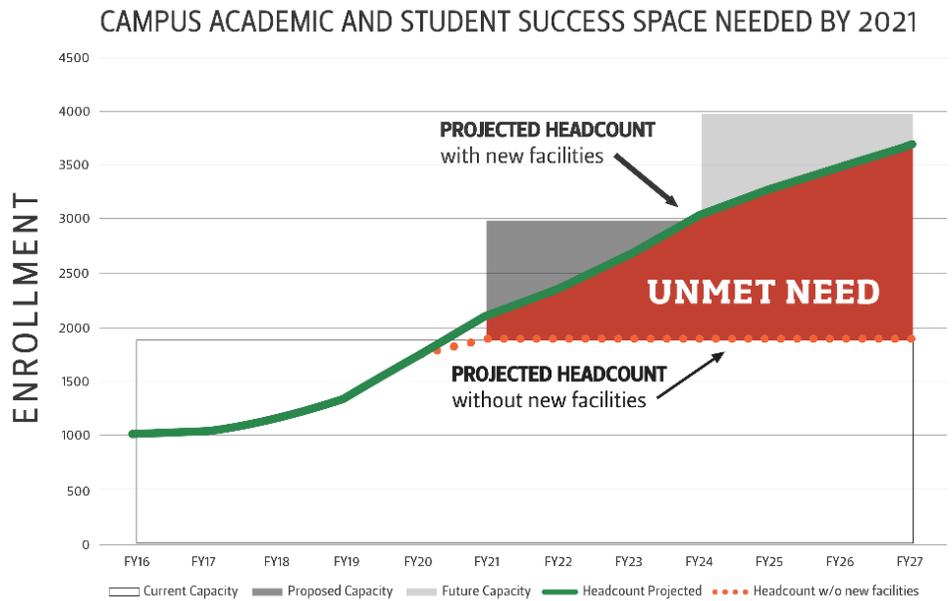


# Serving a Growing Economy and an Education Desert

Oregon State University - Cascades in Bend is Oregon’s fastest growing public university campus, and has been since 2011. Its responsibility is to serve 3,000 to 5,000 students by 2025 to meet state education goals. Yet by 2021, the current academic and student support facilities on the 10-acre campus will be at capacity. Without the investment of \$69.5 million in state funding for an additional academic building and a Student Success Center this biennium, OSU-Cascades will be unable to meet the educational needs of the state’s fastest growing and most underserved region.



## ECONOMIC IMPACT

Central Oregon’s economy is growing fast and diversifying. Employers are looking to OSU-Cascades to provide skilled workers in new industries: High-tech, Biosciences, Healthcare, Manufacturing.

By 2025 OSU-Cascades will contribute:

- \$197.8m** In statewide economic output
- \$72.7m** In operations, construction activities
- 2,083** Jobs
- \$3.43m** Additional annual state income taxes

## RURAL CHALLENGES

A 2016 American Council on Education study describes Central Oregon as an *Education Desert*.

The region lags behind the rest of Oregon in higher educational attainment, and the gap in rural Crook and Jefferson counties is significant.

The study shows most freshmen who attend a public university do so within 50 miles of home, so OSU-Cascades is critical for serving Central Oregon’s rural families.

But without additional capacity, OSU-Cascades will be unable to serve these students, and they are twice as likely to be unemployed and ill-equipped to participate in Oregon’s prosperity.

## UNDERSERVED STUDENTS

OSU-Cascades’ student body reflects the demographics of an underserved and rural community:

- 70%** Central Oregonians
- 21%** from C.O. rural communities
- 35%** first generation college students
- 50%** Pell Grant eligible, indicating financial need
- 18%** US minority students, a 50% increase since 2011

With additional capacity, OSU-Cascades can continue to serve these populations, transforming students’ and families’ lives.