

NSF FUNDING IN ACTION

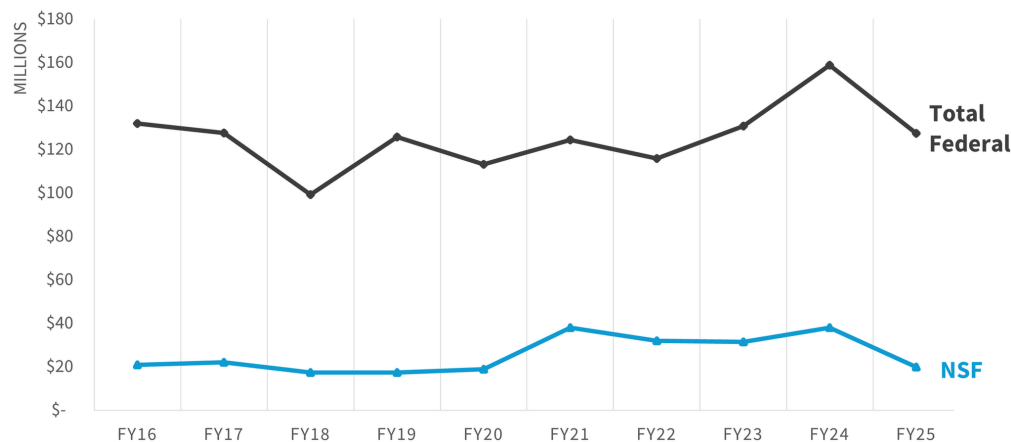
March 2026 | Resource for Policymakers



The National Science Foundation (NSF) is the nation's leading federal agency supporting fundamental research and education across all non-medical fields of science and engineering.

At the UO, NSF funding drives discovery across a wide array of disciplines while strengthening research infrastructure and expanding access to STEM education. These investments help advance basic science, accelerate innovation, prepare students to tackle real-world challenges, and train the next generation of scientists and clinicians.

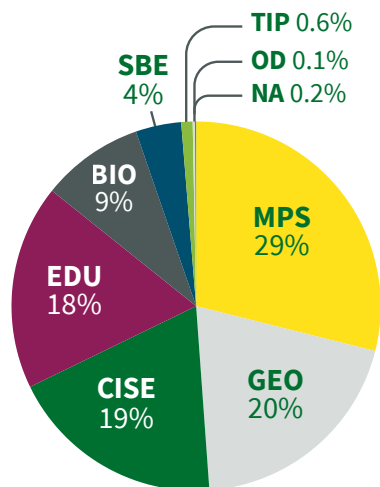
Total Value of New Research Awards (by Fiscal Year)



Grants by Directorate

(Fiscal Year 2025)

- MPS** Mathematical & Physical Sciences | \$5.7 million
- GEO** Geosciences | \$4.0 million
- CISE** Computer & Information Science & Engineering | \$3.8 million
- EDU** STEM Education | \$3.6 million
- BIO** Biological Sciences | \$1.7 million
- SBE** Social, Behavioral & Economic Sciences | \$744 thousand
- TIP** Technology, Innovation & Partnerships | \$128 thousand
- OD** Office of the Director | \$21 thousand
- NA** Not assigned to a directorate | \$35 thousand



\$19.7M

NSF Awards to UO Researchers, FY 2025

233

Active NSF Grants at the UO (February 2026)

UO Jobs Funded Through Federal Research Awards:

614

FTE

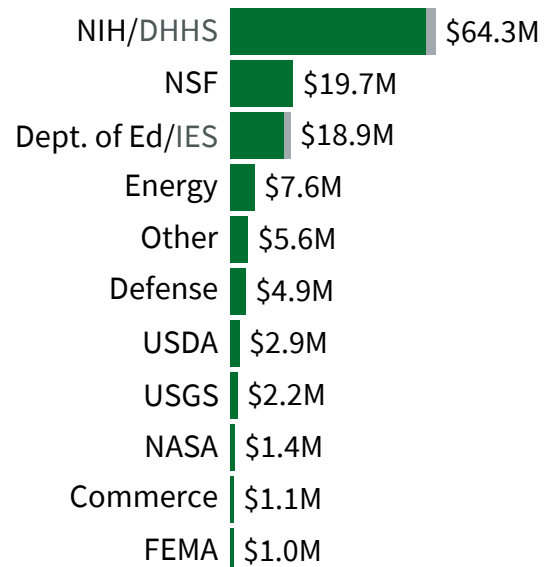
2,192

HEADCOUNT

Includes 406 graduate employees

New Federal Research Awards

(Fiscal Year 2025)



WHAT DOES **NSF FUNDING** MAKE POSSIBLE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON?



Photo: UO physics professor Brian Smith in his lab (Tiffany Barfield)

Advancing U.S. Quantum Research

The NSF selected the UO in December 2024 as one of six pilot sites for its National Quantum Virtual Laboratory. With an initial \$1 million grant, UO researchers are advancing photon-based quantum networks for real-world applications in sensing, secure data transmission, and computing. The project is the first phase of a multi-stage NSF competition, with future funding contingent on competitive reviews.

The UO is nationally recognized for its strength in quantum science. Faculty helped shape the National Quantum Initiative and have earned distinction in areas ranging from quantum optics to quantum information theory. UO researchers are core partners in both NSF and Department of Energy quantum research efforts, and their leadership is helping define the future of quantum networking in the U.S.



CRESCENT
CASCADIA REGION EARTHQUAKE
SCIENCE CENTER

Cascadia Earthquake Resilience

Powered by a \$15 million NSF grant awarded in 2023, the UO leads the Cascadia Region Earthquake Science Center (CRESCENT), the first federally funded center focused on subduction zone earthquakes. CRESCENT brings together more than a dozen institutions to study the Cascadia Subduction Zone, improve earthquake forecasting, and enhance community resilience across the Pacific Northwest.

Opening New Windows on the Universe

Cosmic Explorer is a planned next-generation gravitational-wave observatory that will deliver an order-of-magnitude increase in detection sensitivity beyond current LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) facilities in Washington and Louisiana. Gravitational waves provide a fundamentally new way to observe the universe, carrying information about extreme events and early cosmic history that cannot be studied with traditional telescopes.

The UO brings nationally recognized strengths in high-energy physics, quantum science, and precision measurement. UO researchers have contributed to major discoveries—from the Higgs boson to the first detection of gravitational waves—and continue to play key roles in international collaborations such as LIGO.

As NSF-supported researchers evaluate potential U.S. sites for this multi-billion-dollar project, the UO is an active partner, building on the expertise of its physics faculty to collaborate with institutions nationwide to identify optimal locations and support the project's scientific and community success. If realized, Cosmic Explorer would help position the United States at the forefront of gravitational-wave research while driving advances in sensing and related technologies, reinforcing the long-term value of NSF investment.

Government and Community Relations | 541-346-5020 | gcr@uoregon.edu

The University of Oregon is an equal-opportunity institution committed to cultural diversity and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. This publication will be made available in accessible formats upon request.

