

Welcome to the University of Oregon



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

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This presentation will help you prepare for your University of Oregon education.

The information in this presentation summarizes the main points; you will learn more once you arrive in Oregon for International Student Orientation (ISO).

We hope this information will help you prepare for your arrival at the UO. We are happy to answer your questions and we look forward to meeting you!

Intro to the UO: Agenda

In this presentation you will learn:

- *What it means to be a UO Duck*
- *Links to virtual campus tours*
- *Academic terms and the course credit system*
- *Grades and calculating a GPA (Grade Point Average)*
- *What is Academic Advising*
- *How to be successful in an American classroom*

Introduction to the UO

Introduction to the American Education system

The higher education system in the United States may be very similar or very different from your home country.

These next few pages will talk about what you can expect at the University of Oregon.

You will learn much more about American education and culture when you arrive on campus for orientation.

How UO Works: What to expect in an American classroom

The style of teaching and learning may feel different in America than in your home country:

- You will learn many facts and memorize information in UO courses, but you will also have to think critically, work in teams, and learn how to put information together.
- American courses are designed to make you think as an individual. Courses will reward your original thoughts and your ability to communicate new ideas. You will also learn how to be creative and to put your unique thoughts, feelings, and talents into your assignments.

How UO Works: What to expect in an American classroom

- American classes may also ask that you do group projects, especially in the College of Business. This will teach you how to work with others, show your strengths and weaknesses, and allow you to create larger and more in-depth projects than you could on your own.
- All of these skills are very important for finding a job once you graduate and are key elements to learning at the University of Oregon.

What it means to be a 'Duck'

- In the USA, each university has a 'mascot' and two colors to represent their university
- The University of Oregon has a mascot of a Duck with the colors of green and yellow
- The Duck and colors are a symbol of pride for UO students and are used at sporting events and throughout the university
- At the UO, students often call themselves 'Ducks' as a way to communicate they attend the UO and are proud of their university



Take an Online Tour of the UO!

Check out the following links to take an online tour of the University of Oregon!

[Virtual Tour](#)

[iPhone and Android Mobile Phone Apps](#)

How the UO Works: The Term System

- There are four academic terms during the year:
Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer
- Most students attend classes only in the Fall, Winter and Spring terms – the Summer term is optional
- Each term is 10 weeks of classes with an 11th week for final exams
- Midterm exams and course assignments occur throughout term

[Click here for the Term Schedule and Dates](#)

How the UO Works: Course Credit

All classes at the UO have a certain number of **credits**. A credit signifies the amount of time spent in the class each week.

1 credit = 1 hour of time in-class

- Most classes at the UO are 4 credits
- 12 credits means you are a full-time student
- Most students take between 12-16 credits each term (3-4 classes)
- You must have 180 total credits to graduate from the UO
- If you want to graduate in four years you must take an average of 16 credits per term

How the UO Works: Choosing Classes

While there are certain classes you have to take at the UO, you have a lot of flexibility in choosing your class schedule.

The university will not pick your classes for you.

You get to choose what term to take classes, what time you take the class, and what professors you want to learn from.

Note: While there is a lot of flexibility, be sure to talk with an Academic Advisor when selecting classes to be sure you are fulfilling your requirements on schedule.

How the UO Works: Grades

The grading system at the UO may be different from your home country:

- At the end of each 11 week term, you will receive a grade for each class.
- Grades are awarded based on your academic performance. Grades are shown as letters such as A, B, C, D, or F.
- A is the top grade.
- The University of Oregon also uses a + or – system. Depending on your academic performance in a class, each grade could also have a + or – after the letter.

For example:

B+ is better than a B, and

B is better than a B-

How the UO Works: Grades

- Each letter grade is also associated with a number (also called a grade point). A grade point is a specific number for each grade.

For example:

A+ = 4.3 points

B+ = 3.3 points

A = 4.0 points

B = 3.0 points

A- = 3.7 points

B- = 2.7 points

C+ = 2.3 points

C = 2.0 points

C- = 1.7 points

- At the end of each term you can check your grades and GPA online using [Duckweb](#). Duckweb is the web-based computer program used to view your schedule, register for classes, view your grades, and access other university information.

How the UO Works: Average GPA

- Your **Average Grade Point Average** (also called Overall GPA) is an average of all of your grades.
- For example, if you get A's in two 4-credit courses and a B in one 4-credit course, your Overall GPA will be a 3.66, calculated as follows:

$$(4.0 \text{ grade point} \times 4 \text{ credits}) + (4.0 \times 4) + (3.0 \times 4) / 12 \text{ credits} = 3.66$$

[Click here for more information on grading and GPA](#)

How the UO Works: Average GPA

- Each course may be worth a different amount of credits, so an A grade in a 1-credit course will not increase your GPA as much as an A grade in a 4-credit course
- Grades are important. You might hear that grades are not important to the College of Business. This is not true. Your grade point average is very important and we encourage you to do your best in each class.

[Click here for more information on grading and GPA](#)

International Student Academics

Must attend 'full-time':

International students are required to take at least 12 credits per term; to graduate in four years you need to average 16 credits per term

(Most courses are 4 credits)

Maintain good academic standing:

You must have at least a 2.0 Overall GPA (C average)



Academic Advising at the UO

Academic Advisors are professionals who help you succeed at college. You can arrange a meeting with them anytime. Advisors can help you:

- Plan your class schedule each term
- Choose a major or change a major
- Help you understand your degree requirements so you can graduate
- Access resources when you are facing challenges (illness, homesickness, academic issues, family problems, immigration questions, understanding how the UO works)
- All business students can find academic advisors in 203 Peterson Hall and [online](#).



Choosing a Major

At the University of Oregon you can change your major at any time. You may come in as a freshman thinking you want to be a business major, but after taking some other courses decide you want to study something else.

Changing your major at the UO is easy!

If you would like to change your major, or learn about ways to study other subjects, speak with an academic advisor. Depending on the course of study, you may need to take additional courses if you change majors.

[Click here for a list of Colleges and Majors at the UO](#)

Note: While changing your major is easy at the UO, each individual's situation is unique. Be sure to talk with an advisor about your personal situation before making any changes.

How UO Works:

How to be Successful in Class

- In each class, you will receive a Syllabus. A Syllabus is a document that provides all the details of each class. Read the Syllabus carefully at the beginning of the term – it will explain class expectations, due dates, and how the professor will grade your work
- Attend ALL classes during the week
- Participate in class by asking questions
- Complete all assignments and readings on time
- Plan to study and attend class about 40-50 hours per week



How UO Works: Academic Integrity

IMPORTANT:

In the U.S. it is very important that any work you give to professors is your own and that you do not cheat. This is called Academic Integrity and turning in work not your own could result in you having to leave the university.

For example:

- If you learn information from a book and include that information in a paper, you must show or cite the name and author of the book when you turn in the assignment.
- If you work with other students on assignments and studying, be sure that anything you turn in to a professor is uniquely yours and is not another student's ideas or work. Never turn in something that someone else has written or completed for you.

If you have any questions about academic integrity, speak with an academic advisor by calling 541-346-3303 or read more [online](#)

How to Communicate with Professors

COMMUNICATION IS IMPORTANT

Professors are friendly, eager to help, and ready to answer your questions both in class and out of class. Use them as a resource; they are happy to help!

Ways to talk with professors:

- During office hours (*Office Hours are times the professor will be in their office ready to talk with students. The times are usually on the course Syllabus*)
- Email or call the professor
- Ask questions and comment in class and after class
- Let your professor know anything that could affect your grade as soon as possible





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