

Oregon Land Transfer to University Frequently Asked Questions

What is the timeline for groundbreaking?

Now that the land has officially been transferred to WesternU, we can begin the process of defining development phases and priorities. A formal timeline will be shared once planning milestones are in place.

When will WesternU launch a graduate program in behavioral health therapy?

Development of a much-needed program dedicated to training behavioral health professionals is underway. In addition, WesternU plans to launch an Interprofessional Behavioral Health Institute (IBHI), which will play a pivotal role in supporting rural and medically vulnerable populations—especially individuals experiencing homelessness, who face disproportionate mental health challenges. Together, the program and the IBHI will advance education, research, clinical care, and community outreach across Oregon and the Pacific Northwest. Updates will be shared as program planning and infrastructure development continue.

Is WesternU Oregon opening a College of Graduate Nursing?

The College of Graduate Nursing is in the planning phase for offering an MSN-Entry program in Oregon. The program is being developed in response to regional workforce needs, with a focus on preparing advanced practice nurses to support rural and medically vulnerable in areas such as primary care, behavioral health, emergency services, and health systems leadership.

Will CHS-Northwest move? What will happen to the existing CHS-Northwest building?

Yes. As part of our vision to create a fully integrated health sciences campus, CHS-Northwest will establish a presence on the new property. The current CHS-Northwest facility will continue to be utilized to support WesternU's academic and operational needs.

What will happen to the existing COMP-Northwest building?

The current COMP-Northwest building will continue to be utilized to support WesternU's academic and operational needs.

How can faculty and staff get involved in shaping the new campus or its programs?

Faculty and staff have already played a key role in shaping the vision for the new campus through a series of listening sessions and planning conversations, and their input has been instrumental in getting us to this point. As the project progresses, their voices will continue to be a top priority. We're committed to creating additional opportunities for faculty and staff to stay engaged, offer feedback, and help shape both the physical campus and the programs it supports.

How is this being funded? Will there be a capital campaign? When?

The new campus project will be funded primarily through philanthropy. We anticipate launching a capital campaign to support this effort, but the timing has not yet been determined. We're currently in the early stages of planning and conducting preliminary research to help inform our next steps. Once that work is complete, we'll share more details about the campaign and how the broader community can get involved.

Will the public have access to parts of the campus (e.g., trails, green space, events)?

The new campus will function as an open and inclusive resource for the Lebanon community, promoting the health and well-being of its residents through a permeable site design that will embrace nature. The property already has access to the Build Lebanon Trails trail system and will include convenient outdoor spaces open to community members. The site will reflect environmental stewardship and community partnership.

How will this impact the City of Lebanon?

WesternU aims to be a positive and lasting addition to the Lebanon community. Property plans have been developed with thoughtful consideration for abutting neighbors and surrounding businesses, and we are committed to maintaining open lines of communication as the project moves forward. Community feedback played an important role in shaping the initial master plan, and we will continue to seek input from residents, leaders, and organizations as planning progresses. In addition to enhancing the physical landscape, the new campus is expected to bring economic growth, new jobs, and expanded access to health care services and educational opportunities.

Are there relocation or hiring plans related to the new campus?

Yes, the new campus represents an expansion of WesternU, and with that growth will come new job opportunities in the region. While no specific decisions have been made yet regarding relocation or hiring, we anticipate that the development of the campus will create roles across a range of academic, clinical, and operational areas. As plans become more defined, we'll share updates and involve our community in the process.

How will WesternU determine which facilities to prioritize?

Facilities will be prioritized based on the programs with the most pressing space needs. This includes evaluating factors such as class sizes, instructional demands, research capacity, and the need for specialized spaces like simulation labs. In addition to academic areas, support functions such as student services, campus safety, information technology, and facilities maintenance will also be considered to ensure they can adequately support expanded educational and clinical operations. Our goal is to ensure that the new campus infrastructure supports high-quality education, research, and clinical training where it's needed most.

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