**Resources for economically disadvantaged or underrepresented students at the University of Oregon**

**Programmatic Support and Engagement:**

**Division of Student Life:** The Division of Student Life works to foster unique communities on campus that help make the UO an inclusive and engaging environment. [Intercultural Mentoring Program Advancing Community Ties](https://dos.uoregon.edu/multicultural) (IMPACT) is a network of students, faculty, staff that understand the importance of community and its contribution to success among first-year students of color. Through this program first-year, first-generation students of color are supported with transition to life as a Duck through peer-to-peer mentorship, access to academic and social resources, and advocates supporting the needs of the participants. The Division of Student Life is also home to [Nontraditional Student Programs](https://dos.uoregon.edu/nontrad), [Veteran Programs](https://dos.uoregon.edu/veterans), the [Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Education and Support Services Program](https://dos.uoregon.edu/lgbt), and [Diversity Education and Support](https://dos.uoregon.edu/multicultural) programs—all part of the Office of the Dean of Students.

**Creating Connections:** Creating Connections serves underrepresented graduate students by building a supportive social network that helps them thrive personally and academically. Creating Connections is where underrepresented graduate student groups can connect, engage, and partner to serve otherwise unmet needs through social gatherings and community building activities that celebrate diversity and embrace inclusion.

**Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence (CMAE):** The Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence (CMAE) offers a textbook lending program. This initiative is designed to help offset academic expenses by offering textbooks on loan for students who are low-income and/or first-generation students from underrepresented backgrounds .

**TRIO** **Student Support Services**: This program helps undergraduates meet the rigors of higher education and graduate from UO. The program is designed for students whose socioeconomic backgrounds, educational records, and personal situations suggest they may experience challenges at the UO that could be alleviated with use of resources offered by SSS. The resources include academic advising, workshops, tutoring, mentoring, and financial assistance.

**UO Connections Program**: This program is a half-day college advocacy program designed for first-generation, ethnically diverse, or economically disadvantaged high-school students in ninth through twelfth grades. The program provides valuable college prep information.

**Scholarships and Funding:**

**Graduate Student Assistant Fund:** This program is designed to assist UO graduate students facing immediate and significant financial hardship related to a qualifying event which cannot be met through existing household financial resources. Qualifying events include a new child, a medical issue, or childcare expenses, and range in amount based on the event. The program is overseen by The Fund Advisory Committee, convened by the dean of the Graduate School. The committee meets once per term to review the assistance fund and its operations, providing an annual report with recommendations to the President. The committee also reviews appeals at the request of a student whose award has been denied.

**Jesse M. Bell Graduate Loan and Fund**: This fund has two programs that provide a short-term loan and is available to graduate students of high academic standing to be used in the pursuit of their graduate studies at UO. The Bell loans for all graduate students can be made up to a maximum of $500. There are also loans are available to graduate employees (GEs) who anticipate that their paycheck will not be processed by the last day of that month, with a loan amount not to exceed $1000. Repayment is due within 30, 60, or 90 days according to the conditions of the individual loan. Loan approval authority is jointly designated to the associate dean of the Graduate School and the associate director for student financial services in the business affairs office.

**Diversity Excellence Scholarship (DES):** This scholarship pays tuition fellowships for graduate and undergraduate students who bring economic, language, racial, ethnic, and gender diversity to the UO. The program recognizes students for their educational achievements and contribution to diversity and inclusion on campus and in their communities. The scholarship is an integral part of the university’s inclusion and diversity mission. Awardees receive tuition-remission with awards ranging from partial to full tuition and fee awards. Both incoming undergraduate, graduate, transfer, and law students are eligible to apply. Upon acceptance into the DES program, scholars will work with an advisor to ensure students continue to meet DES eligibility responsibilities.

**Robert J. Erickson Kaiser Permanente Scholarship:** The Erickson Scholarship is intended to support higher education among undergraduate students of color who are underrepresented in the college system. Each year, the student receives funding to help to cover tuition, room, board, and academic expenses. The scholarship, which is worth $3000 annually, is renewable for up to four years provided the recipient continues to meet its criteria. The recipient will be required to work with the University's Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence for academic advising and support. The Erickson Scholarship applications are reviewed by an impartial selection committee under the guidance of the University of Oregon.

**Pathway Oregon:** This initiative is funded by a combination of state, federal, and donor dollars, and provides academically qualified, Pell-eligible Oregonians tuition and fees coverage. The program also provides supports student need to succeed, including advising, targeted orientation, mentoring, academic support, and workshops on scholarships, study abroad, and career planning. Since 2008, UO has given more than 6,000 deserving Oregonians the Pathway Oregon promise. More than 60 percent are first-generation college students.

**UO Global Education Oregon, Division of Global Engagement, Scholarship for First Generation College Students:** In an effort to expand access to education abroad, the Division of Global Engagement created the Scholarship for First Generation College Students. This is a planning scholarship for UO students whose parents/legal guardians did not complete a 4-year college bachelor’s degree. As a planning scholarship, recipients can use the award to study abroad on a UO-sponsored study abroad program at any time during their college career at the UO. A number of $1,000-$3,000 scholarships are awarded each year to help support first-generation college students who aspire to study abroad.

**Programs and Initiatives to Assist Students with Food Insecurity**: UO has several programs to assist students with getting enough food.

* **Produce drop**: In partnership with Food for Lane County and Trillium Produce Plus, the UO Student Sustainability Center’s new monthly program in the EMU Amphitheater places fresh produce directly into the shopping bags of UO students who self-identify as living at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level.
* **Ducks Feeding Ducks**. This program offers a confidential route for students who do not have the money or meal points available to purchase food to access meals on campus. Using the Duck Bucks function of the UO ID card, the Ducks Feeding Ducks program provides a transfer of $10 into a student’s account (limit of one transfer per term) for use at any campus food venue that accepts Duck Bucks. Ducks Feeding Ducks is designed as an emergency resource for students who are unable to access food through other resources. There is also a donation component for students, UO employees, and family members who would like to contribute to Ducks Feeding Ducks.
* **Supplemental Nutrition Program**: The student union holds Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment events and have a support team to help students enroll in state and federal food programs. The Student Sustainability Center and the Duck Nest collaborate with Partners for a Hunger-Free Oregon and the Oregon Department of Human Services to help students learn about the program and get enrolled, if eligible. Enrollment events with Department of Human Services employees and trained volunteers help students enroll; and drop-in hours at the Duck Nest and Student Sustainability Center provide students information and support.
* **Student Food Pantry**. The Student Food Pantry—a ministry of the Episcopal Campus Ministry in Eugene and a partner agency with Food for Lane County—is open to all college students in the greater Eugene area. Founded in 2011, the pantry provides free supplemental food for college students. Depending upon availability, this may include canned fruits and vegetables; frozen and fresh vegetables; bread, rice, pasta, and cereal; canned beans, soups, and other protein sources; dairy products, frozen meats, and meat substitutes. Additional quantities are given to students with children.