



Deputy Chief Financial Officer

[Oregon State University](#) (OSU), a premier land grant and R1 research institution, seeks a seasoned and strategic Deputy Chief Financial Officer to help lead and modernize the university's financial operations in support of its ambitious academic, research, and growth objectives.

Position Summary

Reporting directly to the [Vice President for Finance and Administration/Chief Financial Officer \(CFO\)](#), the Deputy Chief Financial Officer is a key member of the university's senior finance and administrative leadership team. The role provides strategic oversight and coordination across critical financial functions, including Procurement, Payment and Travel, Treasury, Financial Strategic Services, Budget and Resource Planning, and the Controller's Unit.

The Deputy Chief Financial Officer plays a vital leadership role in advancing the university's mission through sound financial stewardship, integrated planning, and cross-campus collaboration. This position requires an experienced, forward-looking finance leader with a commitment to service, transparency, and partnership in financial decision-making.

Opportunities and Priorities

The Deputy Chief Financial Officer exercises broad authority and autonomy in leading strategic and operational financial functions that are critical to Oregon State University's fiscal health and institutional mission. This position is responsible for developing and implementing financial strategies, policies, and operational frameworks across multiple units—including Budget and Resource Planning, Procurement, Treasury and Debt Management, the Controller's Unit, and Financial Strategic Services.

In consultation with the CFO and other university leaders, the Deputy CFO may make high-level decisions related to institutional budgeting, financial planning, investment and debt strategies, procurement policy, accounting practices, and internal controls. These decisions directly influence the university's financial stability, operational efficiency, and ability to allocate resources in support of strategic priorities. The position also evaluates and approves complex financial transactions, oversees compliance with federal and state regulations, and serves as a key advisor to the CFO, university leadership, and governing bodies.

Operating with a high degree of independence, the Deputy CFO is empowered to lead cross-functional initiatives and implement financial reforms, while being accountable for outcomes that may affect all academic, administrative, and auxiliary units. The position's decisions are subject to general review by the Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO and may be informed by

input from university leaders, governance structures, legal counsel, or external audit and compliance bodies.

Given the scale and impact of financial decisions—ranging from multimillion-dollar budget allocations to institution-wide policy changes, the Deputy CFO must balance strategic vision with sound risk management, stakeholder engagement, and a commitment to public accountability.

Candidate Profile

Strategic Financial Leadership

- Develop and lead multi-year financial strategies and planning processes that align with OSU's strategic plan and institutional priorities
- Provide university-wide financial analysis and decision support related to capital planning, debt issuance, enrollment trends, revenue generation and resource allocation
- Represent the university in financial matters with state agencies, external auditors, rating agencies, financial institutions, and other external partners
- Build strategic partnerships that enhance institutional financial capacity, including public-private partnerships and collaborative funding models
- Support the CFO in communicating financial strategies and outcomes to government entities, community partners, and philanthropic stakeholders

Operational Oversight

- Provide strategic and operational leadership to the following units:
 - Procurement, Payment and Travel – ensuring compliant, cost-effective, and value-driven procurement practices and contract services
 - Financial Strategic Services – offering financial business support to academic and administrative units across the university
 - Budget and Resource Planning – responsible for developing and managing OSU's operating and capital budgets, including forecasting and scenario modeling
 - Controller's Unit – overseeing general accounting, financial reporting, student billing and collections, and accounts receivable, while ensuring compliance with applicable accounting standards and regulations
 - Treasury operations – overseeing an internal bank, cash flow optimization, banking relationships, debt portfolio management, and liquidity strategies
 - Budget & Finance Policy Program – oversee the development, review, implementation and enforcement of university fiscal policies as well as compliance with and integration of relevant federal and state laws and regulations, GASB and FASB standards
 - Capital Finance – oversee the funding for major infrastructure, buildings, and equipment through state appropriations, bonds, tuition, and other revenues which are managed via multi-year plans to align with strategic priorities, campus growth, and capital renewal and modernization needs
- Promote continuous improvement, operational efficiency, and data-informed decision-making across all financial functions
- Provide strategic leadership for financial systems modernization, including ERP enhancements, data governance, automation, and analytics capabilities
- Oversee data integrity, reporting accuracy, and the adoption of digital tools that improve

- financial decision-making
- Serve as a key contributor to university-wide strategic planning efforts, ensuring financial considerations are integrated into academic, research, and infrastructure initiatives
- Partner with academic and administrative leaders to develop sustainable financial models for new programs, research initiatives, and campus expansions
- Lead cross-functional task forces and committees focused on institutional effectiveness, resource optimization, and long-term financial sustainability

Leadership and Talent Development

- Inspire, mentor, and develop a diverse team of finance professionals committed to service excellence and operational integrity
- Foster collaboration across units to promote financial transparency, cross-functional planning, and a shared sense of accountability
- Advance equitable financial practices by ensuring budget models, procurement strategies, and resource allocation processes support institutional DEIA goals
- Promote supplier diversity and inclusive procurement practices
- Foster an inclusive workplace culture within financial units, supporting professional growth and equitable opportunities
- Oversee data integrity, reporting accuracy, and the adoption of digital tools that improve financial decision-making
- Provide strategic leadership for financial systems modernization, including ERP enhancements, data governance, automation, and analytics capabilities

Policy, Governance, and Compliance

- Ensure the development and enforcement of internal controls, financial policies, and compliance with applicable federal, state, and university regulations
- Support financial audits, risk assessments, and reporting activities in partnership with the Controller and external partners
- Support governance and executive committees, presenting financial information to executive leaders and trustees

Qualifications

Required Qualifications

- Master's degree in finance, accounting, business administration, public administration, or a related field OR an equivalent combination of education and professional experience may be considered satisfactory to meet the educational requirement
- A minimum of 10 years' experience managing finance and operations in a complex and decentralized public organization (i.e., higher education, health care, or similar nonprofit organization), including experience at a senior leadership level
- Demonstrated expertise in financial planning, treasury operations, accounting, procurement, and/or budgeting within a complex organizational environment
- Proven ability to build strong working relationships with diverse groups of internal and external stakeholders, lead large teams, develop cross-functional strategies, and implement enterprise-wide initiatives

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to plan, organize and effectively present ideas and concepts to groups of diverse stakeholders
- Proven leadership and interpersonal skills on different levels, including interaction with governing boards and committees

Preferred Qualifications

- Financial leadership experience in a public, R1 university
- Knowledge of public university budgeting, state and federal funding models, and applicable financial regulatory environments.

This position operates in a professional office environment with regular interaction and communication with faculty, staff, and external partners in person, by phone, email, and virtual platforms. While the role primarily requires an on-campus presence to support key meetings and engagement, it is eligible for occasional remote work, as aligned with business needs, and as determined by the supervisor. Work schedule may include non-standard hours and periodic travel.

Oregon State University

Founded in 1868, Oregon State University is the state's largest public research university and one of only three land, sea, space, and sun grant institutions in the United States. With campuses in Corvallis and Bend, a robust online presence through [Ecampus](#), and [Extension](#) services in every Oregon county, OSU serves more than 35,000 students from across the globe. The university is recognized for its world-class research, teaching, and outreach, and is committed to advancing equity, sustainability and economic prosperity throughout Oregon and beyond.

OSU's strategic plan, [Prosperity Widely Shared](#), reflects its commitment to inclusive excellence, student success, faculty distinction and research growth. The university is a top-tier R1 institution, with more than \$400 million in annual research expenditures and a strong reputation in fields such as forestry, marine sciences, engineering, public health and agricultural sciences.

The university is entering a transformative period marked by two major institutional initiatives:

- [The Huang Collaborative Innovation Complex \(HCIC\)](#): Opening in 2026, the state-of-the-art interdisciplinary research center will house one of the nation's most advanced supercomputers and serve as a hub for innovation in AI, robotics, clean energy, materials science and semiconductor research.
- [The Administrative Modernization Program \(AMP\)](#): A comprehensive multi-year transformation of HR, finance, procurement and grants administration that includes OSU's implementation of Workday in July 2026. AMP will modernize workforce systems, streamline administrative processes, elevate service delivery across the university and fundamentally redesign the way administration is implemented and experienced at the university.

Together, these initiatives position OSU for significant growth in research, talent development and organizational excellence, offering the next CHRO an unparalleled opportunity to shape the university's workforce strategy during a defining moment in its evolution.

Corvallis, Oregon

Nestled in the heart of the [Willamette Valley](#), [Corvallis](#) is a vibrant college town known for its natural beauty, innovation and quality of life. Home to OSU's main campus, Corvallis is consistently ranked among the best college towns in America and offers a welcoming environment grounded in curiosity, sustainability and community engagement.

Corvallis is surrounded by forests, rivers and farmland, offering abundant outdoor recreation, hiking, cycling, kayaking and access to world-class natural landscapes. Its thriving arts and cultural scene, local food movement and deep connection to OSU create a dynamic and creative community. The city's commitment to sustainability is reflected in its walkability, bike-friendly infrastructure and innovative environmental policies.

Located just 90 minutes from Portland and the Oregon Coast, Corvallis offers easy access to metropolitan amenities, international travel hubs and stunning Pacific Northwest landscapes.

To learn more about Corvallis, please visit <https://www.visitcorvallis.com/>

To Apply

Oregon State University has retained [Opus Partners](#) to support this recruitment. [Katie Dean](#), Partner, and [Thomas Lapierre](#), Senior Associate, are leading the search. Confidential inquiries, applications, and nominations should be submitted by email to Thomas at thomas.lapierre@opuspartners.net. To be considered by OSU's search committee, candidates must provide a resume and a letter of introduction that addresses the specific responsibilities, expectations, and qualifications described above. Please consult Opus Partners for more information about the application process.

The expected hiring range for this position is \$300,000-\$325,000. This range considers the wide range of factors that are considered in making compensation decisions including but not limited to experience, skills, knowledge, abilities, education, licensure and certifications, and other business and organizational needs. Salary offers are determined based on final candidate qualifications and experience.

For more information on OSU's benefits, please visit <https://hr.oregonstate.edu/benefits>.

Oregon State University, as an institution of higher education and as a community of scholars, is committed to eliminating discrimination and providing equal opportunity in education and employment.

Oregon State University, in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations, does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, national origin, disability status or protected veteran status (including disabled veterans, Armed Forces Service Medal Veterans, recently separated veterans, and active duty wartime or campaign badge veterans) in any of its policies, procedures, or practices. This nondiscrimination policy applies to admission and access to, and treatment and employment in,

University programs and activities, including but not limited to academic admissions, financial aid, educational services, and employment.