

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030

CULTIVATING PROSPERITY



Oregon State
University





Vision

As OSU's founding college, we envision a thriving future rooted in agriculture, food systems and natural resources — where knowledge creates opportunity, innovation fuels sustainable solutions, and resilient ecosystems sustain the health and prosperity of people and communities in Oregon and around the world.

Mission

As a land grant institution committed to teaching, research, and outreach and engagement, Oregon State University promotes economic, social, cultural and environmental progress for the people of Oregon, the nation and the world.

Values

Our values build upon Oregon State University's commitments to excellence, equity, environmental stewardship and science-based information and communication. Our values are outlined in detail in our CAS CARE Commitment Document, which can be viewed online at beav.es/NAX.

Commitment to Inclusive Excellence

As Oregon's land grant university, we are committed to inclusive excellence in everything we do. Our college has developed a Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence that guides our efforts to embed belonging throughout our teaching, research and engagement. This includes supporting students from all backgrounds, expanding pathways into agricultural and natural resource careers and ensuring all members of our community have the opportunity to thrive.

View our Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence online here: beav.es/NAB

We acknowledge the history of the land grant system and our responsibility to engage respectfully and reciprocally with Tribal Nations. We honor Indigenous knowledge systems, support Tribal sovereignty and work in partnership to protect and manage land, water and food systems. Our programs include collaborative research, co-developed curricula and place-based outreach that centers Tribal voices and priorities.



Message from the Dean

At the College of Agricultural Sciences, we are proud to advance the goals of Oregon State University's strategic plan, *Prosperity Widely Shared*. Our plan, *Cultivating Prosperity*, reflects the vital role agriculture, food systems and natural resources plays in building a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable future for Oregon and the world.

We are prepared to lead the future of Oregon agriculture, food systems and natural resources. With deep roots in all 36 counties of the state and a global reach through research and education, our college is uniquely positioned to drive progress in rural and urban economic development, food security, environmental stewardship and climate resilience. In 2024, our work generated \$74 million in sponsored research expenditures — a 54% increase from \$48 million in 2017 — and we are on track to reach \$113 million by 2030, directly supporting OSU's research ambitions.

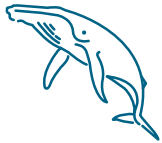
Our students are the next generation of leaders and innovators. Through experiential learning in the lab, in the field and across communities worldwide, they are equipped to tackle complex challenges and create meaningful change.

Cultivating Prosperity is our collective road map. It affirms our commitment to student success, research with impact and partnerships that strengthen Oregon. As we look ahead, we invite you to join us in cultivating a more resilient and prosperous future — for all.

Dr. Staci L. Simonich
Dean and Reub Long Professor
College of Agricultural Sciences
Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

CAS Strategic Advantages

The College of Agricultural Sciences brings strengths and unique opportunities to support the university's mission. Our four areas of strategic advantage are:



Coastal Food Systems and Conservation: We are internationally recognized for research, education and outreach on sustainable seafood systems, fisheries science and marine resource management that support the vitality of coastal communities.



Food Innovation for Health, Markets, and Access: Our transdisciplinary approach spans the entire food system — from production to nutrition — to drive health outcomes, build markets and improve food access.



Agricultural Competitiveness and Resilience: We help ensure Oregon agriculture remains competitive through science-based practices that boost resilience, productivity and sustainability amid climate and market challenges.



Working and Natural Landscapes: We deliver science-based information that guides stewards of Oregon's farms, forests, rangelands and watersheds and informs land-use decisions that balance ecological integrity with working landscapes.

These advantages position CAS to tackle global challenges while maintaining our foundational role in serving Oregon's communities.

Top Targets by 2030

- ▶ Increase annual sponsored research expenditures to \$113 million (up from \$74 million in 2024).
- ▶ Increase six-year graduation rate across all communities of students to 80% (up from 68% in 2024).
- ▶ Increase first-year retention rate to 95% (up from 91% in 2024).
- ▶ Increase student enrollment to 3,800 (up from 3,400 in fall 2024).
- ▶ Ensure every student participates in experiential learning.
- ▶ Expand international research and increase participation in study abroad programs.

OSU COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES BY THE NUMBERS | 2025

3400
Students

40
Degree Programs

280
Faculty

\$900K
In Scholarships

\$74 MILLION
In Total Research Expenditures

Strategic Goals, Actions and Tactics

GOAL 1: A UNIVERSITY FOCUSED ON BIG DISCOVERIES THAT DRIVE BIG SOLUTIONS

Action 1: Grow research capacity in OSU's four key priority areas

Tactics:

- ▶ Drive formation and success of strategic transdisciplinary teams that advance climate science, clean energy, robotics and AI, integrated health and biotechnology and related solutions within the CAS Strategic Advantage Themes as shown in the chart below.
- ▶ Recruit, develop and retain top faculty and leadership.
- ▶ Provide strategic project management and administrative support to enable the success of large transdisciplinary research collaborations.
- ▶ Develop strategies for a more fiscally sustainable and robust graduate student and postdoctoral fellow research enterprise.

Climate Science	Clean Energy	Robotics & AI	Integrated Health/Biotech	
<p>Mapping marine mammal hotspots to guide offshore energy site selection</p> <p>Ocean acidification</p> <p>Fisheries management and climate impacts</p>	<p>Mitigating impacts of wave energy on coastal fisheries</p>	<p>Robotics in underwater research</p> <p>Computer vision of underwater landscapes and analysis</p> <p>Sensors and decision tools</p>	<p>Water for food and healthy ecosystems</p> <p>Emerging plant and animal diseases (shellfish)</p> <p>Toxin exposure</p> <p>PFAS, forever chemicals, microplastics and food</p>	<p>Coastal Food Systems and Conservation</p>
<p>Sustainable food processing, packaging and food process engineering</p>	<p>Energy recovery from food process engineering</p>	<p>Robotics in food processing and packaging</p> <p>Robotics in research sampling and analysis</p>	<p>Sustainable food processing, packaging and food process engineering</p> <p>Emerging plant and animal diseases</p> <p>Foods for health</p> <p>Toxin exposure</p> <p>PFAS, forever chemicals, microplastics and food</p>	<p>Food Innovation for Health, Markets and Access</p>
<p>Agroforestry</p> <p>Water for food</p> <p>Soil health</p> <p>Livestock and carbon</p>	<p>Bioenergy solutions</p> <p>Agriculture, clean energy and social impacts</p> <p>Energy economics</p>	<p>Farm labor crisis</p> <p>Robotics and AI in research sampling and analysis</p> <p>Sensors and decision tools</p> <p>Next-generation resilient crops</p>	<p>Social dimensions of autonomous farming</p> <p>Soil health</p> <p>Emerging plant and animal diseases</p>	<p>Agricultural Competitiveness and Resilience</p>
<p>Wildlife and rangeland management</p> <p>Water for food</p> <p>Ocean acidification</p> <p>Soil health</p>	<p>Agrivoltaics</p> <p>Social dimensions of autonomous farming</p>	<p>Robotics in research sampling and analysis</p> <p>Computer vision tools</p> <p>Sensors and decision tools</p> <p>Next-generation resilient crops</p>	<p>Social dimensions of autonomous farming</p> <p>Clean water for food</p> <p>Soil health</p> <p>PFAS, forever chemicals, microplastics and food</p>	<p>Working and Natural Landscapes</p>

GOAL 2: A UNIVERSITY WHERE EVERY STUDENT GRADUATES

Action 1: Strengthen pathways to and through CAS degree programs

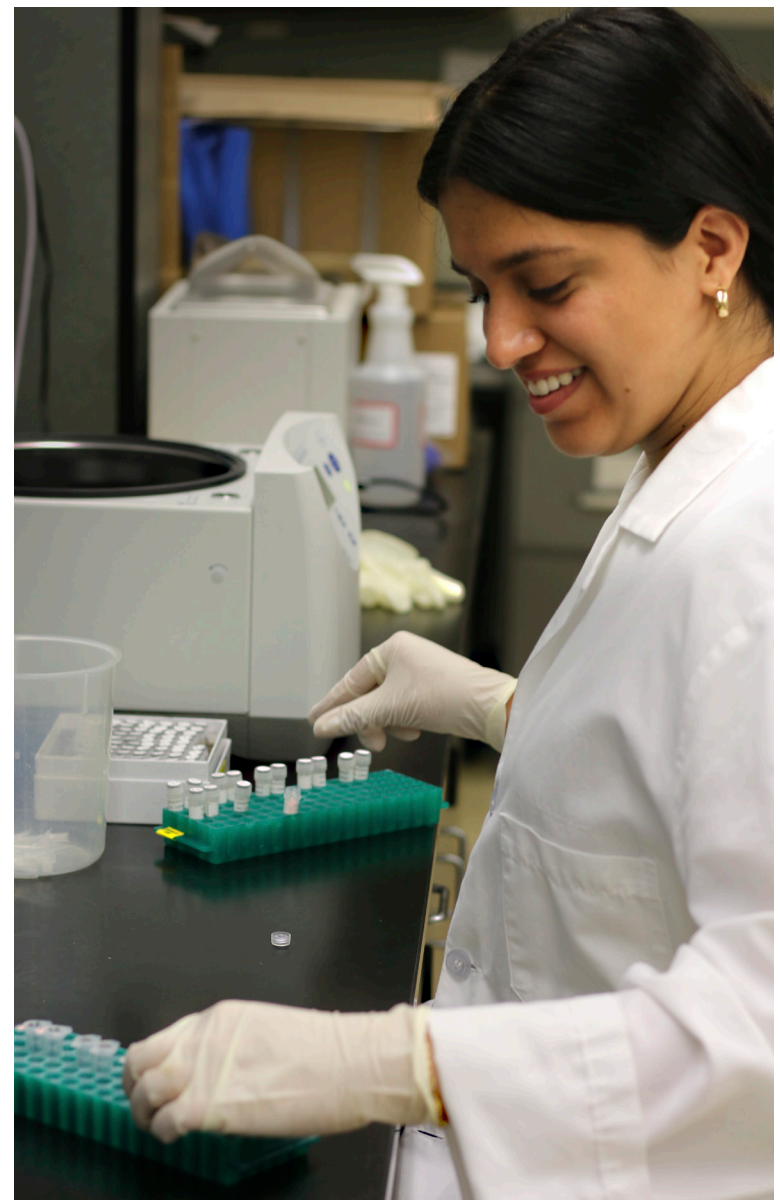
Tactics:

- ▶ Expand access to credentials by launching an online B.S. in Animal Science (identified by OSU as a top candidate for helping reach 30,000 online students by 2030), developing stackable certificates in high-demand fields, and increasing the number of professional master's degree offerings.
- ▶ Prepare graduate students for a wide range of career trajectories with expanded interdisciplinary training and professional development.
- ▶ Implement student advising renovation to increase student retention and graduation rates for all students.
- ▶ Increase student participation in experiential education and cocurricular activities.
- ▶ Ensure all students gain relevant experience with applications of AI and data science for their disciplines and future careers.

Action 2: Reduce disparities in student success

Tactics:

- ▶ Grow *Finish in Four* Endowment and other student scholarships to increase access to and retention of first-generation and Pell-eligible students.
- ▶ Embed career development into the curriculum by expanding participation in our Career Champions program and Beyond OSU.
- ▶ Implement early-term monitoring of student performance to enable intervention by academic advisors and course instructors.
- ▶ Expand partnerships with Oregon's community colleges to align the curriculum and support students transferring between institutions.
- ▶ Develop a more deliberate strategy for recruitment, retention, and completion for all students pursuing graduate education.



GOAL 3: A UNIVERSITY THAT FUELS A THRIVING WORLD

Action 1: Deepen partnerships with communities, government agencies, and industry to increase resilience and economic growth

Tactics:

- ▶ Develop and implement a comprehensive economic development and industry relations strategy focused on the food and beverage sector.
- ▶ Expand engagement with urban and rural communities, including a broad and representative range of stakeholders, through inclusive, needs-driven engagement initiatives.
- ▶ Listen and collaborate with community and industry leaders to deliver cutting-edge workforce training and retraining in advanced technologies.
- ▶ Build targeted public-private partnerships with government agencies and industry that align our academic expertise with critical stakeholders and market needs.

Action 2: Grow international collaborations and global learning

Tactics:

- ▶ Promote and expand our student exchange programs.
- ▶ Celebrate our international students, researchers, faculty and collaborators.
- ▶ Increase participation in study abroad programs and international internships.
- ▶ Increase global research partnerships in agriculture, food systems and natural resource management.

Action 3: Accelerate translation of discoveries into impact

Tactics:

- ▶ Streamline pathways for translating academic research into real-world applications and scalable technologies.
- ▶ Develop innovation test beds and translational research hubs to bridge university discovery with industry implementation.
- ▶ Launch targeted seed-funding programs to spark high-impact, application-oriented research.
- ▶ Streamline partnership processes by establishing clear and consistent pathways for industry engagement and collaboration.
- ▶ Enhance flexibility and responsiveness in intellectual property protection and licensing strategies.

We are shaping the future of agriculture, food systems and natural resource management while educating tomorrow's leaders. With roots in Oregon and global reach, the College of Agricultural Sciences is uniquely positioned to advance *Prosperity Widely Shared* through innovation, adaptation, inclusion and impact.

Join us in cultivating a future where prosperity is truly shared.





Oregon State University
College of Agricultural
Sciences