State budget cuts to schools occurred in the wake of Measure 5, a property tax limitation law enacted in 1990. This was the impetus for the consolidation of public baccalaureate nursing schools throughout Oregon into one school. In July, 1993, a statewide integrated nursing education system began that included programs at then Oregon Health Sciences University, Eastern Oregon State University, Southern Oregon State University and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

The Inaugural Darby and LaSor lectures were instituted in 1992. The Darby lecture focuses on a cardiovascular topic. The topics of these two first lectures are still relevant twenty years later.

The LaSor lecture was endowed in memory of Betsy LaSor, a psychiatric nurse practitioner, in tribute to her wish that southern Oregon nurses and nursing students meet prominent nurse leaders to discuss key contemporary health issues.

The Oregonian
Cutting higher education

These were just two of the many letters written to SOSC's President Joseph Cox from community members, parents and students who were concerned about the impact of budget cuts to the nursing program.

In the ten years from 1990-99 there were:
• 497 Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing graduates and
• 54 Master's Degree in Nursing graduates for a total of:
• 1618 nurses educated since 1968