Get to Know OSU
Self-Guided Tour of Campus

Oregon State University’s main campus is over 400 acres and has 121 buildings – needless to say you will only have a chance to see a small part of it! Tuition was $10 a term in 1870 when the first degrees were awarded to a class of three (one woman and two men). There are currently over 19,000 students from all 50 states and 90 foreign countries.

1. Memorial Union & Quad

   In the quad or on the front steps.
   In 1920 the students proposed plans for a Memorial Union to honor heroes from WWI. The site was excavated by steam shovel but rocks and dirt were removed by horses with carts. The MU opened in 1928 and remains a popular place with students today. The quad (lawn) out front often has information booths, live music, and students just hanging out.

   Go up the steps from the main entrance, then up the stairs into the lounge.
   There are two murals in the Rotunda as you go up the stairs: one reflects the sea grant studies at OSU and the other is a WWI battlefield in France representing why the MU was built. The MU Main Lounge (called the students’ living room) features couches and chairs for between-class studying or naps. All of the flags overhead symbolize a student or faculty member from that particular country.

   On the main level:
   Stop into the Bookstore (down the hall to your left) for some orange-and-black Beaver apparel or have a lunch break at the Commons (down the hall to the right) and mingle with OSU students and staff who eat and study here during the day. Students use cash or OSU debit cards (in the dining halls) to purchase meals. There are 17 different restaurants, cafés and stores throughout campus – anything from hamburgers to Chinese food! Notice the beaver motif everywhere (exterior door handles, tiles, etc) and check out the Benny the Beaver statue, carved from a single redwood tree by the father of an OSU student.

   Downstairs:
   The Basement is a recreation area for OSU students, with a TV, pool tables, bowling, and video games.

2. Weatherford Hall

   (Point it out across the street from the MU; you will not be able to enter.)
   One of 14 residence halls that together hold 3200 students, Weatherford houses many students who are interested in business. Inside are dorm rooms, a café, a business library, two classrooms, high speed internet, music rooms, a TV room, laundry facilities, a kitchen and a sauna for use by the residents. You may recognize the distinctive architecture from OSU brochures and advertisements!

3. Fairbanks Art Gallery

   (Just inside the main entrance. Please do not touch any artwork.)
   Built in 1892, this historic wood frame structure is home to the Department of Art. Fairbanks Gallery features free exhibits focusing on contemporary northwest regional, national, and international artists. Past exhibitions have included photography, sculpture, paintings, and drawings and present students, faculty and the public access to gallery talks, classroom workshops, critiques and public lectures. Feel free to check out what’s displayed today.

4. The Women’s Building

   (From the main entrance, go up the stairs into the lounge.)
   Completed in 1926, the Women’s Building was designed by architect John V. Bennes of Portland, who designed more than 20 OSU campus buildings constructed from 1910 through the 1930’s. However, this was his only campus commission as a result of an open competition and is considered by many to be his
masterpiece. The building originally served as the women’s-only gym; today both men and women study at the College of Health & Human Sciences.

5. **Cordley Hall – Bird Exhibit**
   *(Enter through doors on the east side—then turn left—it’s near room 1109.)*
   This is a mounted bird exhibit with birds of all types (and their eggs) on display. Some of the birds will be familiar and others might be unknown. Try to identify birds that live in Oregon and others that definitely live in other climates.
   You will pass by Room 1109 – be quiet as class might be in progress. This is a typical lecture hall that holds over 240 students!

6. **Kelley Engineering Center**
   *(Walk into the building through any of the entrances.)*
   This is OSU’s newest building, completed in 2005. It is considered to be a “green” building—built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) specifications for sustainability.

   Sustainable features include:
   1. **Windows that work**—Building occupants can regulate the temperature by opening or closing windows, making fresh air always an option. The building responds to an open window by turning off the heat to that room.
   2. **Catch the light**—The central atrium and windowed wall surfaces supply virtually all classrooms, labs, and offices with natural light, cutting lighting costs up to 40%.
   3. **Hanging mobiles**—Keep the air circulating, driving the warm air at the top toward the bottom.
   4. **Keep it cool**—A highly reflective white roof reduces heat absorption and helps keep the building cooler on hot days.
   5. **Planters that work**—Not only do the planters contain native plant species and make a great place to sit outdoors, they also act as bio-filters, removing unwanted contaminants.
   6. **Save the rain**—Rainwater falling on the roof and into planters is collected and stored to provide water to flush toilets and irrigate the landscape, reducing water usage by more than 60%.
   7. **Fewer cars and CO₂**—Indoor bicycle parking and showers, covered outdoor bicycle racks, and easy access to Corvallis and University bus routes encourage the use of alternate transportation modes.
   8. **Save Energy**—Because of energy efficiency systems employed throughout, the building uses about 60% of the energy consumed by a similar conventional building.
   9. **Solar sizzle**: Hot water from the sun—Solar panels on the roof produce 2400 watts that heat water for sinks and showers, and a roof-top solar collector assists with water heating.

7. **The Valley Library**
   *(You may walk in and look around – but shhh! Students are studying.)*
   The Valley Library contains over 1.4 million books and was named national Library of the Year in 1999. It contains the largest collection of Pacific Northwest art. **Please do not touch any artwork.** There is a Linus Pauling exhibit in the library; he is the only person to receive two individual Nobel Prize – Chemistry (1954) and Peace (1962). An OSU alum, he died in 1994 and gave his private collection of papers to the university.

8. **Dixon Rec Center and Athletic Stadiums**
   *(Unfortunately you won’t be able to enter Dixon Rec or the stadiums. Goss Stadium is directly behind Dixon Rec; Gill Coliseum and Reser Stadium are across the street to the south.)*
   Students stay in shape at Dixon Recreation Center. Facilities include a weight room stocked with free weights and machines, cardio rooms with treadmills and stair machines, an indoor rock climbing center, swimming pools, and courts for a variety of sports including basketball, badminton, volleyball, squash, and racquetball.
   **Goss Stadium at Coleman Field** is the home of the NCAA College World Series National Champions—the 2006 and 2007 OSU Baseball teams. **Gill Coliseum** hosts men’s and women’s basketball,
women’s volleyball and women’s gymnastics competitions. The football team plays in Reser Stadium; notice
the football sculpture outside. Every large public building in Oregon constructed or renovated must set aside a
small percentage of the funds for art – so here there is “football art”!

**ACADEMICS & RESEARCH**
OSU is just one of two universities to be designated a land, sea, space and sun grant institution.
Benton Hall is the oldest building on campus, built in 1889. It now holds the Music Department; listen for
practicing pianists or opera singers while walking by.

There are Dairy, Horse, and Sheep Centers where students study animal science and a Vet School and Clinic
that cares for cats, dogs, goats, llamas, horses and many other kinds of creatures.

The O.H. Hinsdale Wave Lab is one of the most advanced laboratories for coastal research with a Tsunami
Wave Basin the size of an Olympic swimming pool that models the effects of tsunamis on coastal regions.

McDonald-Dunn Research Forest has 11,000 acres of forest and trails just 15 minutes north of campus for
public and university use.

Fun research facts: OSU research led to the invention of the dog and cat flea collar and the maraschino cherry
(1923). Ice cream sundaes wouldn’t be the same without OSU!

**ATHLETICS**
The history of athletics at OSU starts in 1893, with the debut of the orange-and-black school colors and a
mascot named Jimmie the coyote at the first football game. OSU became the Beavers in 1910 and Benny the
Beaver made his first appearance in 1952.

OSU has had four Olympic athletes, including Dick Fosbury who won gold in the high jump in 1968 with his
“Fosbury Flop” technique.

The Division I teams include: *Men’s* – Football, Basketball, Wrestling, Crew, Soccer, Golf, and Baseball (who
won the national championship in 2006 and 2007!) and *Women’s* – Volleyball, Soccer, Basketball, Gymnastics,
Swimming, Softball, Crew, Cross Country, Track, and Golf.

**STUDENT LIFE**
Go see the world while getting college credit – there are 170 programs in 70 countries that OSU’s Study Abroad
Office offers. OSU was the first university in the nation to offer the International Degree, which requires
students to study abroad.

Students can participate in over 300 different clubs and organizations, from the Dodgeball Club to fraternities
and sororities to the Solar Vehicle Club. It’s easy to express your views around campus on the radio and TV
stations on camups, KVBR-FM and KVBR-TV, or in the newspaper the Daily Barometer.

There are four cultural centers on campus open to everyone that promote diversity on campus: the Lonnie B.
Harris Black Cultural Center, the Centro Cultural César Chávez, the Native American Longhouse, and the
Asian and Pacific Cultural Center.