provider supply not meeting demand – and the forecast looks grim.

- **Current Medical School Applicants:** The only Oregon-based medical school (OHSU in Portland) accepts, on average, 250 students annually out of 6,400 applicants.
- **Surplus of Qualified Oregonians:** The majority of applicants to OHSU are Oregon residents, leaving thousands of qualified students to seek their medical degrees out of state.
- **If They Come, They Stay:** Research has documented that medical providers who complete at least half their education and training in rural settings are five times more likely to establish their practices in rural areas upon licensure.

What is needed, then, is a mechanism through which a supplemental pipeline of providers can be established within rural Oregon – and Oregon Tech is uniquely positioned to meet that very need.

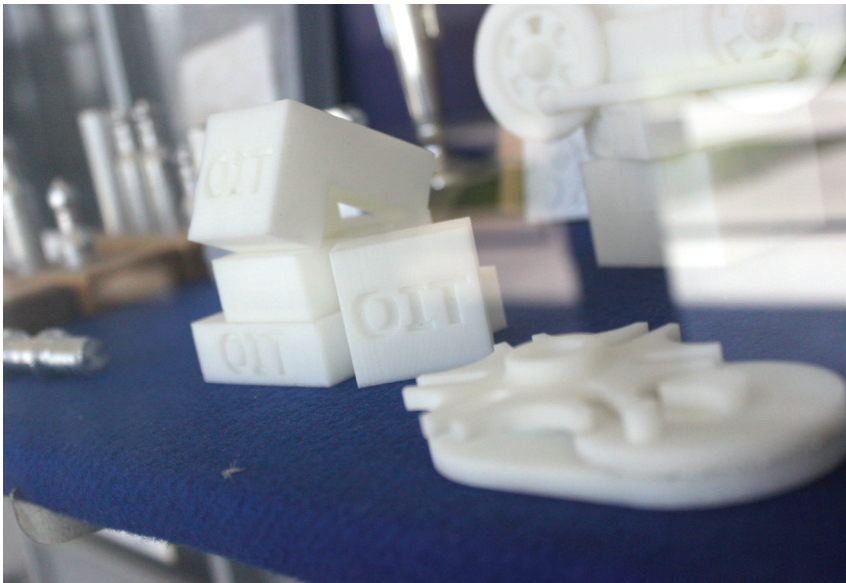


Medical providers who complete at least **half their education** and training in rural settings are **five times more** likely to establish their practices in rural areas upon licensure.

Oregon Tech: Proven Allied Health Education Excellence

Oregon Tech proposes a new College of Osteopathic Medicine specifically designed to address rural healthcare needs through innovative technologies and rural-focused training. Our institution brings a long history of health-related programming and a statewide mission that positions us for success:

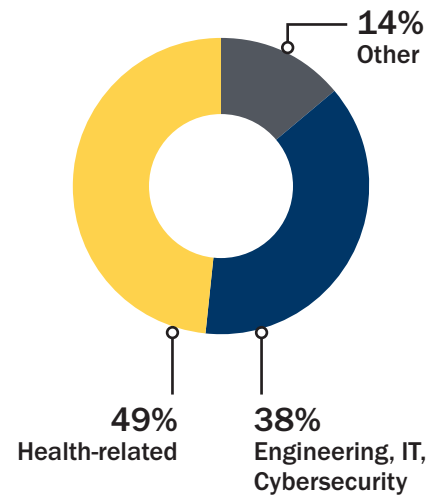
- **Breadth of Allied Health Programming:** Close to half (49%) of all graduates are working in health-related fields, and Oregon Tech has expanded allied health degrees (including a Doctorate in Physical Therapy and Masters in Biomedical Sciences). The health programs are well-established; for instance, both Medical Imaging Technology (MIT) and Dental Hygiene programs have been offering degrees for the past 50 years.
- **Collaboration with OHSU:** In addition to housing the OHSU School of Nursing on the Klamath Falls campus, Oregon Tech and OHSU have partnered to create three joint academic programs: Medical Laboratory Science, Emergency Medical Services, and the Doctorate in Physical Therapy degrees.
- **Existing Infrastructure:** The Martha Anne Dow Center for Health Professions facility houses state-of-the-art simulation centers used by all five of the Medical Imaging Technology modalities, as well as Respiratory Care, Biology Health Sciences and the OHSU School of Nursing.
- **Commitment to Polytechnic Approach:** As Oregon's Polytechnic University, Oregon Tech remains committed to a "hands on" applied learning approach that embraces innovation and technology. Oregon Tech will strive to create a tech-infused accelerated medical program in which students graduate in 3 years, given our experience in technology.



"Oregon Tech has consistently demonstrated excellence in health-care education. Our nursing and allied health programs achieve some of the highest board passage rates in the nation, and our graduates are sought after for their exceptional clinical skills and technological proficiency. The medical school is a natural evolution of our institutional strengths."

– Board Member

HEALTH-RELATED OREGON TECH GRADUATES





Oregon Tech & Sky Lakes Medical Center - geographically adjacent, promoting accelerated, practice-oriented student learning

- **Strong Clinical Partnerships:** Oregon Tech has developed a strong collaborative relationship with Sky Lakes Medical Center, whose service spans 10,000 square-mile radius in southern Oregon. Building on this well-established partnership, Sky Lakes is working with Oregon Tech on the medical school initiative. Further, active conversations regarding the medical school are occurring with various medical centers across the state. Finally, Oregon Tech has existing affiliation agreements across the state with clinical placements at which our students complete internships for additional hands-on training.
- **Regional Networks:** Recognizing the health crisis impacts all of rural Oregon, Oregon Tech is aligning regional partners who are similarly committed to changing the health landscape across all rural regions of the state.
- **Statewide Mission and Presence:** Oregon Tech has always had a statewide mission, and has already established campuses across Oregon, including the main campus at Klamath Falls, a location in Salem on the Chemeketa Community College campus, the Oregon Innovation and Manufacturing Center (OMIC) in Scappoose, and the Portland-Metro campus located in Wilsonville.

“The healthcare situation in rural Oregon has reached a critical point. We’re seeing patients who travel hours for basic care, and many who simply go without. Every week, I see conditions that could have been prevented or treated more effectively if caught earlier. We need a solution that addresses the unique challenges of rural health-care delivery.”

– Rural Healthcare Provider

Community & Economic Impact

Oregon's only public Osteopathic Medical School at Oregon Tech will transform the health landscape while creating substantial economic benefits:

Projected Outcomes:

- **Healthcare Access:** We aim to expand rural primary care physician coverage substantially, ensuring that thousands of underserved Oregonians gain access to the healthcare they need.
- **Healthcare Savings:** Improved access to preventive care will significantly reduce emergency department visits, resulting in substantial savings in avoidable healthcare costs each year.
- **Job Creation:** The medical school will generate significant job opportunities, creating direct positions and supporting additional employment throughout the region, boosting the local economy.
- **Economic Growth:** Economic impact analysis by the AAMC shows every \$1 invested will generate \$1.62 in regional economic activity. Using the national \$2,218 per capita rate for medical school and teaching hospital impact on the economy, the new medical school could translate to \$1 billion annually for the southern Oregon economy.

"The Oregon Tech Medical School represents a transformative investment in our state's future. Economic analysis shows it will not only address our critical healthcare provider shortage but also generate millions of dollars in economic activity every year. This is about creating healthier communities and a stronger economy for rural Oregon—the definition of a win-win proposition."

– David Cauble
President & CEO
Sky Lakes Medical Center



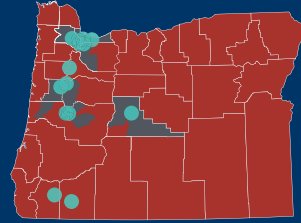
The Time To Act Is Now

With demand for primary care providers continuing to outpace supply, particularly in rural areas, we cannot afford to wait. The Oregon Tech medical school and Rural Health Initiative more broadly represents our best opportunity to address this crisis while positioning Oregon as a leader in innovative medical education.



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**A New Public Osteopathic
Medical School at Oregon Tech:**

**Technology & AI-Infused
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Accelerated Graduation Options.

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