



March 3, 2023

Dear professor/instructor:

We'd like to share information about **UO Day at the Capitol, UO's lobby day in Salem taking place this legislative session on Thursday, April 13.** We believe this is a valuable educational experience for your students who may miss your class on this day. Advocacy from students is not only an important experience in the democratic process, but it also has real impacts on college affordability, which services are funded for students, and the overall financial position of the University of Oregon.

The University of Oregon's primary objectives during the 2023 Oregon legislative session are to secure increased funding from the state for all public universities in Oregon, fight to increase support for wraparound services for students, and increase need based financial aid for Oregon students, including the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

Students advocating on behalf of UO is beneficial for the institution and for the student. **When students take time to meet with legislators and other key stakeholders, they gain and apply real-world skills and knowledge, including diplomacy, negotiation, and government and democratic processes.**

From the perspective of the Office of Government and Community Relations at the UO, we know lawmakers who determine our funding allocation from the state find the stories and requests of current students compelling and persuasive, more so than when hearing from our administrative leaders. The presence of UO students in the Capitol reflects well with legislators and shows first-hand how increased funding will impact student success, research, and the State of Oregon for years to come.

We hope you will consider the absence of these students from of your class on April 13 as a worthwhile educational opportunity and a benefit to our university community. We are glad to work with you after the event to verify their participation. To verify, please contact Iris Hodge at lhodge@uoregon.edu.

Thank you for all you do to educate and support UO students. Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

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