# 2020-2021 ACADEMIC CALENDAR

## SUMMER TERM
- **Classes Begin**: June 22, 2020
- **Independence Day Observed**: July 3, 2020
- **8-Week Session Ends**: Aug. 14, 2020
- **11-Week Session Ends**: Sept. 4, 2020

## FALL TERM
- **Classes Begin**: Sept. 23, 2020
- **Veterans Day Observed**: Nov. 11, 2020
- **Thanksgiving Holiday**: Nov. 26-27, 2020
- **Classes End**: Dec. 4, 2020
- **Final Exams End**: Dec. 11, 2020

**Winter Break**
- **Dec. 12, 2020-Jan. 3, 2021**

## WINTER TERM
- **Classes Begin**: Jan. 4, 2021
- **MLK Day**: Jan. 18, 2021
- **Classes End**: March 12, 2021
- **Final Exams End**: March 19, 2021

**Spring Break**
- **March 20-28, 2021**

## SPRING TERM
- **Classes Begin**: March 29, 2021
- **Memorial Day**: May 31, 2021
- **Classes End**: June 4, 2021
- **Final Exams End**: June 11, 2021
Dear parents and families,

On behalf of the Division of Student Affairs at Oregon State University, thank you for being a part of our community and trusting us with your student’s education and experience. We recognize the importance of providing a high-quality education with an enriching experience as your student plans and prepares for their future. Just as important, collaborating with you helps to ensure that our students are supported in their learning, development and growth. Parents and families play an integral role in the success of our students, and we want to make sure you remain informed.

As we prepare for the 2020-2021 academic year, we are taking appropriate measures to reduce the risk and spread of COVID-19. Some of these measures include, but are not limited to, offering a remote option for classes, following physical distancing guidelines for on-site courses and implementing a face covering policy. All of us need to work together to create a safe environment where our students can succeed. We encourage you to be in communication with your student about their responsibility to observe university COVID-19 policies and public health guidance. For information, visit covid.oregonstate.edu.

Our COVID-19 response remains in line with our commitment to facilitating a community that welcomes and provides a sense of belonging for all students. Oregon State University will continue to be attentive to the climate within our nation and cognizant of the impact it has on our students. We will continue to provide a safe environment for those attending and visiting our campus. In addition to the establishment of a new university police department and hiring of a new interim associate vice president and chief of police, together, we will continue to contribute to a community where everyone finds a sense of home.

I encourage you to reach out to the resources included in this handbook and connect with us if you have any questions. I look forward to building and strengthening our relationships. Go Beavs!

Kevin A. Dougherty, Ed.D.
Associate Vice Provost & Dean of Students

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**Student Experiences & Engagement**

Finding a sense of belonging positively supports student success. There are a plethora of groups and engagement opportunities for students to find community, affirmation and validation of their identities and experiences. Students in college often experience the most growth outside of the classroom — gaining skills, developing confidence and building community. In a small college town, getting involved is vital to positive student outcomes.

Culturally relevant engagement and social justice education are critical components to finding affinity, wellness and connection at Oregon State. This might look like getting involved with one of the seven cultural resource centers, joining a cultural club or organization, volunteering in the Global Community Kitchen, engaging in a study abroad program or advocating for the needs of historically underrepresented communities on campus or in Oregon.

**University Housing & Dining Services**

College is an abundance of experiences — late-night study sessions, new friends, spur-of-the-moment adventures and interests’ students didn’t even know they had. It will be a time of immense growth as they figure out who they want to be and where they’re going next.

UHDS believes that everyone deserves to feel included and valued in a community enriched by the wide diversity of identities and lived experiences. That’s why our residence halls offer:

- Gender-inclusive restrooms
- A trained social justice peer leader
- The option to choose a roommate of any gender identity
- Programs and events where students can explore their own identity, build community and learn how to advocate for change
Your student is beginning one of life’s most rewarding journeys. You are also going to experience new feelings and face new challenges as your student establishes their independence at Oregon State University. Below are some tips and discussion points as you navigate this new transition.

**Tips**

+ Understand that stress and a certain amount of anxiety are normal for students to experience. Sometimes there may be mood changes or what seems like irresponsible behavior, but rest assured this is a transition phase and don’t overreact.
+ Listen, openly, honestly and without judgment.
+ Empower your student to solve their own problems. They will turn to you, but work to guide them and not direct. Rather than express your opinion, or talk about what you would do, ask probing questions.
+ A certain amount of homesickness is normal.
+ Encourage your student to stay on campus or in Corvallis on the weekends. It is easy to just pop back home where it is comfortable.
+ Remind your student that it is natural to have doubts and to be unsure of their major or how they will adapt. Express that you trust them and that they are capable of making the right choice with time.

**Communication**

How often, to whom and with what modality? This will ebb and flow, but it is often helpful to talk about these questions up front and then adjustments can be made once routines have settled.

**Finances**

Develop a clear understanding of how things are paid for and who pays for what expenses. If you agree that you will contribute to their Oregon State University bill, then discuss how you will get a copy of the bill each month (bills are not mailed home). Students may add an authorized user to their mybill.oregonstate.edu account.

**Visiting**

Discuss how often and when visits will occur, plus who will pay for travel expenses. How are breaks handled? Who is responsible for booking travel? Our residence halls never shut down during the school year, so a student who is living on campus always has access to their residence hall and meal plan, even on university breaks. On the flip side, it is helpful to establish ahead of time when you would like to come visit and expectations for when you are in town. This can also give students something to look forward to.
Understanding FERPA

The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), along with Oregon state law and administrative rules, gives students certain rights with respect to their educational records and requires colleges and universities to protect the confidentiality of a student’s educational record.

What are educational records?

+ Contain information that is directly related to a student
+ Are maintained by the educational institution or a party acting for the institution
+ Include, but are not limited to, transcripts, grades, conduct records, housing information, advising information/academic planning, class schedules, student accounts and financial aid information

What are students’ rights?

+ To inspect and review their educational records within 45 days of the request
+ To request the amendment of portions of their educational record that they believe are inaccurate or misleading
+ To consent to disclosures of the personally identifiable information contained in their educational record, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent
+ To file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Oregon State University to comply with the requirements of FERPA

What about parental access?

While federal law authorizes release of records to parents of dependent students, it is not required. Oregon State regulations are more restrictive and allow only directory information to be released to parents.

According to both federal and state law, parents may have a copy of their student’s record only with the student’s written consent. Students must complete the Student Consent to Release Information Form available online at registrar.oregonstate.edu/access-records. Students have access to their grades online via MyOregonState (my.oregonstate.edu) a few days after the end of the term; we do not mail grades.

If you call a university office and ask for information about your student, you will only receive information that the university can legally provide. This information is listed at registrar.oregonstate.edu/privacy-records.

Help for Your Student

Transitioning to OSU

College life comes with new expectations and challenges. These resources help students in their transition to Oregon State and are a starting point for navigating other resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Advising</th>
<th>Academic Success Center (ASC)</th>
<th>University Housing &amp; Dining Services (UHDS)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guidance for degree completion beav.es/4Qy</td>
<td>Study resources and tips beav.es/4Al, 541-737-2272 Waldo Hall 125</td>
<td>Student housing and meal plans beav.es/463, 541-737-4771 Oxford House</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mental & Physical Health

Some students need support for anxiety, depression or other mental health concerns, while others may seek clinical health services, substance abuse support or additional resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Counseling &amp; Psychological Services (CAPS)</th>
<th>Student Health Services</th>
<th>Survivor Advocacy &amp; Resource Center (SARC)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental health services beav.es/2Zmh, 541-737-2131 Snell 500</td>
<td>On-campus medical care beav.es/2ZmD, 541-737-9335 Plageman Building</td>
<td>Support for survivors of assault beav.es/2Zmc, 541-737-9034 Plageman Building 311</td>
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Personal Crisis

Whether your student is dealing with a personal emergency — like loss of a loved one, illness or financial concerns — or needs help navigating the university landscape, there are resources to help.

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<tr>
<th>ASOSU Legal Services</th>
<th>ASOSU Office of Advocacy</th>
<th>Human Services Resource Center</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Free legal advice and representation beav.es/2Zv, 541-737-4165</td>
<td>Support for students in conflict with the university beav.es/2Zm, 541-737-9200 Student Experience Center 228</td>
<td>Emergency housing and food beav.es/2Zm, 541-737-4165 Champinefu Lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Care</td>
<td></td>
<td>Student Conduct &amp; Community Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support navigating OSU resources beav.es/2Zmk, 541-737-8748 Student Experience Center 206</td>
<td>Upholds student expectations beav.es/2Zm, 541-737-3656 Student Experience Center 342</td>
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Safety

Oregon State University’s Public Safety department responds to emergencies on campus. Students should call 911 in an emergency. Read about OSU’s transition to a university administered campus police department at leadership.oregonstate.edu/campus-safety.

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<tr>
<th>Corvallis Police Department</th>
<th>National Suicide Prevention Line</th>
<th>Public Safety</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off-campus safety (non-emergencies) beav.es/2Zhi, 541-766-6924</td>
<td>2-800-273-8255 or text ‘OREGON’ to 741741</td>
<td>On-campus safety (non-emergencies) beav.es/46d, 541-737-3010 Cascade Hall 200</td>
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Billing & Financial Aid

Where should students start?
+ Students are required to complete a student financial services agreement that outlines the rights and responsibilities of the billing account when they log in to MyBill (mybill.oregonstate.edu)
+ Sign up for direct deposit for secure refund payments via MyOregonState (my.oregonstate.edu)

What is the fall term billing cycle?
+ Oct. 5: Fall term tuition will be billed electronically to student’s OSU email
+ Nov. 1: Payment is due — any remaining balance will accrue 1% interest per month (12% APR)
  Degree Partnership Program students pay partner school tuition separately

If a student drops a class, can they get their money back?
+ Withdraw before classes start: 100% refund
+ Through the end of week 1: 100% refund
+ Through the end of week 3: 50% refund
+ After week 3: 0% refund
+ Withdrawing from a class may affect financial aid awards

What are my payment options?
- eCheck - mybill.oregonstate.edu
  + Free
  + Authorized user can pay your bill
- Credit Card - my.oregonstate.edu
  + Visa, Mastercard and Discover accepted
  + Processing fee may apply
- Check - multiple ways to pay
  + By mail
  + In person at the Cashier’s Office
  + Drop box in Kerr

Can someone else pay an Oregon State student bill?
Students may add an authorized user at mybill.oregonstate.edu
+ This gives access to mybill.oregonstate.edu
+ Authorized users can make payments online via eCheck
+ Authorized users receive email notifications of monthly statements

Your student’s new freedom will also require new responsibilities, including managing their finances. Talk with your student about these responsibilities often. Having a bank account or credit card may be a completely new experience for your student, so it’s important to have a conversation about budgeting expenses, spending habits and paying for their education.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?
Contact Student Finance
studentaccounts@oregonstate.edu
541-737-3775 | fa.oregonstate.edu
Kerr Administration Building, first floor
Open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
As students transition to the university setting, they often experience a culture shift as the educational environment at Oregon State may be different from their prior experiences. But there are many things that students can do to navigate this transition and actions you can take to support your student.

**Sense of time**
At Oregon State, each term is 10 weeks (rather than a semester system that runs 16 weeks). It is easy to get behind, and challenging circumstances are amplified (e.g., getting sick, missing class, recovering from a low grade). Mid-terms are typically half of the term (from weeks 3 to 8). Students may not know how they are performing until four or five weeks remain in the term. On the positive side, more courses each year can provide greater variety and the shorter term can provide greater motivation for time management.

**Faculty interactions**
Time with faculty will likely be different than what your student previously experienced. Students will likely see faculty one to three times per week, not everyday. Classes are typically larger and focused on content delivery instead of relationship building. The expectation is that most learning is student driven and taking place outside of the classroom. Building a relationship with faculty may feel intimidating, but professors are approachable and value student interactions.

**Exploration is encouraged**
Developmentally this is a time of exploration for traditional-aged students. Your student will be exposed to new ideas, courses, faculty and roommates. Students are expanding their sense of agency and connecting their choices to outcomes. Exploration doesn’t mean that your student isn’t taking college seriously, or that they will be delayed in graduating. It means your student is being purposeful, keeping an open mind and considering different pathways.

**Seeking help is a skillset**
Some students are slow to seek help because they didn’t need assistance in high school and they associate the idea of getting help with failing. In reality, the most successful students often seek guidance. Looking for support demonstrates maturity and a willingness to reflect on one’s experiences.

**What can students do?**
- Be proactive about a time management and organizational strategy
- Visit faculty members at least once per month during office hours
- Observe when certain topics feel more engaging — talk to faculty, advisors and the Career Development Center about these topics
- Set aside 20 minutes each week to plan ahead
- Reflect on how classes are going, which study strategies are or are not working, what are the priorities for the week, what activities sound interesting, etc.

**What can parents and families do?**
- Ask questions that prompt reflection about study skills, time management, mentorship, successes and failures
- Ask about what is happening on campus this week and how your student plans to engage — encourage your student to build connections to campus and create a support network
- Acknowledge the transition to college can be challenging and amazing at the same time
- Recognize “imposter syndrome” as a natural part of the transition process

**What does Oregon State do?**
- Faculty are constantly looking for ways to increase interaction with students (e.g. course redesign and undergraduate research)
- Academic advisors hold quarterly meetings with students
- OSU offers multiple ways for students to receive peer education support — in residence halls (RA, ALA), via the Academic Success Center (coaching, SI), through tutoring and wellness support, etc.
- OSU provides accessible support services that address the multiple dimensions that contribute to student well-being
- Students can drop in to the Academic Success Center to receive personalized assistance finding resources (visit Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or check out our website at success.oregonstate.edu)
- Oregon State offers a comprehensive list of student resources at experience.oregonstate.edu/resources
Safety

While the Oregon State community and the city of Corvallis are friendly and relatively safe, neither is immune to the realities of the world. Every student must take responsibility and recognize the possibility of crime, reducing risks through preventive measures.

Saferide
ASOSU SafeRide provides OSU-Corvallis students a safe ride home or to campus. SafeRide operates throughout the Corvallis and Philomath communities, and students can request rides every day of the week during the academic year between 8:30 p.m. and 1 a.m. Encourage your student to download our app, TapRide, or save 541-737-5000 in their phone. Learn about SafeRide policies and boundaries at asosu.oregonstate.edu/saferide.

Tips and practices
These tips will be shared with your student throughout their transition to Oregon State.

+ Theft is the most common crime on campus. Most thefts occur during the day, 80% without forced entry. Cars, residential rooms, apartments and houses should be kept locked at all times.
+ Never compromise safety for a roommate who wants the door left unlocked. Replace locks when a key is lost or stolen. Do not loan out room keys or apartment keys.
+ Bike thefts are very common, and it is recommended that bikes be locked up. Student should register their bikes with the Department of Public Safety. Visit publicsafety.oregonstate.edu/services/bike-information for details.
+ Students are encouraged to always keep their valuables with them outside of their residence hall rooms or apartments.
+ Document the serial number on valuable items and keep this information in a safe space. In the event of a theft, the serial number can assist with proving ownership if the item is recovered.
+ Review the safety tips for online networks like Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.
+ Share class, social and recreational schedules with your family and close friends.
+ Always travel with a friend at night.
+ Report suspicious activities to the Department of Public Safety at 541-737-3010. In an emergency, call 911.
+ When walking around OSU, use the blue light emergency phones located throughout campus to report any suspicious behavior or crimes and to request assistance. Simply press the red button and police/public safety will respond immediately.
+ Parents and families should check their homeowner’s insurance to ensure their student’s belongings are covered. Again, record serial numbers for high-value items like bikes, computers, phones, tablets and gaming equipment.

CONTACTS
Corvallis Police Department
911 (emergency)
541-766-6924 (non-emergency)

SafeRide Shuttle Service
541-737-2252 (office)
541-737-5000 (shuttle)

Department of Public Safety
541-737-3010 (non-emergency)
911 (emergency)

Survivor Advocacy & Resource Center
541-737-2030

Additional information about OSU’s transition to a university administered campus police department can be found at leadership.oregonstate.edu/campus-safety. In accordance with the national Clery Act, a comprehensive annual campus crime report can be viewed at publicsafety.oregonstate.edu.

OSU Alert
OSU Alert is a system that allows public safety officials to create and send emergency alerts as text messages, phone messages and emails. A student’s OSU email is automatically added and anyone can enroll in our texting alert system by texting OSUALERT to 67283.
Health & Wellness

An active mind needs a healthy body! Encourage your student to establish a care support network on campus — before a need arises — and to take advantage of the broad range of OSU resources. Eating and sleeping well, being active and receiving care when needed will help your student make the most of their time at Oregon State.

University health fee

The university health fee covers most office visits to Student Health Services and Counseling & Psychological Services, including routine appointments with primary care clinicians, counseling, nicotine treatment, nutrition consultations and a 24-hour nurse advice line. Lab work, x-rays and other ancillary services are billed to the student’s account. Read more at studenthealth.oregonstate.edu.

Health history and required vaccines

OSU’s immunization requirements help students stay healthy, in class and able to achieve their academic goals. Students may access the health history form to upload required vaccine documentation at myhealth.oregonstate.edu (university ONID and password required to log in).

Privacy and confidentiality

Confidentiality of student information is of paramount importance at Oregon State. Student Health Services and Counseling & Psychological Services follow all applicable state and federal laws related to the disclosure of medical and mental health information, as well as applying the highest professional standards of care and privacy. Information about a student cannot be released to a third party — including a parent — without the student’s permission, except in specific circumstances. See studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/policies-and-guidelines.

Cannabis in Oregon

Oregon State University is federally funded and, therefore, bans all federally illegal substances, including cannabis and related paraphernalia. This includes the use, possession or distribution of cannabis, even with a medical cannabis card. See hr.oregonstate.edu/policies-procedures/marijuana-policy for information.

Tobacco-free policy

The Oregon State University Corvallis campus is tobacco free. Smoking or vaping within the campus boundaries or within university-owned spaces is prohibited. See health.oregonstate.edu/tobacco-free/policy for information. Students have access to free nicotine treatment at Student Health Services. Visit studenthealth.oregonstate.edu/nicotine-treatment.
On-Campus Employment

Finding employment, while attending school and after graduation, is an important concern for students and their families. Oregon State’s Career Development Center has many resources to help. We recommend that full-time students work no more than 20 hours per week while taking classes. This is particularly important for new students who are also dealing with the transition to Oregon State University.

WHERE CAN STUDENTS FIND OUT ABOUT AVAILABLE JOBS?
Students can use Handshake found via the Career Development Center’s website for on- and off-campus positions. On-campus positions include regular student employment and federal work-study.

WHAT IS A WORK-STUDY JOB?
Work study is based on financial eligibility. The federal work-study program allows students to work at an hourly rate to earn the total federal work-study amount granted through their financial aid award. Students receive a monthly paycheck for the hours worked, and employers on campus receive a subsidy that helps create job opportunities. If your student is eligible for work study, it will be listed as part of their financial aid award letter. Learn about federal work-study at financialaid.oregonstate.edu.

DOES OSU HELP STUDENTS FIND INTERNSHIPS AND JOBS AFTER GRADUATION?
The Career Development Center (CDC) helps students plan for their future and develop skills needed for a successful job or internship search. The CDC offers workshops on résumé preparation, cover letters, interviewing and job search strategies, along with cooperative and internship job opportunities. Each year, more than 400 employers come to campus to interview students for full-time employment and internship opportunities — more than any other school in Oregon. The CDC provides career decision-making guidance and planning through individual appointments with advisors and through self-guided career development tools, like Focus2. This software provides opportunities for students to assess their strengths, skills and values, and it helps them explore career paths that may be a good fit. Encourage your student to visit the CDC, online or in-person and early and often. Students who proactively engage in the career development process often have more successful job searches upon graduation.

Ways to assist your student

Give your student time to map out their career path.
Support your student’s exploration of potential jobs and career fields.
Encourage your student to pursue experiences outside of the classroom to help in their exploration, including volunteering, undergraduate research, clubs or organizations.
Remain open if your student decides to explore or major in something other than what you wanted for them.

Career Development Center
career.oregonstate.edu
Getting Involved

Your student’s Oregon State University experience may begin in the classroom, but their involvement outside of the classroom can be just as influential. The OSU Experience website (experience.oregonstate.edu) is considered their go-to spot for engagement opportunities and support resources. Whether they want to get involved on campus, serve their community or improve their well being, they’re in the right place.

Some families worry that their students won’t be able to balance their academic studies and social activities. A healthy balance of study and co-curricular activities tends to improve a student’s academic experience. These activities provide opportunities to meet people with similar interests, apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-life situations and improve time management.

Spiritual and religious opportunities

Oregon State recognizes the needs and rights of students to examine and affirm a personal religious faith or life philosophy as an important component in their development. There are more than 25 recognized student groups on campus to support students’ growth in these areas, along with a wide variety of community organizations.

Undergraduate research

Oregon State University is Oregon’s leading public research university with thousands of research projects annually. Undergraduate students are encouraged to participate in research to gain hands-on experience, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, stimulate intellectual curiosity and deepen relationships with faculty in their fields of study. To learn about the benefits of research and how your student can get involved, visit undergraduate.oregonstate.edu/research.

Experiential learning

OSU offers many ways for students to expand their learning beyond the college classroom. Learning by doing is a highly effective way to develop or confirm interest for a particular area of study, gain valuable skills for future careers, network with people in a chosen industry, challenge oneself and personalize an education. Encourage your student to explore the various experiential opportunities available to them at Oregon State. They can get involved with world-class research, study abroad, participate in service learning and civic engagement projects, and complete internships with local, national and global companies.

Study abroad and international internships

The Office of Global Opportunities (OSU GO) offers more than 100 different approved study abroad opportunities and international internships. Scholarships are available to help students pay for their time abroad. Students can study abroad for a few weeks to an entire academic year, while earning Oregon State course credits and making progress toward academic degrees. Studying abroad gives students a global perspective and increased culture competence, both of which are highly valued in today’s workforce. Visit undergraduate.oregonstate.edu/osugo.

Involvement Opportunities at Oregon State

- Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU)
- Residence Hall Association (RHA)
- 390+ student organizations
- Student employment
- OSU Program Council
- Volunteer and service learning
- Intramural and club sports
- Center for Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Five cultural centers and two resource centers
- And much more!

Other Experiential Learning Options to Explore

- Adventure Leadership Institute
  recsports.oregonstate.edu/ali
- Community Engagement & Leadership
  cel.oregonstate.edu
- Experiential Learning & Activities
  ela.oregonstate.edu
- Internships
  career.oregonstate.edu
- Orange Media Network (newspaper, radio, TV)
  orangemedianetwork.com
- Student Experiences & Engagement
  see.oregonstate.edu
Glossary

ADD/DROP: Students may add or drop classes during the first two weeks of each term. Always check the add/drop schedule because there are fees and refund deadlines that may apply.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT: Advanced placement and/or credit may be granted to an entering student who has satisfactorily completed College Board Advanced Placement Examinations taken during high school.

ADVANCED STANDING REPORT: A summary of courses and credits completed by a student at one postsecondary institution and accepted by another institution at the time of admission. The Advanced Standing Report is used to determine the number of required and elective credits needed to complete degree requirements.

ADVISOR: A faculty member appointed by the department or college to assist a student with planning academic programs.

BACCALAUREATE CORE: The university's general education requirements consisting of skills courses, perspectives courses, synthesis courses and writing-intensive courses.

B.S. DEGREE: The bachelor of science degree is conferred for focused curricula that emphasize scientific ways of knowing and quantitative approaches to understanding the sciences and social sciences. It is also conferred for curricula in professional fields.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM (UNDERGRADUATE): A specified interdisciplinary program of study leading to an official certificate and notation on a student's transcript. A certificate program differs from a minor because it draws from more than one department rather than a single department. The certificate program must be taken in conjunction with a formal degree program.

COLLEGE: A subdivision of the university offering degree programs within a specific subject area. Oregon State University has 11 colleges.

COMMENCEMENT: Oregon State's annual graduation ceremony.

COURSE REFERENCE NUMBER (CRN): A five-digit number used to select a specific course, lab and/or recitation.

CREDIT: The academic value assigned to a course based on the type and level of the subject material, as well as the expected number of hours spent on class preparation. One credit is generally given for three hours of work per week, in and out of class.

DEAD WEEK: Week 10 of the academic term. There are typically no finals, midterms or other comprehensive examinations given during this week.

ELECTIVES: Courses that are not required as part of a degree program, but are generally chosen and used by a student to supplement or enrich the required curriculum.

FIRST-YEAR STUDENT: A student who has completed 44 or fewer term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): Total number of grade points received divided by total number of credits attempted. Grade points are assigned for each term credit of each grade: A = 4.0, A– = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, B– = 2.7, C+ = 2.3, C = 2.0, C– = 1.7, D+ = 1.3, D = 1.0, F = 0.0. Grades of I, P, N, S, U and W are not computed.

GRADUATION AUDIT: An evaluation of a student's academic record to determine if the graduation requirements set forth by the university, college and major department have been met.

HANDSHAKE: A primary source of career-related information, including event listings, internships and off-campus job opportunities.

JUNIOR: A student who has completed at least 90 but not more than 134 term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

LOWER-DIVISION COURSES: Course offerings at a level of comprehension usually associated with first-year and sophomore students. Lower-division courses are numbered in the 100s and 200s.

MAJOR (UNDERGRADUATE): The primary field of study in which a student wishes to receive a degree.

MINOR (UNDERGRADUATE): A second field of interest, consisting of a minimum of 27 designated term credits of related course work, 12 of which must be completed at the upper-division level.

MYDEGREES: MyDegrees is a web-based degree checklist program and academic advising tool designed to assist students and advisors in reviewing degree progress.

OPTION (UNDERGRADUATE): A second field of interest, consisting of a minimum of 21 designated term credits of related course work, 15 of which must be completed at the upper-division level.

PERSPECTIVES COURSES: Courses that integrate fundamental knowledge from science and liberal arts disciplines to develop cultural, historic and scientific perspectives.

PRE-PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM: A collection of introductory courses offered at the lower-division level. Pre-professional programs are often designed to ensure students have the aptitude, motivation and discipline to successfully complete advanced course work as well as achieve the standards for a chosen career field.

PREREQUISITES: Requirements that must be completed before enrollment in a course. The instructor may waive a prerequisite.

PROBATION (ACADEMIC): Students who have completed two or more terms at Oregon State and have a cumulative GPA below 2.0 are placed on probation. Students who raise their cumulative GPA to 2.0 or better are removed from academic probation.

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAM: Curriculum generally offered at the upper-division level, designed to prepare students for a professional career within a specific field (e.g., engineering or pharmacy). Admission to professional programs is competitive and is often based on prior course work and/or work experience.

QUARTER: Typically 11 weeks in length (10 weeks of class and one week of finals) for three terms that make up a full academic year (fall, winter, spring). Summer session has a separate schedule with a wide range of options for class schedules.

RA: An RA is the residence assistant of a residence hall. The RAs are current students who are responsible for providing general assistance, such as facilitating social and educational programs; referring students to resources; and explaining and enforcing university policies and local and federal laws.

RD: An RD is a residence director. The RDS are full-time, master-level professional staff members that live in the on-campus community. They respond to emergencies, coordinate the RA staff and develop community programs.

SENIOR: A student who has completed 135 or more term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

SEQUENCE: Two, three or four closely related courses, usually taken in numerical order through more than one term.

SKILLS COURSES: Courses designed to give the student fundamental mathematical, writing, communication and fitness competence.

SOHOMORE: A student who has completed at least 45 but not more than 89 term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

SUSPENSION (ACADEMIC): Students who are on probation and have a subsequent term GPA of less than 2.0 are placed on suspension. A student who has been suspended from Oregon State is prohibited from enrolling in classes and must fulfill specific criteria before being readmitted to the university. Academic suspension is recorded on the student’s academic record.

SYNTHESIS COURSES: Upper-division courses that emphasize interdisciplinary and critical-thinking approaches to global, technological and societal issues.

SYLLABUS: A list of course objectives, lecture topics, assigned readings, exams, etc. that is prepared and distributed by an instructor at the beginning of the term.

TRANSFER STUDENT: A student who has completed 36 or more term credits at one institution and will resume their college course work at a second institution.

UPPER-DIVISION COURSES: Course offerings at a level of comprehension usually associated with junior or senior students. Upper-division courses are numbered in the 300s and 400s.

WARNING (ACADEMIC): Students with a term GPA below 2.0 are placed on academic warning.

WITHDRAW: To voluntarily leave a course or the university without academic penalty.

WRITING-INTENSIVE COURSES (WIC): Designated upper-division courses in the major discipline that use student writing as a significant approach to learning.
We offer an e-newsletter for the parents and families of new students joining Oregon State University. The e-newsletter shares activities and milestones, things your student may be experiencing and helpful tips on supporting them at OSU. You can sign up at [families.oregonstate.edu/enewsletter](http://families.oregonstate.edu/enewsletter).

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