DucksRISE is a career-readiness program for BIPOC, first generation, and/or low-income undergraduates at the University of Oregon. Our program began in early 2022 with a one-year Beyond Completion Challenge grant from the Strada Education Network. We provide wrap-around support, promote well-being & belonging, develop professional competencies, and build community & networks. DucksRISE is open to undergraduate students of all majors and class standing who identify as members of underserved communities; our program helps them find campus resources, opportunities, and each other.

At DucksRISE, we embrace a student-centered mission. The DucksRISE program follows a cohort-based model, which creates space for peer-to-peer mentoring and connections. Extracurricular events like Food, Friends, Fun, Game Night, and the Gala elevate classroom acquaintances to friendships and career and academic collaborations grow into resilient networks.

Members of DucksRISE enroll in UGST 399, a one-credit career readiness seminar that includes discussions of NACE competencies, resumes, cover letters, online brand curation, research methods, interview preparation, graduate school, race, class, gender, intersectionality, and decolonizing predominantly white institutions. We hold tutorials on Study Abroad, Undergraduate Research and Distinguished Scholarships, LinkedIn, Chat GPT, TRIO SSS, UO Libraries, and the Career Center.

After classes conclude, cohorts continue to receive support as they engage experiential learning opportunities. We keep connected through email, social, and Teams; cohort members collaborate on research projects, participate in opportunities to share their stories and platform their voices, and come together for fun activities and mutual support.
DUCKSRISE BY THE NUMBERS

- 86% BIPOC
- 66% Pell Eligible
- 53% First Gen
- 22% Transfer Students

- 169 cohort members
- 45 graduating in 2023
- 39 DucksRISE Research Fellows
- 29 Diversity Excellence Scholarship recipients
- 29 Studying Abroad ($54K in study abroad scholarships)
- 25 Undergraduate Research Symposium Participants
- 22 placed in local internships
- 18 placed in Portland Internship Experience sites
- 6 peer mentors
- 5 DucksRISE Research Seed Grant Recipients
- 4 Gilman Scholars

FUNDING FROM DUCKSRISE TO STUDENTS

- $142.5K research funding disbursed
- $99.5K internship stipends paid
- $61K tuition costs refunded
- $7K for professional development

PARTNERSHIPS SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

- 51 local Internship partners
- 42 research mentors
- 40 stakeholder committee members
- 29 guest speakers

DUCKSRISE DELIVERABLES

SELECT INTERNSHIP PLACEMENTS
- Arts & Business Alliance of Eugene
- City of Eugene
- Civil Liberty Defense Center
- Connected Lane County
- Fernland Studios
- Glad Rags
- Invivo Biosystems
- IS Media Services
- Kilgren & White Law Office
- Lan Su Garden
- Lane Arts Council
- Mt. Pisgah Arboretum
- Pine Ridge Golf Club
- Portland Museum of Art
- Simple X
- Turrell Group
- Urban League

SELECT RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP TOPICS
- Evolutionary Response of Daphnia to Ecological Disaster
- Food Activism and Sustainability in Disabled Communities
- Function and Disease Risk of Slow/Fast Myofiber Associated Regions of the Human Genome
- How Law and Governance Affects Informal Housing
- Love Unbound: Incarcerated Black Fathers and the Family Experience
- Microbiota, Visual System Development, and Neurodevelopmental Disorders
- Olfaction and Behavior in Autistic Model Mice
- Remote Early Warning Messaging Technology
- Stress Disparities in Latinx/e Undergraduate Students
- The Decline and Revitalization of Native Languages in Mexico
- Unseen Numbers: Missing and Murdered Indigenous and Black Women
- Working Towards Health Equity with the Oregon Medical Group

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@uoducksrise | ducksrise@uoregon.edu | urds.uoregon.edu/ducksrise