



University of Oregon
Chief Auditor

Position Description

The [University of Oregon](#) (UO), an AAU-member research university and Oregon's flagship institution, seeks a Chief Auditor to provide strategic, operational and collaborative leadership for its office of internal audit.

University of Oregon

Founded in 1876, the University of Oregon (UO) is a Carnegie R1 research university, a member of the 65-member Association of American Universities (AAU), and the state's flagship campus. UO enrolls more than 22,000 undergraduate and 3,600 graduate students representing all 50 states and 99 countries, and currently employs 1,995 teaching and research faculty and over employs 3,600 staff.

UO is an integral economic driver for the state, with an estimated \$2.6 billion annual economic return to Oregon. In FY 2022, the University received \$221.4 million in grants, contracts, and competitive awards. Since 2014, UO has operated under an independent governing structure that supports its ability to chart new directions, improve entrepreneurial activity, and invent creative programming. Since then, the University has raised over \$3.2 billion in support of partnerships and opportunities in academic, research, and innovation excellence. Recent efforts include new initiatives focused on the environment, innovation and entrepreneurship, and the humanities, as well as an interdisciplinary data-science initiative.

The University of Oregon is among the nation's great public research universities as a member of the AAU. The university maintains a deep commitment to research and to its liberal arts roots while it continues to make unprecedented investments in areas of societal impact, as demonstrated by recent initiatives in the Knight Campus for Accelerated Scientific Impact and the Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health. The university grounds its work in a dedication to students and their success as individuals and members of the larger global community.

The main campus spreads over 295 acres and serves as an arboretum and a tree identification classroom. The total university budget is over \$1.3 billion for operations, with an additional \$164 million of capital investments currently planned for FY2023. In addition to transformative investments in Eugene, UO is developing its presence in Portland, OR at both [downtown and northeast campuses](#), creating an urban laboratory for professional degree programs managed in close partnership with industry expertise.

For additional information about the University, see [here](#).

Office of Internal Audit

The Office of Internal Audit is an independent, objective assurance and consulting department designed to add value and improve university operations. The Office helps the University accomplish its mission and objectives by evaluating and identifying opportunities to improve the effectiveness of governance processes, risk management, and internal controls. The Office is responsible for developing and implementing a flexible annual audit plan using an appropriate risk-based methodology. The annual audit plan includes consideration of risks and control concerns identified by the Board, management, and others, and is reviewed and approved by the President and Executive, Audit, and Governance Committee of the Board of Trustees. The Internal Audit team works collaboratively with the Enterprise Risk Management program to maintain an enterprise-level Risk Exposure Matrix (or risk assessment). In addition, the Chief Auditor is a member of the Strategic Enterprise Risk Management and Compliance Committee, which is advisory to the president.

The Position

The Chief Auditor directs the university's independent internal audit program and coordinates a broad range of audit functions in support of the needs of the university. The Chief Auditor is responsible for creating and managing a program to deliver financial, operational, performance, and compliance audits as needed. The Chief Auditor is responsible for managing a team of professionals to achieve the unit's responsibilities and goals. The Chief Auditor reports directly to the Board of Trustees and is managed administratively by the President.

The Chief Auditor will provide strategic leadership and direction to the audit program, while also providing effective audit project management when necessary. The Chief Auditor will collaborate with campus partners to address complex issues effectively and efficiently and will be an advisory and trusted partner to stakeholders across the university. In addition, the Chief Auditor will mentor and develop the talent within the office.

Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree from accredited institution in accounting, finance or closely related field and seven years of progressively responsible experience in internal auditing, or;
- An unrelated bachelor's degree and ten years of progressively responsible experience in internal auditing.
- CPA or CIA, or similar professional certification.

Preferred Qualifications

- Advanced degree in accounting, finance, or closely related field.
- Experience in management, leadership, and team building.
- Experience in audit of sponsored research expenditures and compliance.
- Additional relevant certifications (e.g., CISA or CFE).
- Audit or related experience in a higher education environment.

Professional Competencies

- Excellent oral and written communication skills to both technical and non-technical audiences.
- The ability to successfully manage multiple projects.
- Ability to attract, retain, and manage a high performing team of employees.
- A detail-oriented and analytical approach.
- Knowledge of financial and operational controls.
- Experience with best-in-class audit methodologies, leading internal or external audit strategies.
- Ability to be collaborative and solution-oriented while maintaining appropriate independence.
- Enjoys problem solving and creating efficiencies.
- Established reputation for honesty, candor, and high ethical conduct.
- Strong project management and communication skills.
- Ability to successfully navigate complex and decentralized institutions, with a proven track record of building effective relationships, including at senior management level.

Eugene, Oregon

The University of Oregon is located in the Willamette Valley, a picturesque region known for its excellent wines, abundant recreational opportunities, and outdoor activity, and marked by a progressive, collaborative culture. It sits on 295-acres and features state-of-the art facilities in an arboretum-like setting. Eugene is a vibrant and growing metropolitan area of over 200,000 people located two hours from Portland and five hours from Seattle. It offers varied cultural and culinary offerings, a pleasant climate, and a community engaged in environmental and social concerns. It hosts several world-class museums and cultural centers, including the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural and Cultural History, and the Many Nations Longhouse. Eugene is also a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts; skiing, hiking, fishing, rafting, cycling, and running are all popular pastimes in the area.

Land Acknowledgement

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, descendants are citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, and continue to make important contributions in their communities, at UO, and across the land we now refer to as Oregon.

We express our respect for all federally recognized Tribal Nations of Oregon. This includes the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Klamath Tribes. We also express our respect for all other displaced Indigenous peoples who call Oregon home. We seek to lead in curricular, pedagogical, research, and public scholarship innovations and interventions that redress inequitable, oppressive, and violent histories and provide generative futures for all students, families, faculty, staff, and communities.

To Apply

The University of Oregon has engaged [Opus Partners](#) to assist this search. Katie Dean, Associate Partner and Chris Stadler, Senior Associate, are leading the search. To apply, seek additional information, or nominate qualified candidates, please email Chris at chris.stadler@opuspartners.net. To be considered for the position, candidates must formally apply via Opus Partners and must provide a resume and cover letter addressing the responsibilities, expectations, and requirements of the role.

The University of Oregon is an equal opportunity, affirmative action institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.