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A150 Kerr Administration Building, 541-737-7627
oregonstate.edu/newstudents
“What does this mean?!”

If you’re a first-time Oregon State University parent, it may be hard to figure out many of the terms used here at the university. Use this glossary to understand your student’s new vocabulary.

**Academic probation** – Students who have completed two or more terms at Oregon State and have a cumulative GPA below 2.0 are placed on probation. Students who raise their cumulative GPA to 2.0 or better are removed from academic probation.

**Academic suspension** – Students who are on probation and have a subsequent term GPA of less than 2.0 are placed on suspension. A student who has been suspended from Oregon State is prohibited from enrolling in classes and must fulfill specified criteria before being readmitted to the university. Academic suspension is recorded on the student’s academic record.

**Academic warning** – Students with a term GPA below 2.0 are placed on academic warning.

**Add/drop** – Students may add or drop classes during the first two weeks of each term. The cost is $20 per course to add or drop after the third week of the term.

**Advanced placement** – Advanced placement and/or credit may be granted to students who are on probation and have a subsequent term GPA of less than 2.0 are placed on suspension. A student who has been suspended from Oregon State is prohibited from enrolling in classes and must fulfill specified criteria before being readmitted to the university. Academic suspension is recorded on the student’s academic record.

**Advisors** – A faculty member appointed by the department or college to assist a student with planning academic programs.

**Baccalaureate Core** – The university’s general education requirements consisting of skills courses, perspectives courses, synthesis courses and writing-intensive courses.

**B.A. degree** – The Bachelor of Arts degree is conferred for broad and liberal education in humanities, arts, social sciences and sciences.

**B.F.A. degree** – The Bachelor of Fine Arts is a professional degree requiring a minimum of 105 credits in the visual arts.

**B.S. degree** – The Bachelor of Science degree is conferred for focused curricula that emphasize scientific ways of knowing and quantitative approaches to understanding the sciences and social sciences. It is also conferred for curricula in professional fields.

**Certificate program (undergraduate)** – A specified interdisciplinary program of study leading to an official certificate and notation on a student’s transcript. A certificate program differs from a minor because it draws from more than one department rather than a single department. The certificate program must be taken in conjunction with a formal degree program.

**College** – A subdivision of the university offering degree programs within a specific subject area. Oregon State University has 13 colleges.

**Commencement** – Oregon State’s annual graduation ceremony, held in June.

**Course Reference Number (CRN)** – A five-digit number used to select a specific course, lab and/or recitation.

**Credit** – The academic value assigned to a course based on the type and level of the subject material, as well as the expected number of hours spent on class preparation. One credit is generally given for three hours of work per week, in and out of class.

**Dead week** – Week 10 of the academic term. There are typically no finals, midterms or other comprehensive examinations given during this week.

**Electives** – Courses that are not required as part of a degree program, but are generally chosen and used by a student to supplement or enrich the required curriculum.

**First-Year student** – A student who has completed 44 or fewer term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

**FYE** – First-Year Experience, consisting of four signature areas (orientation, living on campus, first-year experience courses and required advising) that build community and support student success and retention.

**Grade Point Average (GPA)** – Total number of grade points received divided by total number of credits attempted. Grade points are assigned for one term credit of each grade: A = 4.0; A– = 3.7; B+ = 3.3; B = 3.0; B– = 2.7; C+ = 2.3; C = 2.0; C– = 1.7; D+ = 1.3; D = 1.0; D– = 0.7; F = 0.0. Grades of I, P, N, S, U and W are not computed.

**Graduation audit** – An evaluation of a student’s academic record to determine if the graduation requirements set forth by the university, college and major department have been met.

**Junior** – A student who has completed at least 90 but not more than 134 term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

**Lower-division courses** – Course offerings at a level of comprehension usually associated with first-year and sophomore students. Lower-division courses are numbered in the 100s and 200s.

**Major (undergraduate)** – The primary field of study in which a student wishes to receive a degree.

**Minor (undergraduate)** – A second field of interest, consisting of a minimum of 27 designated term credits of related course work, 12 of which must be at the upper-division level.

**Option (undergraduate)** – A second field of interest, consisting of a minimum of 21 designated term credits of related course work, 15 of which must be at the upper-division level.

**Perspectives courses** – Courses that integrate fundamental knowledge from science and liberal arts disciplines to develop cultural, historic and scientific perspectives.

**Pre-professional program** – A collection of introductory courses offered at the lower-division level. Pre-professional programs are often designed to ensure students have the aptitude, motivation and discipline to successfully complete advanced course work as well as achieve the standards for a chosen career field.

**Prerequisites** – Requirements that must be completed before enrollment in a course. The instructor may waive a prerequisite.

**Professional program** – Curriculum generally offered at the upper-division level, designed to prepare students for a professional career within a specific field (e.g., engineering or pharmacy). Admission to professional programs is competitive and is often based on prior course work and/or work experience.

**Senior** – A student who has completed 135 or more term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

**Sequence** – Two, three or four closely related courses, usually taken in numerical order through more than one term.

**Skills courses** – Courses designed to give the student fundamental mathematical, writing, communication and fitness competence.

**Sophomore** – A student who has completed at least 45 but not more than 89 term credits toward an undergraduate degree.

**Synthesis courses** – Upper-division courses that emphasize interdisciplinary and critical-thinking approaches to global, technological and societal issues.

**Syllabus** – A list of course objectives, lecture topics, assigned readings, exams, etc., prepared and distributed by an instructor at the beginning of the term.

**Transfer student** – A student who has completed 36 or more term credits at one institution and will resume his or her college course work at a second institution.

**Upper-division courses** – Course offerings at a level of comprehension usually associated with junior or senior students. Upper-division courses are numbered in the 300s and 400s.

**Withdraw** – To voluntarily leave a course or the university without academic penalty.

**Writing-Intensive Courses (WIC)** – Designated upper-division courses in the major discipline that use student writing as a significant approach to learning.
Ready, set, go Oregon State!

Your student is beginning and/or continuing one of life’s most rewarding journeys. You are also going to experience new feelings and face new challenges as your student establishes his or her independence. We encourage you to use this calendar as a resource, and we offer the following tips:

- Encourage your student to ask for help when needed.
- Be supportive and interested in his or her college experiences.
- Encourage your student to stay on campus or in Corvallis over most weekends. This helps them build new friendships and feel included in the Oregon State community.
- Be understanding when he or she feels overwhelmed and homesick.
- Listen openly, honestly and without judgment.
- Empower your student to solve his or her own problems.

For students belonging to underrepresented populations, the Diversity and Cultural Engagement office (541-737-9030) and the Educational Opportunities Program (541-737-3628) offer support services and cultural programs. If your student needs accommodations for a disability, he or she should contact Disability Access Services at 541-737-4098, ideally before the start of the term to ensure a smooth transition.

How is college different from high school?

College students are responsible for their actions and decisions. Rarely does an instructor ask twice for assignments or question why students were not in class. Students typically have more freedom than they had in high school, making time management more important. Class size may also be significantly larger, and students need to take responsibility to seek out assistance and resources.

Tips for staying connected:

- Keep in touch by phone, text and email.
- Visit your student during university-sponsored events and family weekends.
- Send care packages, cards and letters.

Premade care packages and birthday cakes are available from OSU Catering. Call 541-737-1600 or email osucatering@oregonstate.edu to place an order (to guarantee delivery, place orders at least three days in advance).
Safety first

While the Oregon State community and the city of Corvallis are friendly and relatively safe, neither is immune to the realities of the world. Every student must take responsibility and recognize his or her own vulnerability to crime, reducing risks through preventive action and cooperation with Oregon State Police and the Department of Public Safety. In accordance with the national Clery Act, a comprehensive annual campus crime report can be viewed at: fa.oregonstate.edu/publicsafety.

Department of Public Safety/Oregon State Police
541-737-3010 (non-emergency)
541-737-7000 (emergency)

SafeRide Shuttle Service
541-737-2252 (office)
541-737-5000 (shuttle)

Survivor Advocacy and Resource Center
541-737-2030

Corvallis Police Department
911 (emergency)
541-766-6924 (non-emergency)

What are some basic risk-reduction tips I should discuss with my student?

• Theft is the most common crime on campus. Most thefts occur during the day, 80 percent without forced entry. Cars, residential rooms, apartments and houses should be kept locked at all times.
• Never compromise safety for a roommate who wants the door left unlocked. Replace locks when a key is lost or stolen. Do not loan out room keys or apartment keys to visitors.
• Review the safety tips for online networks like Facebook and Twitter.
• Share class, social and recreation schedules with your family and close friends.
• Always travel with a friend at night.
• Report suspicious activities to the Oregon State Police/Department of Public Safety. Use the blue light emergency phones located throughout campus to report any suspicious behavior, crime or request for assistance. Simply press the red button and police/public safety will respond immediately.
• Use the SafeRide Shuttle for safe transportation around campus and some off campus locations after dark.
• Check with your homeowner’s insurance to ensure your student’s belongings are covered. Record serial numbers for high-value items including bikes, computers, phones, tablets and gaming equipment.
• Register your bike and/or laptop with the Department of Public Safety at Cascade Hall.
Striving for success!

By now, your student has probably experienced at least one or two midterms. The results can be a source of encouragement or discouragement, and your student may come to you for support and motivation. Common questions include:

- College is harder than I thought. What can I do?
- I think I want to change my major. Should I?
- I know I need help, but how do I ask? Where do I go?

How can I help my student succeed?

Encourage your student to treat college like a full-time job. Recommend becoming active in the campus community and getting to know faculty and staff. Tell your student to be persistent, reach out and ask for help. The most successful students tend to be those who take full advantage of the tutoring, study tables, academic coaching and other resources available at Oregon State. Feel free to suggest resources and services that may be useful. At the same time, encourage your student to seek assistance directly. Your student’s success depends on learning how to advocate for themselves.

Remember to offer praise and positive reinforcement regularly.

Remind your student to:

- Always go to class.
- Use a day planner or calendar on their phone or computer.
- Attend study groups or seek tutoring services.
- Visit instructors during office hours or talk to them before or after class.
- Avoid cramming.
- Visit the Academic Success Center in Waldo Hall to learn about academic support available.

How can I find out if my student is experiencing difficulties?

The best way is to regularly keep in touch. Ask how he or she is doing. If you’re concerned about your student, contact the Student Life Assistance Team through the Dean of Student Life office at 541-737-8748. Due to privacy issues regarding student records, the Student Life Assistance Team may not be able to give you information about your student directly, but can aid in providing referrals, as well as information regarding processes and support resources.
### What parents need to know about student records

#### Where will my student’s grades be mailed?
Oregon State does not mail grade reports. Grades are available to students via MyOSU.

#### Can I have a copy of my student’s grades or academic record?
According to both federal and state law, parents may have a copy of their student’s record only with the student’s consent. Students have access to their grades online via MyOSU a few days after the end of the term. While Oregon State staff may not be able to talk specifically about your student, we can share general information about academic policies and processes.

### What is FERPA?
The federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), along with Oregon state law and administrative rules, gives students certain rights with respect to their educational records. These include:

1. The right to inspect and review the student’s educational records within 45 days of the request.
2. The right to request the amendment of portions of the student’s educational record that the student believes are inaccurate or misleading.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of the personally identifiable information contained in the student’s educational record, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.
4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by Oregon State University to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

If you call a university office and ask for information about your student, you will receive only information that the university can legally provide. This information is listed at [oregonstate.edu/registrar/privacy-records](http://oregonstate.edu/registrar/privacy-records). While federal law authorizes release of records to parents of dependent students, it is not required. Oregon state law, however, is more restrictive and allows only directory information to be released to parents.
Money management 101

Your student’s new freedom will also require new responsibilities, including managing his or her finances. Talk with your student about these responsibilities often. Having a bank account or credit card may be a completely new experience for your student, so it’s important to have a conversation about budgeting expenses, spending habits and paying for his or her education.

**Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships** ........................................... 541-737-2241
financialaid.oregonstate.edu

**Student Accounts** ................................................................. 541-737-3775
fa.oregonstate.edu/business-affairs

**Financial Aid from the U.S. Department of Education**
studentaid.ed.gov

**The Oregon Student Assistance Commission**
oregonstudentaid.gov

**Free Application for Student Financial Aid**
fafsa.ed.gov

How can I help my student learn to manage money?

- Establish a budget and financial expectations together.
- Resist the temptation to tie money to grades.
- Follow all procedures and timetables set by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
- Maximize all available sources of funding.
- Have your student open and learn how to manage a bank account, including responsible use of ATM/debit cards.
- Discourage your student from accepting credit card offers he or she may receive.
- If your student feels able to handle the responsibilities of school and work, encourage him or her to work part-time (no more than 20 hours per week for a full-time student). Students can find an updated list of on-campus job opportunities at jobs.oregonstate.edu. Off-campus jobs are listed through the Career Development Center at career.oregonstate.edu.

**Oregon State University billing information**

Payment is due upon receipt. Unpaid charges accrue 1 percent monthly interest (12 percent APR). Electronic bills are produced monthly, and an email notification of a new billing statement is sent to the student’s university ONID email account. Students may add parents as an authorized user for parents to access a student’s financial information. For additional information regarding student accounts, call 541-737-3775.
**Healthy bodies = active minds**

An active mind needs a healthy body, so encourage your student to find ways of relieving stress, keeping active and staying healthy. Suggest taking a fitness class, getting a massage at Dixon Recreation Center or attending the Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) Mind Spa.

**Health and wellness resources:**

Student Health Services (SHS) ................................. 541-737-9355  
studenthealth.oregonstate.edu

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) ............... 541-737-2131  
counseling.oregonstate.edu

Department of Recreational Sports .................................. 541-737-3736  
recsports.oregonstate.edu

What if my student gets ill?

The university’s health fee, which is part of tuition, provides students with access to Student Health Services and resources, including:

- Unlimited visits with physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants.
- Self-care assessment without an appointment through the Self-Care Clinic.
- Two free nutrition consultations with a registered dietician per academic year.

- Anonymous Q&A for health-related questions with the AnswerSPOT and other web resources at studenthealth.oregonstate.edu.
- Health promotion outreach programming and events .......................... 541-737-2775
- After-hours nurse advice by phone .............................. 541-737-WELL (9355)
- Out-of-area phone access ............................... 877-824-WELL (9355)
- Optional purchase of health insurance ............................... 541-737-7568

Charges for Student Health Services are billed to a student’s university account. These include medical clinic, pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray, allergy/asthma, sports medicine, travel clinic, immunizations, acupuncture, massage and chiropractic, as well as treatment supplies and diagnosis. Physical therapy, athletic training and nutrition consultations are available at the Health and Fitness Connection in Dixon Recreation Center. Health services can often be reimbursed by the student’s health insurance plan. Although we strongly recommend that every student be insured, health insurance coverage is not required for a student to use SHS. Health promotion services for students, including smoking cessation, nutrition consultation and health coaching, are offered free of charge. SHS is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.
**Academic advising**

Academic advising is important to your student’s college experience and progress toward a degree. Advisors help students develop class plans as well as explore academic options, requirements and opportunities that can enhance and individualize their education. All students have at least one — if not several — academic advisors they can meet with throughout their time at Oregon State.

**How often should my student meet with their academic advisor? When should they schedule meetings?**

All colleges require students in their first year to meet every term with an advisor. After the first year, requirements look different depending on the student’s college or program. However, it’s best that students meet with their advisors often to stay on track with their academic goals, have any questions answered and learn about resources to help them succeed in their classes.

**What if my student wants to change majors?**

To change or declare a major or minor, students must complete a Major/Minor Change Form, available at your student’s college/program advising offices, the registrar’s office and online. Students considering changing a major can talk to their current advisor or one in the University Exploratory Studies Program. Some students may also find it useful to talk to a counselor in the Career Development Center.

**Is it OK that my student is undecided?**

Yes. It takes many students a while to find an academic major that fits their strengths, professional aspirations, academic interests and personal values. Students who are given the time and freedom to find the right major are often more successful at landing internships and jobs after graduation or going on to graduate school. Encourage your student to meet with an academic advisor in the University Exploratory Studies Program, a counselor in the Career Development Center and/or faculty members who teach or conduct research in subjects they’re interested in. They can give your student a better understanding of various majors and careers and help them find the major that fits them best.
Finding employment

Finding employment both while attending school and after graduation is an important concern for both students and their families. Oregon State’s Career Development Center has many resources to help. We recommend that full-time students work no more than 20 hours or less per week while taking classes. This is particularly important for new students who are also dealing with the transition to Oregon State.

Where can students find out about available jobs?

Students can use jobs.oregonstate.edu for on-campus employment or access Beaver Careers through the Career Development Center’s website for off-campus positions. Students can visit the Career Development Center in B008 Kerr Administration Building to seek additional help with developing a résumé, cover letter and/or job interview skills.

What is a work-study job?

Work-study is based on financial eligibility. The federal work-study program allows students to work at an hourly rate to earn the total federal work-study amount granted through their financial aid award. Students receive a monthly paycheck for the hours worked. Employers on campus receive a subsidy that helps create job opportunities. If your student is eligible for work-study, it will be listed as part of their financial aid award letter.

How does Oregon State help students find internships and jobs after graduation?

The Career Development Center (CDC) helps students plan for their future and develop skills needed for a successful job or internship search. CDC offers workshops on résumé preparation, cover letters, interviewing and job search strategies, along with cooperative and internship job opportunities. Each year, more than 400 employers come to campus to interview students for full-time employment and internship opportunities — more than any other school in Oregon.

The CDC provides career decision-making guidance and planning through individual appointments with advisors. Encourage your student to visit the CDC early and often; waiting until their final term to begin job/internship preparation usually makes the process more difficult.

Helpful tips for supporting career exploration:

• Support your student’s exploration of potential jobs and career fields.
• Remain open if your student decides to explore or major in something other than what you wanted for him or her.
• Encourage your student to pursue experiences outside of the classroom to help in his or her exploration, including volunteering, undergraduate research, clubs or organizations.
• Give your student time to map out his or her career path.
## Get involved!

Get involved if your student is looking for a way to make friends, relieve stress, learn about different cultures or pursue professional interests, encourage him or her to explore all the ways to get involved on campus. Oregon State provides many opportunities for leadership, community service, recreation, culture, spiritual development and fun!

### Involvement opportunities at Oregon State:

- Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU)
- Residence Hall Council
- 300+ student organizations
- Student employment
- Memorial Union Program Council

### Can students balance academic and social activities?

Becoming involved in campus activities tends to improve a student’s college experience. Not only do the activities provide opportunities to meet people with similar interests, they also help students apply what they have learned in the classroom to real-life situations and improve time management. A healthy balance of study and co-curricular activity can add a rewarding dimension to the college experience.

### Spiritual and religious opportunities

Oregon State recognizes the needs and rights of students to examine and affirm a personal religious faith or life philosophy as an important component in their development. There are more than 25 recognized student groups on campus to support students’ growth in these areas, along with a wide variety of community organizations.

### Are there opportunities for parents and family to get involved?

The Memorial Union Program Council (MUPC) hosts Moms and Dads Weekends on campus. Dads Weekend, in the fall, feature tours, a comedy show, an intramural golf tournament and a football tailgater. Moms Weekend, in the spring, features an arts-and-crafts fair, a comedy show, wine tasting and a fashion show. For more information, contact the MUPC office at 541-737-6872. Visit [studentlife.oregonstate.edu/parents](studentlife.oregonstate.edu/parents) to learn about additional programs for parents and family members.
“Hey! When did my room become an office?”

With finals and the end of the year approaching, your student will likely be coming home for the summer — and that can mean both excitement and anxiety. Remember that students keep their own schedule at school, so it’s a good idea to discuss your expectations about family activities beforehand.

**Will our relationship be the same when my student comes home?**

It may change; new college ways and old home rules can create tension. Don’t be too shocked or disappointed if your student refers to Oregon State as home. It’s a sure sign of adjustment.

- Be prepared for new behaviors, such as hair, dress and food preferences.
- Remember they have been setting their own curfew. Discuss your expectations for when they are home.
- Evaluate house rules and be willing to compromise.
- Talk about summer work plans.

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**Dead week**

Last day for total withdrawal from the university

**Finals week**

2017 Commencement Ceremony

Spring term ends

**Summer Session 6 begins (1 week)**

Grades available online

**Summer Session 1 begins (11 weeks)**

**Summer Session 2 begins (4 weeks)**

**Summer Session 3 begins (8 weeks)**

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Experiential learning
Oregon State University offers many different ways for students to expand their learning beyond the college classroom. Learning by doing is a highly effective way to develop or confirm interest for a particular area of study, gain valuable skills for future jobs and careers, network with people in a chosen industry, challenge themselves and personalize their education. Encourage your student to explore the various experiential opportunities available to them at Oregon State. They can get involved with world-class research; study abroad in one of more than 35 different countries; participate in service learning and civic engagement projects; and/or complete internships with local, national and global companies.

Undergraduate Research
Oregon State University is Oregon’s leading public research university with thousands of research projects going on annually. Undergraduate students are encouraged to participate in research to gain hands-on experience, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, stimulate intellectual curiosity and deepen relationships with faculty in their fields of study. To learn more about the benefits of research and how your student can get involved, visit undergraduate.oregonstate.edu/research.

Study Abroad and International Internships
Oregon State’s Office of Global Opportunities (OSU GO) offers more than 200 different approved study abroad opportunities and international internships. Scholarships are available to help students pay for their time abroad. Students can study abroad for anywhere from a few weeks to an entire academic year while earning Oregon State course credits and making progress toward academic degrees. Studying abroad gives students a global perspective and increased cultural competence, both of which are highly valued in today’s workforce. To learn more, visit international.oregonstate.edu.

Other experiential learning options to explore:
Service Learning and Civic Engagement
sli.oregonstate.edu/cce
Adventure Leadership Institute
recsports.oregonstate.edu/ali
Orange Media Network (newspaper, radio, TV)
mu.oregonstate.edu/orangemedianetwork
Student Leadership and Development
sli.oregonstate.edu/cld
Internships
career.oregonstate.edu
Students should also consult with faculty and academic advisors to learn about internship opportunities in their areas of interest.
### Visiting Corvallis

Nestled in the heart of the Willamette Valley, Corvallis enjoys mild temperatures year-round and easy access to the Pacific Ocean, the Cascades, the high desert of Eastern Oregon and the cities of Portland, Salem and Eugene. While visiting your student, we encourage you to take advantage of all that Corvallis has to offer, including:

- Attending an athletic, music or theater event.
- Touring world-famous Willamette Valley wineries.
- Taking a walk downtown or along Riverfront Park.
- Enjoying the outdoors by hiking, biking or backpacking in surrounding parks and recreational areas.

### Parking

For parking information and to purchase visitor parking permits, visit parking.oregonstate.edu.

### Visitor information

For information on restaurants and lodging in Corvallis, contact:

**Visit Corvallis**
420 NW 2nd St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
Phone: 541-757-1544 | 800-334-8118
Email: info@visitcorvallis.com | website: visitcorvallis.com

**Corvallis Chamber of Commerce**
420 NW Second St.
Corvallis, OR 97330
Phone: 541-757-1505
Website: corvallischamber.com
Welcome to Beaver Nation!

Thank you for entrusting your student’s education to Oregon State University. We take this responsibility seriously and ask that you join with us as partners in providing the very best learning and living experience for your student at Oregon State. The active involvement of parents and family members has always been a hallmark of an Oregon State education, and the relationship between you and the university — jointly responsible for your student’s education — contributes to a special sense of community found nowhere else. Together, we can nurture and encourage your student to grow personally and academically.

Because you are an integral member of this partnership, we want to give you some helpful information about the first-year student experience at Oregon State. This calendar provides an overview of resources for your student such as how to help him or her succeed academically, the wide array of health services that are available and ways for your student to become involved in the Oregon State community. As you will quickly note, a consistent theme in this calendar is our belief that a student’s personal growth benefits from a diversity of experiences and participation in a variety of activities. We hope that this calendar will help you and your son or daughter discover and take advantage of these opportunities. Looking through the calendar with your student will give you a better understanding of the rich student life we offer at Oregon State University.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Ray, President