



OREGON COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

*Expanding Opportunities
for Oregonians with
Vision Loss*

Vocational Rehabilitation

CORE

*COLLABORATION OF REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION

Overview & purpose of MOU

Pursuant to requirements established in the 1998 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act (Title IV of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998) this memorandum of understanding shall be the mechanism used to formalize an agreement between VR, OCB and College/University, as signatory parties to the MOU regarding their responsibilities to individuals with disabilities who are enrolled within the university setting. This agreement is intended to clarify roles, functions, and facilitate achievement of educational aspirations of individuals served by VR and OCB.

What does CORE do?

Utilize a Collaboration of Rehabilitation and Education (CORE) group to share information as professionals about each other's program to enhance collaboration and resources available to individuals with disabilities. This collaborative forum promotes the exchange of information on rehabilitation, education, and issues of common concern. The CORE group may examine policy issues and process improvements to further the goals of the MOU. The CORE group consists of University and Community College representatives from each region, VR, OCB, and CCWD (Department of Community Colleges and Workforce Development). On an annual basis, the representatives appointed to the CORE group will determine the schedule and format of these meetings, considering the large group, regional, and virtual opportunities as appropriate to ensure stakeholder involvement.

Collaboration of Rehabilitation & Education

CORE Standing Committee

Purpose: This standing committee serves the purpose of planning and communicating opportunities for collaboration between Oregon Colleges, Universities, Vocational Rehabilitation, and Oregon Commission for the Blind, and disseminating the information that comes from these connections.

Composition and Representation: Each entity will choose their representatives:

OCB – 2 representatives – MOU Contact and Transition

VR – 2 representatives – MOU Contact and Field Services

ORAHEAD – 3 representatives - Community Colleges and Universities and Private Institutions

Collaboration On Rehabilitation and Education

- *Some Colleges and Universities didn't understand VR/OCB's role, rules or regulations
- *CORE group created to be a bridge for dialogue to best serve people with disabilities
- *CORE can remind parties of the purpose, agreements, etc. of the collaboration
- *Important for VRCs to know their roles and responsibilities in this agreement
- *VR clients who are students need to be able to go to school prepared with the things they need to be successful
 - o *Equal Access to Higher Education
 - o *Break down system barriers
 - o *Remove barriers
 - o *Access Accommodations

MOU for a common goal

Similar missions with
common goals from 2
different programs

MOU for a common goal

Higher Education =

Educational Goal

MOU for a common goal

VR/ OCB =

Vocational Goal

MOU for a common goal

*Assisting Oregonians with
disabilities to achieve
employment and
independence*

Significance of MOUs

- *VR & OCB are required to have MOU with universities & colleges
- *Ensure that qualifying students with disabilities receive necessary services
- *VR/OCB can share cost with higher education
- *Get to know your CORE Group...We are here for you!!!

MOU

If each party can have a better understanding of each others roles and responsibilities, we can work together to provide the best services possible for students with disabilities

CORE: VR

VR:

Keith Ozols, YTP Statewide Coordinator

503-945-5679

keith.s.ozols@state.or.us

OCB:

Sam Smith, MS, CRC- Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

541-447-1364

Samantha.smith@state.or.us

Morgan Rincon, MS, CRC- Business Relations Coordinator

971-673-1593

morgan.rincon@state.or.us

CORE: ORAHEAD

Earlee Kerekes-Mishra

Manager of Intake, Retention and Transition Disability Access Services

Oregon State University

541-737-4098 Earlee.Kerekes-Mishra@oregonstate.edu

Melanie Gangle, MS, CRC

Program Manager, Accessible Education Services

Shepard Academic Resource Center

University of Portland

503-943-8236 gangle@up.edu

Carol Raymundo

raymundo@linnbenton.edu

THANK YOU!
