

The UO and Congress A Relationship Across Time

1876 University of Oregon opens with first students receiving diplomas in 1878.



1915 Clifton N. McArthur, BA 1901, becomes the first UO graduate to be elected to the US House of Representatives. Twenty UO graduates have served in the US House of Representatives.



1924 In 1928–29, a portion of the Coos Head Military Reservation was selected as the permanent site for formal marine biology education in Oregon. In 1931, more than 100 acres were deeded to the UO, and in 1936 the UO received a group of Army Corps of Engineers buildings which became the first permanent facilities now known as the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology (OIMB).

1958 1958 National Defense Education ACT (NDEA) is signed into law creating the precursor to the Perkins Loan Program. Title VI of NDEA focused on international education programs. UO has housed several Title VI programs and centers, including the first Mandarin Chinese Flagship program, a FLAS Center for Asian and Pacific Studies, and the Center for Applied Second Language Studies.

1960–69 Overall enrollment at the UO increases by more than 70 percent during the 1960s, with graduate student enrollment quadrupling. The university emerged as a star player nationally.

1969 UO admitted to the Association of American Universities.



1961 Peace Corps established. The UO is a top producer of Peace Corps volunteers, consistently ranking among the top 10 schools for total number of volunteers.

1974 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) creates certain privacy protections for students.

1972 Basic Educational Opportunity Grant is created (origin of the Pell Grant, the first federal need-based analysis formula). Maximum grant was initially \$452. In 2020–21, 31 percent of UO resident undergraduates were Pell-eligible.

1975 Congress establishes Harry S. Truman Scholarships for public service. Nine UO students have received Truman Scholarships since the program was founded.

1980–96 UO science buildings receive first expansion when US Senator Mark Hatfield directs \$46 million to the University of Oregon for funds for facilities at OIMB and the construction of new science buildings, including Willamette, Cascade, Deschutes (right), and Streisinger Halls.



1982 First vertebrate cloned by UO Professor George Streisinger. Streisinger adopted the zebrafish as a model laboratory organism in 1970 because the rapid development of these transparent creatures can be observed and monitored. The Zebrafish International Resource Center is funded by the National Institutes of Health.

1998 UO engages in a research priority-setting process and establishes the Brain, Biology, and Machine Initiative (BBMI) as a federal relations priority.

2003 Twenty-First Century Nanotechnology Research and Development Act passes, establishing the National Nanotechnology Initiative. The Oregon Nanoscience and Microtechnologies Institute (ONAMI) brought together the UO, OSU, Portland State University, and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

2008 UO creates the PathwayOregon program, which leverages the Pell Grant to provide full tuition and fees to eligible lower-income Oregonians.



2011 Congress enacts the Budget Control Act which in 2013 leads to “sequestration”—automatic cuts to United States federal government spending with significant impact on research funding.

2010 Federal research awards total \$103.1 million.

2012 Suzanne Bonamici, BA '80, JD '83, elected to the US House of Representatives, giving the UO four members of Congress in the delegation.

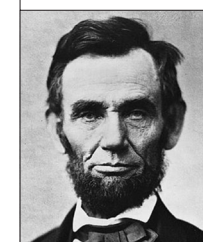
2012 Earmarks banned by House rule, requiring new strategies for federal relations.

2018 UO's Museum of Natural and Cultural History wins a National Medal for Museum and Library Science.

2020–21 Senator Jeff Merkley champions inclusion of support for students and institutions in CARES pandemic relief packages. In total UO receives \$82 million from Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds.

2021 Congress allows earmarks, now known as Congressionally Directed Spending or Community Projects.

1859 to 1900: Formation



1863 Congress passes and President Lincoln signs the Act of Incorporation, creating the National Academy of Sciences and naming 60 charter members.

1862 Morrill Act allows for the creation of land-grant colleges and establishes the national commitment to public higher education.

Federal action
UO highlights
Impact

1901 to 1950: Through Two World Wars



1907 Frederick W. Mulkey, BA 1896, becomes the first UO graduate to be elected to the United States Senate. Eight UO graduates have served in the UO Senate.

1900 UO Graduate School organized.

1926 First PhD granted.

1916 US Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) established at the UO. The long tradition of ROTC at the UO has produced the highest number of general officers of all nonmilitary ROTC schools nationwide. A total of 47 flag officers graduated from the University of Oregon.

1946 The Fulbright program is established through an act of Congress, enabling recipients to teach and conduct advanced research abroad. The University of Oregon consistently ranks in the top 10 percent of public institutions for students and faculty members receiving Fulbright awards.

1951 to 1980: Postwar Era

1962 Virgil Boekelheide, professor of chemistry, is the first of 14 UO faculty members elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

1960 Maurine Neuberger, BA '29, becomes the first woman from Oregon elected to the US Senate when she wins a special election to replace her husband, Richard Neuberger, Class of 1935 (former *Oregon Daily Emerald* editor), who died in office.

1959 Institute of Molecular Biology created as one of the first US institutes to encourage interdisciplinary research.

1965 Higher Education Act of 1965 authorizes most federal student financial aid programs, including the Educational Opportunity Grant and guaranteed student loans.

1972 First national estuarine reserve established at the South Slough near Charleston. With leadership from OIMB faculty, the Coastal Zone Management Act establishes the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. There are now 30 sites in all coastal states.

1972 Oregon Congresswoman Edith Green, BS '40, champions the passage of the Equal Opportunity in Education Act, better known as Title IX.



1980 Ron Wyden, JD '74, elected to the US House of Representatives.

1981 to 2000: An Era of Growth



1986 Peter DeFazio, MA '77, elected to the US House of Representatives. Retiring at the end of the 117th Congress after 36 years in office, no Oregonian in the state's history has served longer in the same congressional seat than Rep. DeFazio. His congressional papers will be housed at UO Libraries.

1993 The UO is among the first federal direct lending pilot institutions.

1994 Congressman DeFazio is the first member of the US House with a web page, thanks to hosting provided by the UO.

1996 UO federal research awards reach nearly \$60 million.

1998 Greg Walden, BS '81, elected to represent Oregon's second congressional district in US House of Representatives.

2001 to Present: The UO in the 21st Century



2001 Gilman Scholarship created by Congress to provide students with financial need access to study-abroad opportunities. The UO consistently ranks in the top 10 institutions nationwide for the number of Gilman Scholars.

2004 Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act is signed into law establishing campus suicide prevention education and training grants. US Senator Gordon Smith (R-Oregon) testifies that a conversation with Anne Leavitt, UO vice president for student affairs, prompted his decision to introduce legislation.

2005 Congressman DeFazio directs nearly \$20 million in funds to transportation research with the UO, OSU, and Portland State University. These funds establish a university transportation center and pay for a curation facility for the Museum of Natural and Cultural History in recognition of the federal archaeology mandate for transportation projects.

2005–11 The Oregon congressional delegation directed nearly \$55 million in research funds to ONAMI projects with \$17.5 million appropriated to the UO-led Safer Nanomaterials and Nanomanufacturing Initiative and \$8.8 million to the UO-led Army Research Laboratory Center.



2009 Michael Posner, professor emeritus of psychology, is one of nine researchers to receive the National Medal of Science from President Barack Obama.



2016 Geri Richmond, professor of chemistry, receives the National Medal of Science from President Barack Obama.

2020 Federal research awards total \$152 million.

2021 Geri Richmond named by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the Senate as Undersecretary for Science and Innovation at the Department of Energy.

2022 Senators Merkley and Wyden direct \$800k in funding to the UO for the Center for Wildfire Research and Practice.