

Southwestern Community College (Coos Bay)

Overview of Manufacturing-Related Programs and Career Pathways

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Overview of Manufacturing Program(s)	The current manufacturing-related program at Southwestern is limited to welding and fabrication (AAS and certificate), as both machining and electronics were closed in recent years as instructors left, costs rose and enrollments declined. The college was recently awarded a \$ 128,000 cluster grant to build the Oregon Metals in Transportation Pathway for Coos and Curry Counties. Industry partners in the metals and transportation equipment sectors will link with educators and skill trainers to create, revise and align curricula with current industry standards.
Approach to Pathways/ Pathways Grant	Southwestern has taken a very “holistic” approach to career pathways, looking at processes from a systems perspective across high school, community college and four year institutions. The college has developed seven Pathways Certificates in the past three years, one of which –Welding Assistant – is manufacturing related. The pathway, which is pending state approval, is a “chunk” of the AAS degree in Welding/Fabrication and intended to offer students the very entry-level skills needed for employment in the field.
Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diverse set of small employers; no real critical mass in any one industry. ▪ Welding/Fabrication addresses a common high-demand occupation across various industries, but requirements may vary and some employers may not accept the shorter Pathways Certificate as meeting their needs, even for an entry-level position. ▪ Lack of financial aide for part time students without a declared major. ▪ Concerns about disconnects in the data system – what counts as a “completer” and who gets credit .
Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impending retirements in other high-demand manufacturing occupations, such as machining, may create an opportunity for the college to reevaluate its current limited offerings. ▪ New grant funding will help solidify relationships with regional employers.
Relationship with Secondary Schools re Manufacturing	Southwestern enjoys a strong relationship with area high schools from the ten surrounding school districts. The President and two area superintendents have established a Manufacturing Task Force to take a hard look at successful implementation of the new Perkins legislation to address manufacturer needs. While metals is still a focus, cross-cutting skills in construction and automotive will also be explored.
Relationship with WIB and/or Registered Apprenticeship	Southwestern Oregon Community College Regional Workforce Investment Board Representative, Arlene Soto, Workforce Development Executive Director, maintains Southwestern’s connection with the RWIB. One of the industry members of the RWIB is on the Oregon Metals in Transportation for Coos and Curry County Cluster grant committee.

Manufacturing-Related Pathways Focus (MP) Other Manufacturing-Related Offerings (M)

HS/Perkins Linkages	ABE/ VESL	Pre-Welding	Pathways (12-44 hours)	Certificates (45 hours)	Two-Year Degrees	Apprenticeship
MP		MP	MP	MP	MP	M