



October 16, 2025

The Honorable Dave Yost  
Office of the Attorney General of Ohio  
30 E. Broad St., 14th Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
Via Email: [REDACTED]

Re: Investigation Request into the Ohio State University

Dear Attorney General Yost:

This is a request to investigate mandatory coursework at The Ohio State University (“OSU”) that appears to violate both the spirit and the letter of S.B. 1, the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, which prohibits DEI trainings in Ohio’s colleges and universities.<sup>1</sup> The Act took effect on June 27, 2025.

Defending Education is a national grassroots organization with members across the country – including in Ohio – who are students of all ages, as well as parents of said students. A whistleblower provided the screenshot below from OSU which shows that a “race, ethnicity, and gender diversity” requirement still exists in the student registration portal as of October 14, 2025. This raises concerns about the university’s adherence to state law.

The screenshot shows the 'Track Progress' section of the Ohio State University student portal. The sidebar on the left includes links for 'Home', 'Track Progress' (which is currently selected), and 'Plan your Path'. Under 'Explore', there are links for 'Courses', 'Pathways', and 'Programs'. A 'QUICK LINKS' section at the bottom left includes 'Request Digital Accessibility Assistance'. The main content area shows a student's progress towards fulfilling 'Race, Ethnicity and Gender Diversity' requirements. Courses listed include ENGLISH 1110.03 (First-Year English Composition), CSE 2111 (Modeling and Problem Solving with Spreadsheets and Databases), and ENR 2100 and 2101 (Environmental and Natural Resources). The portal also shows other categories like 'Foundations' and 'Mathematical and Quantitative Reasoning/Data Analysis'. The bottom of the screen shows a Windows taskbar with various application icons.

<sup>1</sup> Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, 2025 Ohio Legis. 2 (codified in relevant part at Ohio Rev. Code §3345.0217), [bit.ly/3IPDcTg](https://bit.ly/3IPDcTg).



Indeed, a policy memorandum issued by OSU on August 25, 2025, underscores that university leadership recognizes what compliance with this law entails. Section II.A.5 of that memo “[a]ffirms and declares that [OSU] will not encourage, discourage, require, or forbid students, faculty, or administrators to endorse, assent to, or publicly express a given ideology, political stance, or view of a social policy, nor will the institution require students to do any of those things to obtain an undergraduate or post-graduate degree.”<sup>2</sup> But the University’s policy requiring race-, ethnicity-, and gender-based coursework appears to go back on that promise.

Accordingly, we ask that the Office of the Attorney General of Ohio promptly investigate the mandatory coursework at The Ohio State University, act swiftly to remedy any unlawful policies and practices, and order appropriate relief.

Thank you for your prompt assistance with this request for investigation and resolution. Please contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Nicole Neily  
President  
Defending Education

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<sup>2</sup> DEI, Intellectual Diversity, and Controversial Beliefs Under the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, The Ohio State University Office of Academic Affairs (archived Oct. 15, 2025), [perma.cc/7F63-Z637](https://perma.cc/7F63-Z637).