UNIVERSITY OF OREGON | Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation

Research awards hit record high in 2021-22

University of Oregon researchers brought in $180 million in awards in 2021-2022. Expenditures in FY22 totaled $150 million, an increase of 12% from the previous year. Investigators submitted 1,024 proposals and received 671 awards.

Innovation at UO

FY 2021-2022:

#1
in licensing

$10.3 million
received in licensing income

54
license-based invention disclosures

24
patents filed

32
active startups

Research Excellence

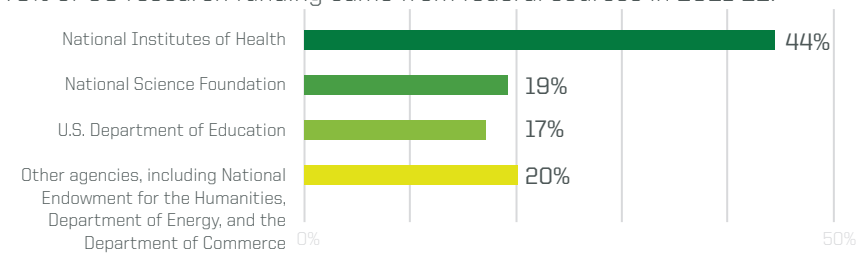
The University of Oregon's core research strengths lie in behavioral psychology, education, life sciences, bioengineering, data science, sport and wellness, the humanities, materials science, and design and planning.

In early 2022, the UO announced the founding of the Ballmer Institute for Children's Behavioral Health, a Portland-based facility that establishes a bold new approach to promote the behavioral health and wellness of children and adolescents in Oregon and beyond. The institute draws on the UO's highly ranked College of Education.

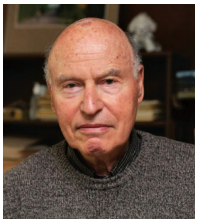
The Phil and Penny Knight Campus for Accelerating Scientific Impact is breaking ground in summer 2023 on its second building. Knight Campus researchers are fast-tracking scientific discoveries into innovations that improve the quality of life for people in Oregon, the nation, and the world.

Sources of Research Awards

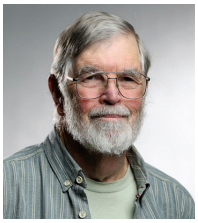
73% of UO research funding came from federal sources in 2021-22.



Awards for Greatest Impact



Psychologist **Paul Slovic** was honored with the Bower Award (fellow winners include Albert Einstein and Marie Curie) for his contribution to the understanding of how we make consequential decisions—whether to invest in a risky business venture or to donate to a charity, or how to stop genocide or the more disastrous outcomes of climate change.



Biologist **Chuck Kimmel** was inducted into the National Academy of Sciences, the most prestigious professional scientific organization in the U.S. Kimmel was honored for his contributions to our understanding of cell lineage specification and movement, as well as hindbrain segmentation and craniofacial patterning and evolution – all using the zebrafish model organism.

Training the Next Generation of Researchers

Graduate research

Zach Stevenson, a biology doctoral student, helped design a groundbreaking genetic editing technique that will allow biologists to do experiments that compare many versions of a gene, hunting for mutations that lead to specific traits and tracking their evolution over time – in mere days.

> **In biology, we spend a lot of time working with genetic mutants. But in animals, we're limited by how many genetic mutants we can make at one time. This is a way around that bottleneck." – Zach Stevenson**

Instead of individually injecting many individual nematode worms with different versions of a gene, Stevenson and his colleagues can inject the whole library of mutations into one worm. There are many reasons why scientists might want the ability to create many genetic mutations at once. For example, mutations could make a model organism better able to survive under certain conditions or less susceptible to a disease.

> **Many populations in the Pacific Northwest are in crisis, facing extinction, and salmon are incredibly vital to the economy, ecosystems, and culture of the region. – Jenna Travers**

Undergraduate research

2022 Goldwater Scholar and UO senior Jenna Travers has long been interested in glaciers and salmon, thanks in part to her father's work in the U.S. Coast Guard. The marine biology major (who is minoring in legal studies, science communication, and geography) has funneled those interests into research where climate change, policy, and communities overlap.

Travers, who is from Astoria, Oregon, spent summer 2022 doing fieldwork on glaciers in the North Cascades with the UO Glacier Lab.

Our Research Impacts Communities

Recent notable funding from federal sources focuses on helping communities improve education and build affordable housing.

Leilani Sabzalian secured nearly $400,000 from the U.S. Department of Education for "The University of Oregon Sapsik'ʷałá (Teacher) Education Project: An Indigenous Professional Teacher Preparation Program Proposal."

Jenefer Husman has been awarded more than $636,000 by the National Science Foundation for "MaSTERIt: Mathematics and Science Teams Engaging in Research to Inspire Teaching."

A team of researchers received more than $16 million in federal funds the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, which will go towards research on mass timber affordable housing solutions and acoustics testing for prototype homes.