

2025 Legislative Issue Choosing

SURVEY RESULTS REPORT - AUGUST 12TH, 2024



Overview



Every two years, the Oregon Student Association (OSA) engages in a legislative issue choosing process that asks students to identify student issues and their potential legislative solutions. During the second phase of this process, students participate by ranking student issues on the OSA Statewide Student Survey that are being considered for future legislative action.

This report overviews the results of the OSA Statewide Student Survey that was administered to Oregon students between February and May of 2024. The survey results are highly influential to setting OSA's legislative agenda for the 2025 Legislative Session. By understanding how students prioritize the issues, OSA gains a better understanding of what matters most to Oregon students, enhancing our ability to advocate effectively on behalf of students.

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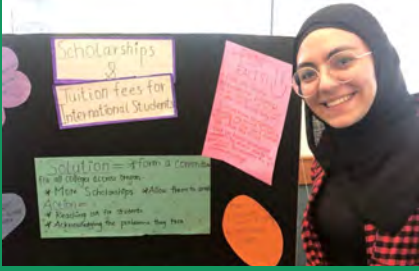


OSA Issue Choosing Process

The OSA Issue Choosing Process spans three phases over our two-year legislative cycle:

PHASE 1:

Issue Brief Open Submission Period



The initial phase of the OSA Issue Choosing Process involves an open submission period for OSA Issue Briefs. OSA accepted issue briefs from students from **October 2023 - January 2024**.

Students engaged in the process had the flexibility to work on issue briefs independently or collaboratively as teams. Opportunities for cross-campus collaboration were encouraged and facilitated. Additionally, students were allowed to submit multiple briefs if they chose to do so.

After collecting issues briefs, OSA's [Council of Legislative Advocates](#) initiates a collaborative process to pinpoint 10 key issues for inclusion in the OSA Statewide Survey. During this deliberation, the council uses a policy rubric as a guiding tool in selecting issues that align with OSA's mission and values.

The OSA Statewide Student Survey asks students to rank issues from least pressing to most pressing. By understanding how students prioritize these issues, OSA gains a better understanding of what matters most to the students.

OSA administered the survey to students across Oregon's college and universities from **February 2024 - May 2024**.

PHASE 2:

OSA Statewide Student Survey



PHASE 3:

Inquiry into Legislative Action



While issue briefs and survey results serve as a crucial tool in shaping OSA's legislative advocacy, it's important to note that the process doesn't guarantee that every identified issue will translate into actual legislation. Rather, this process informs OSA about the key issues affecting students, enabling the organization to strategize and assess whether legislative action is both feasible and necessary in the future.

The decision to pursue legislative action during the **2025 Legislative Session** is contingent on the legislative landscape. If and when conditions are favorable, OSA strategically leverages the survey results to support and drive legislative initiatives that align with student interests.

Survey Issues

The OSA Statewide Survey Campaign asks students to rank issues from least pressing to most pressing. **Read below to learn more about the 10 key issues included on the survey:**

Higher Education Governance Reform

Oregon should reform the Boards of Education and Boards of Trustees structures at Oregon's colleges and universities. This should include increasing student and faculty representation, more inclusion of campus stakeholders in the selection of Board members, etc.

Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses

Oregon should do more to ensure and expand access to medication abortion and emergency contraceptives in student healthcare centers at public institutions in Oregon.

Promoting Textbook Affordability

Oregon should better fund Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program to keep expanding access to no-cost, low-cost textbooks. Oregon should combat automatic textbook billing models that automatically bill students for the cost of the textbooks.

Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education

A task force should be created to investigate how to make higher education institutions more accessible, accommodating, and safe for disabled students in Oregon. Further, the installation of emergency evacuation devices for disabled students should be enforced according to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Oregon's international students face numerous challenges, including securing guarantors and accessing essential services like student loans. Oregon should establish a task force to investigate and enhance state-level support for their education and well-being.

Survey Issues (continued)

The OSA Statewide Survey Campaign asks students to rank issues from least pressing to most pressing. **Read below to learn more about the 10 key issues included on the survey:**

Expanding Student Mental Health Services

Student mental health centers on Oregon's campuses are underfunded, understaffed, and overcapacity. Oregon should better fund and deliver student mental health services.

Creating a Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

Many colleges and universities that serve Latinx students in Oregon are pursuing "Hispanic Serving Institution" classifications that come with additional funding. Oregon should do more to ensure this additional funding is specifically assisting and ensuring the success of the Latinx student communities.

Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon

Oregon should investigate how to expand affordable housing options for students to develop specific and actionable recommendations to improve student housing availability, accessibility, and affordability.

Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure

Oregon should provide ongoing funding that allows colleges and universities to strengthen basic needs programming and infrastructure that supports students experiencing food insecurity, housing instability, and challenges accessing transportation, childcare, healthcare, etc.

Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education

Higher education is not financially accessible to many Oregonians due to high tuition rates and low state investment. Oregon should better fund student financial aid, student support and academic services, and workforce connection programs.

Survey Methods

Prior to the launch of the OSA Statewide Student Survey, OSA's [Student Organizer Coalition](#) (SOC) worked collaboratively to set statewide goals and develop detailed campus campaign plans that would ensure robust student participation in the survey across a portion of Oregon's public colleges and universities. The Student Organizer Coalition focused on eight (8) key campuses: Lane Community College, Linn-Benton Community College, Oregon State University, Portland State University, Rogue Community College, Southern Oregon University, University of Oregon, and Western Oregon University. Further, additional responses were gathered from Mount Hood Community College and Portland Community College, along with a few from other institutions.

Following planning and preparation, the OSA Statewide Student Survey officially launched at the start of February 2024 and remained open to students until the end of May 2024.

The survey was designed to be accessible in multiple modalities, with students having the option to take the survey online or in a paper format (see Appendix). Online responses were collected via Typeform, an intuitive digital survey platform. Regardless of the modality, the survey format remained the same. Student participants began by providing contact information for accurate data collection, followed by the option to self-report demographic details. The survey's core involved ranking 10 key student issues from 1 (most pressing) to 10 (least pressing).

Distribution tactics included direct email campaigns to students, social media outreach, and campus outreach efforts in collaboration with student governments and organizations. Further, the Student Organizer Coalition engaged in extensive field work activities on campus.

Clipboarding



Clipboarding involved stationing student organizers and volunteers at high-traffic areas on campus across Oregon with clipboards to take the survey.

Class + Group Raps



Organizing class and group rap sessions were an effective way to getting a high volume of students in a short amount of time to take the survey.

Community Events



Community events, particularly those on college and university campuses, were a great place to table and ask Oregon students to fill out the survey.

Survey Results

Total Responses: 1,242

Response Rate

Response Rate: By Institution Type

Institution Type	Total Responses	% of Total Responses
Public University	937	75.4%
Community College	299	24.1%

Response Rate: By Public University Type

Public University Type	Total Responses	% of Total Responses
Flagship University*	681	72.7%
Technical and Regional University (TRUs)**	256	27.3%

*Flagships are: OSU, PSU, and UO.

**TRUs are: EOU, OIT, SOU, and WOU.

Response Rate: By Campus

Campus	Total Responses	% of Total Responses
Lane Community College	84	7%
Linn-Benton Community College	110	9%
Mount Hood Community College	40	3.2%
Oregon State University	209	17%
Portland State University	193	16%
Portland Community College	12	1%
Rogue Community College	52	4%
Southern Oregon University	52	4%
University of Oregon	472	38%
Western Oregon University	11	1%

Response Rate: By Demographic

Demographic*	Total Responses	% of Total Responses
Student of Color	299	24%
LGBTQ+ Student	421	34%
Disabled Student	175	14%
Student Parent	39	3%
Student Veteran	34	3%
Low-Income Student	365	29%
First Generation Student	317	26%
Neurodivergent Student	299	24%
International Student	48	4%
Rural Student	76	6%

*Please note that demographic self-reporting was optional. Some survey participants did not report any demographic information.

Issue Ranking

Issue Ranking: Statewide

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Issue Ranking: By Each Campus

University of Oregon:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Oregon State University:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Portland State University:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
4	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
5	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
6	Promoting Textbook Affordability
7	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Western Oregon University:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
2	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
7	Creating an International Student Success Task Force
8	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Higher Education Governance Reform

Southern Oregon University:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
3	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
4	Promoting Textbook Affordability
5	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
6	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
7	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Lane Community College:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Promoting Textbook Affordability
5	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
6	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
7	Higher Education Governance Reform
8	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
9	Creating an International Student Success Task Force
10	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

Linn-Benton Community College:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
4	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Higher Education Governance Reform
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Mount Hood Community College:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
2	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
3	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
4	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
5	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
6	Promoting Textbook Affordability
7	Higher Education Governance Reform
8	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
9	Creating an International Student Success Task Force
10	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses

Portland Community College:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
7	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Rogue Community College:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
4	Promoting Textbook Affordability
5	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
6	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
7	Higher Education Governance Reform
8	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
9	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Issue Ranking: By Each Demographic

LGBTQ+ Students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
7	Promoting Textbook Affordability
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Students of Color:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
9	Higher Education Governance Reform
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Disabled Students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure
3	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
4	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
5	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses
7	Promoting Textbook Affordability
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Student Parents:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
2	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
3	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
4	Higher Education Governance Reform
5	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
6	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
7	Promoting Textbook Affordability
8	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Student Veterans:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
4	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Creating an International Student Success Task Force
10	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

Low-Income Students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

First-Generation Students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Promoting Textbook Affordability
6	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Neurodivergent Students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
4	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
5	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
6	Promoting Textbook Affordability
7	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
8	Higher Education Governance Reform
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

International Students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Creating an International Student Success Task Force
4	Promoting Textbook Affordability
5	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
6	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
9	Higher Education Governance Reform
10	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)

Rural students:

Ranking	Selected Issue
1	Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon
2	Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming
3	Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education
4	Promoting Textbook Affordability
5	Expanding Student Mental Health Services
6	Higher Education Governance Reform
7	Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education
8	Expanding Medication Abortion Access
9	Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs)
10	Creating an International Student Success Task Force

Conclusion

The OSA Statewide Student Survey has yielded invaluable insights into the key issues facing Oregon students today. By ranking these issues, OSA and policymakers have a clearer understanding of how students prioritize these issues and the areas that require immediate attention and resources leading up to the 2025 Legislative Session.

The results of the OSA Statewide Student Survey reveal a clear and consistent message from students across almost every campus and demographic population: addressing the student housing crisis, investing in student basic needs, and improving mental health services are of the highest priority to Oregon students. This consensus underscores the widespread and urgent nature of these issues within Oregon's student community.

Other significant concerns such as ending underinvestment in public higher education, promoting textbook affordability, and advancing disability justice in higher education further underscore the multifaceted challenges student in Oregon face today.

The interconnected nature of these issues highlights the broader impact of underinvestment on students' daily lives, with [Oregon recently ranking 44th in the nation for public funding of higher education](#). When the state fails to invest adequately in higher education and need-based financial aid programs, the financial burden shifts to students, who suffer the consequences of rising tuition and inadequate wraparound services. This cost burden makes it increasingly challenging for students to meet their basic needs around housing, food, and transportation, compromising student's overall quality of life and academic success.

In 2025, the Oregon State Legislature can make a difference in the lives of Oregon students with policies and investments that:

- Make targeted and strategic investments in student basic needs programming that support students facing housing insecurity, food insecurity, and beyond.
- Implement initiatives that strengthen wraparound services and equitable student access, such as expanding investment in mental health services, disability resource centers, and other campus supports that promote overall student well-being and academic success.
- Expand investment in need-based financial aid, such as the Oregon Opportunity Grant
- Expand investment in institutional support funds for Oregon's college and universities

In order to ensure the development of a skilled workforce and the strengthening of Oregon's economy, it is critical to support Oregon's students and address the barriers they face. The results of this survey should be a catalyst for ongoing dialogue and legislative action to improve the post-secondary educational landscape in Oregon. Together, we can work towards a future where a quality, equitable, debt-free higher education is accessible to all Oregonians.

Contact



Oregon Student Association (www.orstudents.org)

The Oregon Student Association (OSA) is a student-led, student-run advocacy and organizing nonprofit that exists to represent and advance the shared interests of Oregon's college and university students. OSA brings students together to build collective power, develop their professional political skills, and achieve concrete wins for students on the issues they care about. Through legislative advocacy and grassroots organizing, OSA is working towards a future where a quality, equitable, debt-free higher education is affordable and accessible for ALL Oregonians.

Contact: Nick Keough, Legislative Director, nick@orstudents.org

Appendix

Oregon Student Association Statewide Student Survey



Instructions: Please rank the following issues from 1 through 10. With 1 being the most important issue to you and 10 being the least important issue to you. **Please use each number only once.**

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Pronouns: _____ Campus: _____

Get involved! Share survey: Volunteer: Share your personal story to the State Legislature:

Ranking 1-10	1 is the issue most important to you. 10 is the issue least important to you. No duplicate numbers.
	<p>Higher Education Governance Reform Oregon should reform the Board of Education and Board of Trustees structures at Oregon's colleges and universities. This should include increasing student and faculty representation, more inclusion of campus stakeholders in the selection of Board members, etc.</p>
	<p>Expanding Medication Abortion Access on College Campuses Oregon should do more to ensure and expand access to medication abortion and emergency contraceptives in student healthcare centers at public institutions in Oregon.</p>
	<p>Promoting Textbook Affordability Oregon should better fund Oregon's statewide textbook affordability program to keep expanding access to no-cost, low-cost textbooks. Oregon should combat automatic textbook billing models that automatically bill students for the cost of the textbooks.</p>
	<p>Advancing Disability Justice in Oregon Higher Education A task force should be created to investigate how to make higher education institutions more accessible, accommodating, and safe for disabled students in Oregon. Further, the installation of emergency evacuation devices for disabled students should be enforced according to Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.</p>
	<p>Creating an International Student Success Task Force Oregon's international students face challenges, including securing guarantors and accessing essential services like student loans. Oregon should establish a task force to investigate and enhance state-level support for their education and well-being.</p>
	<p>Expanding Student Mental Health Services Student mental health centers on Oregon's campuses are underfunded, understaffed, and overcapacity. Oregon should better fund and deliver student mental health services.</p>
	<p>Create Taskforce On Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) Many colleges and universities that serve Latinx students in Oregon are pursuing "Hispanic Serving Institution" classifications that come with additional funding. Oregon should do more to ensure this additional funding is specifically assisting and ensuring the success of the Latinx student communities.</p>
	<p>Promoting Affordable Housing for Students in Oregon Oregon should investigate how to expand affordable housing options for students to develop specific and actionable recommendations to improve student housing availability, accessibility, and affordability.</p>
	<p>Strengthening Student Basic Needs Programming and Infrastructure Oregon should provide ongoing funding that allows colleges and universities to strengthen basic needs programming and infrastructure that supports students experiencing food insecurity, housing instability, and challenges accessing transportation, childcare, healthcare, etc.</p>
	<p>Ending Underinvestment in Public Higher Education Higher education is not financially accessible to many Oregonians due to high tuition rates and low state investment. Oregon should better fund student financial aid, student support and academic services, and workforce connection programs.</p>

**Demographic Information
(Check all that apply)**

All demographic information is optional:

- Student of Color
- LGBTQ+
- Person with Disabilities
- Student Parent
- Veteran

- Low-income
- First Generation Student
- Neurodivergent Student
- International Student
- Rural Student

