Diversity Excellence Scholarship

The Diversity Excellence Scholarship (DES) recognizes the academic achievement and potential of students who, through sharing their varied cultural perspectives, will enhance the education of all UO students and the excellence of the university.

Award Information
Annual award amounts for 2013–14 were $6,500 for undergraduate students. These are renewable scholarships based on your grade level. The DES selection committee determines the amount and duration of each award.

Eligibility Requirements
• Be a United States citizen or permanent resident
• Minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.00

How to Apply
• Apply for admission by January 15. admissions.uoregon.edu
• Submit the online DES application by January 15. financialaid.uoregon.edu/uo_scholarship
• Official academic transcripts and a letter of recommendation written by a school official, teacher, member of a community organization, or employer must be received by the Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships no later than January 27.
• Submit the FAFSA to the federal processor no later than February 1. List the UO as one of your first six choices. The school code is 003223. fafsa.ed.gov

Deadlines
January 15 Admission application DES online application
January 27 Letter of recommendation Official transcripts
February 1 FAFSA
Gabriel Sanchez '14

Major: Anthropology
Hometown: Ukiah, California

Breaking Ground: I’m a first-generation college student, so being here is a major accomplishment in itself.

Focus and Support: Earning the DES allowed me to focus entirely on school, but gaining a network was the most helpful part. Everyone is so supportive. They helped me prepare for interviews, presentations, and even helped me edit my essays. DES didn’t just help me get into the UO; it helped me succeed after I arrived here.

Major Discoveries: I’ve been interested in anthropology from the very beginning, and the UO has the best program in the Pacific Northwest. My research is focused on studying harpoon points and figuring out if ancient indigenous groups in the Pacific Northwest hunted whales. I’ve had the chance to work with the Forest Service, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and the Smithsonian.

Community Connections: There is a community here that is welcoming and supportive. I got involved with MEChA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán) when I started at the UO, and I am planning to take a more active role with them next year. MEChA has done some really great things for the campus and Eugene.

Advice for Future Ducks: Going to college can become a reality if you are willing to work hard and reach out to advisors and mentors. Also, apply for financial aid, even if you think you might not qualify. It can’t hurt to fill out an application—it might wind up opening doors you didn’t know were there.

Selection Criteria
Recipients are selected by the Diversity Excellence Scholarship selection committee based on the following:
• Past academic performance
• Participation in campus or community activities
• Racial or ethnic background
• Financial need as defined by federal guidelines
• First generation of the family to attend college
• Residency; preference is given to Oregon residents

Scholarship Renewal
To maintain scholarship eligibility, you must:
• Maintain full-time student status
• Maintain a minimum 2.50 UO GPA
• Make satisfactory progress toward completion of a degree objective
• Meet regularly with a scholarship advisor

Community Service Component
Recipients of the scholarship will be expected to participate in community service opportunities to share cultural heritage, special skills and abilities, and diversity experiences. The Center for Multicultural Academic Excellence coordinates and supports these projects. cmae.uoregon.edu

Award Notification
Recipients will be notified by April 15.

Note: This award cannot be combined with some tuition-remission programs such as Oregon University System staff tuition rates or Graduate Teaching Fellowships.

Contact Information
Office of Student Financial Aid and Scholarships
financialaid.uoregon.edu
1278 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1278
800-760-6953
541-346-3221
541-346-1175 (fax)

Office of Admissions
admissions.uoregon.edu
1217 University of Oregon
Eugene OR 97403-1217
800-BE-A-DUCK
541-346-3201
541-346-5815 (fax)

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