

Oregon State University Professional & Continuing Ed Student Access to Canvas LMS

[Cirrus Customer Success](#) Last updated August 20, 2026

Summary

[Oregon State University](#) utilized [Cirrus social login solutions](#) for continuing education students to streamline [single sign-on](#) access to [Canvas](#) and [Drupal](#).

Products



Key Metrics

32K+
Students

300
Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programs

The Challenge

[Oregon State University](#) (OSU) was switching learning management systems (LMS) from [Blackboard](#) to [Canvas](#). At the time, non-credit continuing and professional education students required three different accounts to access three systems: 1) LMS, 2) a Registration system and 3) Content Management System developed in [Drupal](#).

These three local accounts had a history of not having sufficient management and OSU identified this as an area for improvement during the LMS transition. At the time of the implementation, OSU did not have an existing centralized guest account system. While building a system was considered, both time constraints and potential one time and ongoing expenses made the build solution unattractive.

As OSU was evaluating solutions, they discovered the current process for the existing Blackboard solution relied on self-asserted identities with no vetting. Building a service to replicate this functionality would provide little value over using the identities provided by Google, Facebook, Yahoo, or other Internet providers.

OSU needed to find a better way to manage access for continuing and professional students when they moved to the new Canvas LMS.

Goals



Provide an intuitive login experience for continuing and professional students enabling them to use accounts they already have and know.



Quickly implement a secure solution to meet project timelines.



Partner with IAM professionals so the small IT team could focus on other priorities.



Reduce support overhead caused by continuing and professional students having multiple accounts.

How Cirrus Helped

The OSU Identity Management Team brought together stakeholders from across the organization to determine needs and review the Cirrus Identity [social login solution](#). This provided a forum to both build buy-in, and gave the OSU Security team the opportunity to evaluate the solution. The Security team determined the Cirrus social login solution would be an improvement over the legacy account management process implemented for [Blackboard](#).

The [Cirrus Identity Gateway](#) product was easily configured in the OSU environment using the [SAML](#) protocol. Enabling continuing and professional students to use a known social login to access all the systems they needed dramatically improved the user experience! The OSU Identity and Access Management team was able to configure the integrations for the social providers using the web based Cirrus Identity [Administrator Console](#) and could centrally manage the attributes released.

The Cirrus Identity cloud-hosted SaaS solution did not require installation. This allowed the Gateway to be deployed on the tight timeline required for the switch to [Canvas](#).

After objectively evaluating different solution options, OSU chose the Cirrus Identity Gateway as the best solution.

Impact

"Cirrus Identity's Gateway solution was quick to implement, reasonably-priced, and enabled social login for external users in addition to OSU login for our internal users. The Cirrus team really understood what we needed and was great to work with."

Lois Brooks, Vice Provost for Information Services and CIO

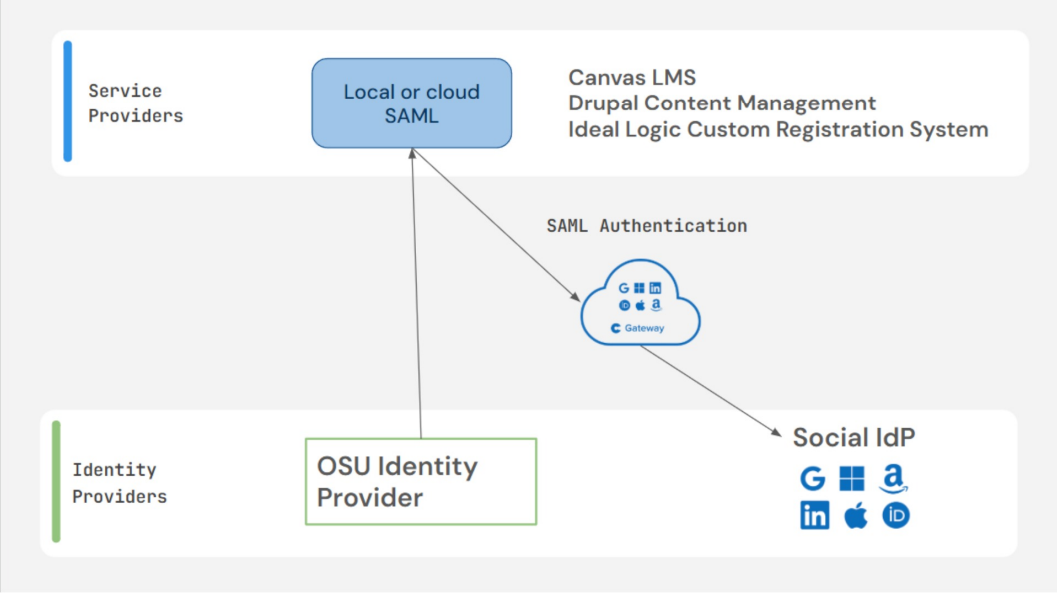
Streamlined Access - Professional and Continuing students can login to the OSU systems with an account and password they already know

Reduced Support - The OSU Identity and Access Management team can focus on other priorities

"With Cirrus Identity, it was great to work with a vendor who really understands higher ed identity. The project was completed quickly and easily!"

Erica Lomax, Director Identity and Access

High Level Architecture



Oregon State University's commitment to engaging in exceptional research, discovery, innovation and engagement — and to integrating that research and engagement mission with the delivery of a high-quality, globally relevant and affordable education for the people of our state and beyond — remains steadfast.