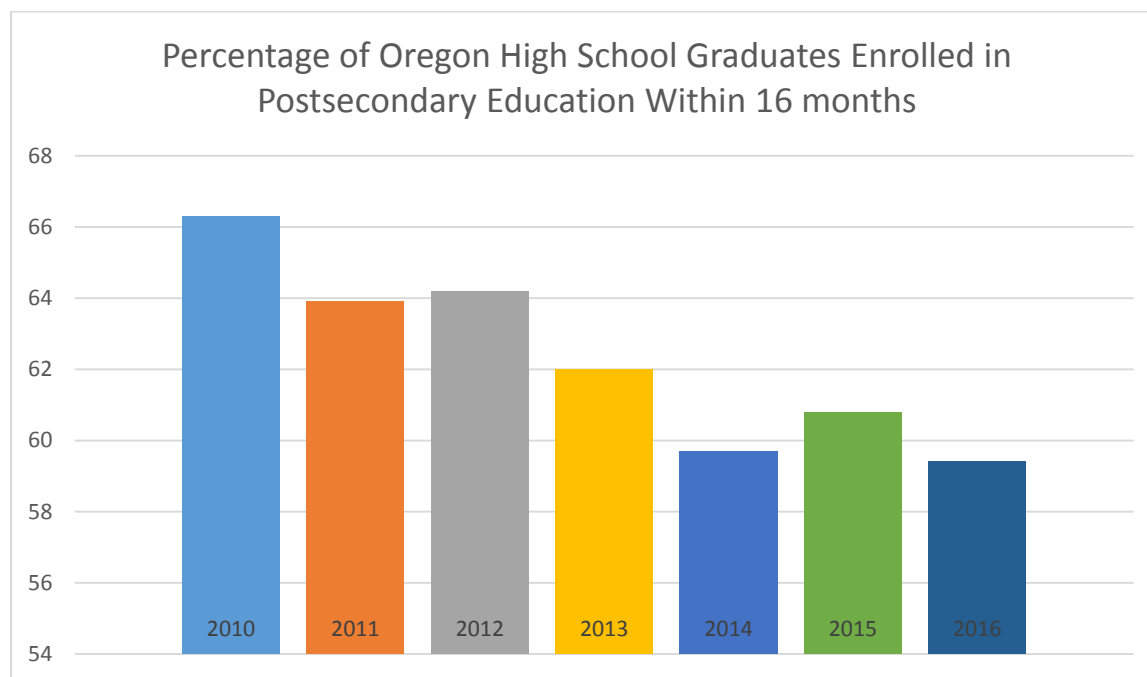


OREGON ASSOCIATION OF SCHOLARS



Oregon's declining rates of college-bound students

In 2016, the declining trend of higher education enrollment rates for Oregon high school graduates continued. Oregon's enrollment rate is now about 10 percentage points below the national average. One problem may be that two of our biggest universities – the University of Oregon and Portland State University – do not perform very well in Department of Education measures of student earnings after graduation. The best performer in the state in this regard is the University of Portland. Another problem, highlighted by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission, may be that aspirations to a college education have simply declined. The high ideals and rigorous challenges of higher education, and the prestige associated with it, have lost attraction in the minds of many young Oregonians perhaps because they have been steadily undermined by the institutions themselves. The Oregon Association of Scholars believes that only a single-minded focus on excellence in research and teaching at Oregon colleges and universities can bring greater numbers of high school graduates into higher education.



Source: State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission