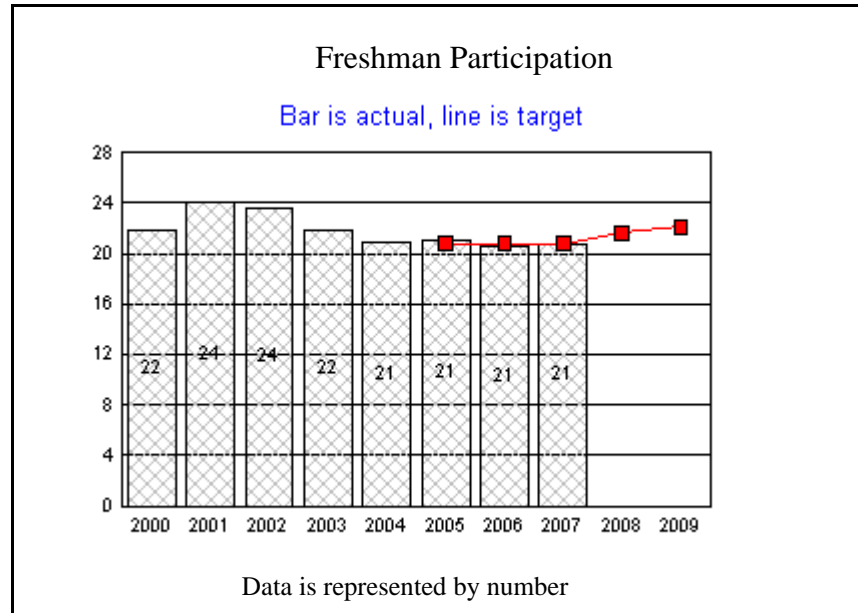


<b>KPM #24</b>	FRESHMAN PARTICIPATION - Oregon freshman participation rate in OUS institutions.	2005
<b>Goal</b>	Access: Expand access to students who meet admission standards - entering freshmen	
<b>Oregon Context</b>	OBM24 - Some college completion, OBM26 - College completion, OBM11 - Per capita income	
<b>Data Source</b>	OUS Institutional Research Services	
<b>Owner</b>	OUS Strategic Programs and Planning, Charles Triplett (503) 725-5717	



**1. OUR STRATEGY**

Strengthen collaborative efforts with ODE to enhance college preparation and alignment and streamline process.

**2. ABOUT THE TARGETS**

In 2006 and 2007, performance on this measure, while improving, fell just below the target. Future targets are aimed to increase the rate and coincide with legislatively approved funding designated to help increase performance on this measure.

### 3. HOW WE ARE DOING

The freshman participation rate—representing Oregon high school graduates enrolling in an Oregon public university—spiked in 2001, responding to an increase in state funding during the 1999 session. The rate fell steadily since then, with the exception of a small upturn in 2005. In 2007, the participation rate rose again slightly in what is hoped to be a reversal of this trend. Corresponding to the declining participation rate, the proportion of new first-time freshman at OUS institutions who are Oregon residents has decreased from 81% in 2003 to 72% in 2007.

### 4. HOW WE COMPARE

In 2004, Oregon ranked 9th among 15 western states on the percentage of recent high school graduates enrolled in degree-granting 2-year or 4-year institutions in the state, falling slightly below the average (WICHE).

### 5. FACTORS AFFECTING RESULTS

Participation in postsecondary education is influenced by several factors including real and perceived college costs, the availability of need-based financial aid, state and regional economic outlook and job markets, the aspiration of high school graduates, and family and cultural values and perceptions. Additionally, it is possible that statewide access and alignment efforts could produce greater enrollment of Oregon high school graduates in postsecondary education, but lower OUS participation rates if more students choose to attend community colleges directly out of high school, entering OUS later as transfer students.

### 6. WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE

In addition to cross-sector alignment initiatives, OUS is strengthening efforts to communicate the importance of a college education for personal fulfillment, for Oregon's workforce, and for securing a family-wage job. As the demographic character of Oregon's population shifts, the Board's Committee on Student Participation and Completion has embarked on a statewide effort to improve access, participation, retention, and success of underserved Oregon populations. During 2007, committee members heard public and practitioner testimony about particular challenges faced by rural Oregonians, racial and ethnic minorities, students with disabilities, and low-income and first-generation college students. As a result of these findings, OUS is requesting funds to support the Student Success Initiative aimed to bolster pre-college academic preparation and in-college retention and support programs.

**7. ABOUT THE DATA**

The freshman participation rate is the ratio of OUS first-time freshmen from Oregon high schools (regardless of year of graduation) to Oregon high school graduates of the previous school year. The high school graduate population includes an estimate of graduates who were home schooled. Data for high school graduates is managed by the Oregon Department of Education. Additional data on freshman participation is available in the OUS Fact Book at [www.ous.edu](http://www.ous.edu).