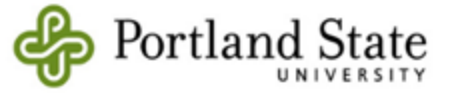




**STRONG START PROGRAMS
AT OREGON PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES**



WHAT IS STRONG START?

- Initially funded in 2021 to help students transition from high school into postsecondary education.
- Available to new resident undergraduate students but universities generally prioritize students from historically underrepresented and underserved communities, such as low-income, first-generation, and BIPOC students.

SHARED GOALS

- A focus on serving BIPOC and students from underserved communities;
- A summer bridge kick-off and continuing wraparound services throughout the school year;
- Strong academic skill-building and provision of other student success skills; and
- The creation of a community of support for the students.

SUMMER BRIDGE



Summer Bridge programs introduce new students to campus life, important resources, and provides the opportunity to build supportive networks of faculty and staff, advisors, peer mentors, and other students.

Programs typically last one to two weeks and may provide students with credit for their participation or access to institutional remissions or stipends.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

A background image of two young women. The woman on the left has long braids and glasses, and is smiling broadly with her mouth open. The woman on the right has long wavy hair and a nose ring, and is smiling while holding a chocolate egg in her hands. They are both wearing dark clothing.

First-year students are provided with supplemental instruction during the bridge program and throughout the school year to ensure they have the extra support they need to be successful.

Participants receive intensive academic support, especially in:

- Math
- Writing,
- Academic Advising
- Peer Mentoring
- Tutoring; and
- Study & Financial Literacy Skills.

Students participating in Strong Start programs demonstrated



A+



consistently higher retention,
stronger GPAs, and
completed more credit hours.

PROVEN RESULTS

2022-23 Academic Year	Fall to Winter Retention		Fall GPA		Fall Credits Completed	
	Strong Start	Not Strong Start	Strong Start	Not Strong Start	Strong Start	Not Strong Start
EOU	95%	81%	3.4	3.2	15.5	11.8
OIT	94%	93%	3.15	3.19	14.2	12.9
OSU	98.5%	93.0%	3.08	3.21	13.4	13.2
PSU*	87.5%	81.5%	2.37	2.26	10.3	9.9
SOU**	97.0%	56.0%	3.02	1.89	16.1	8.8
UO***	95.5%	95.7%	3.11	3.16	13.3	13.7
WOU	97%	92%	3.06	2.99	13.4	12.5

*PSU's "Strong Start" and "Not Strong Start" data compares outcomes for students admitted below a 3.0 high school GPA.

** SOU's "Not Strong Start" student data represents a control group of 25 randomly selected Bridge-eligible students who enrolled at SOU in Fall 2022 and either declined a spot in the program or did not apply.

***UO's Summer Bridge program intentionally focuses on serving low-income, first-generation, and students of color where historic and persistent opportunity gaps exist for retention, credit completion, and GPA. **Comparisons of Summer Bridge and non-Summer Bridge participant outcomes among low-income, first-generation, and students of color show consistently improved outcomes for traditionally underserved students who participate in the Summer Bridge program.**



"I think the biggest takeaway from this is the feeling of you are not alone. There are so many people and resources dedicated to help and be there for us. Many students are in similar situations as us."

- Summer Bridge Student at the University of Oregon



**Please help
support new
students by
funding Strong
Start at
\$10 million
for 2023-25**