

2024-25 Scholarship Applicant Summaries

1. Kaitlyn Kim

Kaitlyn, from Ashland, is a dual Honors major in Biochemistry and Innovation Management with plans to graduate in 2025. Her career goal is to join the ranks of women surgeon-scientists developing new treatments for preventive care.

Kaitlyn does undergraduate research in Kathy Magnusson's lab. Her main project involves the development of an Alzheimer Mouse Model. She has been invited to present her research at regional and national scientific meetings, and her advisor calls attention to how unusual that is for an undergraduate.

In her remarkable essay, she tells the detailed story of working with an Alzheimer's patient as a medical assistant. Kaitlyn's list of awards, volunteer involvement, and accomplishments is too long to summarize here. In addition to being a U.S. Presidential and National Merit Scholar, she is an ASOSU Senator; she has traveled to DC to meet our Oregon Senators and to the Oregon Capitol to lobby for student interests; she has served in multiple leadership roles, including as president of the OSU Alzheimer Buddies. The OSU faculty who wrote supporting letters were beyond enthusiastic! Karl Mundorff said, "I have not met a more confident, mature, hard-working student with great written and verbal communication skills as Kaitlyn," and Kathy Magnusson said, "I believe that she will be a leader in the pursuit of mechanisms and treatments to promote healthy aging.

2. Connor Moran

Connor, from Powell Butte, OR plans a career as a Physician Assistant. His major is Biology. He has an Associate Degree of Science in Fire Suppression and in Paramedicine from Chemeketa prior to the pandemic. He has been at OSU-Cascades for two years and has been on the Honor Roll for 5 consecutive terms.

Connor has previous experience as a firefighter/paramedic in several locations. He is currently working as a paramedic in a rural hospital in Prineville. This has enabled him, in his words, "...the opportunity to work with a diverse patient population, including seniors..." in a rural setting. He concludes his essay with this statement: "I am passionate about helping others achieve healthy aging and am committed to providing high-quality, patient-centered care that is tailored to the unique needs and goals of my patients."

Connor has been awarded numerous scholarships and grants. One of his OSU references says: "I am sure that Mr. Connor Moran will achieve great heights in all

aspects of life, and this will translate into a successful academic experience and professional career as a Physician Assistant.” Both of his references point out that Connor is a high achieving student while also working as a paramedic.

3. Shelby Galipeau

Shelby is working to achieve an Honors Bachelor of Science degree with an expected graduation date of December 2025. Her concentration is in Advanced Molecular Biology within Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. She hopes that after doing a bachelor's degree she can go on to earn a master's degree in a similar field.

Shelby's research in Dr. Alysia Vrailas-Mortimer's lab aligns with Shelby's interest in promoting healthy aging. In this work, Shelby studies the possible relationship between iron and Parkinson's Disease using genetically modified fruit flies. In particular, these flies lack a gene called p38kb that appears to impact the aging process and can lead to symptoms of Parkinson's Disease. Shelby's work involves feeding varying levels of iron to these flies and examining them for the effects of this treatment.

Dr. Vrailas-Mortimer states that Shelby is dependable, learns quickly, and has excellent communication skills. She would welcome her into her lab for a master's degree, which is part of Shelby's career plan. Lauren Dalton notes that Shelby “is a dream to advise,” listening carefully and readily accepting challenges.

4. Camryn Lau

Camryn is a nutrition major with a chemistry minor and an option in pre-dietetics. She came to OSU with a significant amount of AP credits (65) and has maintained a perfect GPA through her first five terms here. She aspires to be a physician who is able to provide quality geriatric care. Camryn has taken significant steps towards accomplishing her goals. She is the Public Relations Chair for OSU's Healthy Aging Club and inspired the club to start the grant writing process in support of Samaritan Village's acquisition of a new bus. She was a recipient of funding from the OSU Undergraduate Research Scholarship and the Arts (URSA) Office and does research with Siew Sun Wong. Her awarded research project focused on improvisational cooking classes to increase food and nutrition security among vulnerable populations. Dr. Wong notes Camryn's excellent communication skills and her participation in the Healthy Aging Club. Dr. Carolyn M. Aldwin, Director of the Gerontology Program and faculty sponsor of the Healthy Aging Club, notes Camryn's enthusiastic participation in club events and describes her as an “ideal candidate” for the scholarship in healthy aging.

Camryn has also been an active member of her community, with service on the City of Wilsonville Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee and is a Volunteer Nursing Assistant with Community Outreach, Inc. She is also active in Conversations to Remember where she has weekly online video sessions with seniors in long-term care facilities to help them combat loneliness.

5. Isabelle Hervey

Isabelle, from Roseburg, is a junior with plans to graduate in June 2025. She is majoring in Teaching with an option in Elementary Education. Her career goal is to become an elementary school teacher.

She has an excellent academic record. Her letters of recommendation are excellent as well. In her essay she prominently discusses her intention to instill in her students the importance of a lifelong emphasis on nutrition and fitness, with the ultimate goal of healthy aging. Her volunteer work with the Boys and Girls Club has enabled her to practice this.

Isabelle has extensive volunteer experience in various elementary school classes, B&G Club, OSU Residence Assistant, and Student Teaching at the OSU Child Development Center. One of her recommendations listed many skills Isabelle has developed during her two-and-a-half years of service as an RA, including dealing with emergency situations and difficult individuals. Another recommendation emphasized her involvement with Jackson Street Youth Services and the INTO OSU Conversant program, among others.

6. Haeli Rowland

Haeli is from Washington State, has an associate degree from Green Rivers College, and is currently in the Honors College and the College of Forestry at OSU. Her major is Tourism, Recreation and Adventure leadership with minors in Natural Resources and Environmental Science. She plans to be a Park Ranger specializing in education or recreation management.

She would like to develop Management plans for parks and protected areas that are inclusive of everyone. She feels that exercise helps people live longer and age does not stop them from enjoying nature, which is good for both their physical and mental health.

She is working on developing an Honor's thesis project that will promote the use of green spaces at OSU for agricultural purposes in order to grow healthy sustainable foods.

Haeli has been a lifeguard and presently works in a Plant Science laboratory as a lab assistant. She has been involved in volunteer work and was involved in the development of over 40 trails with the WA Trails Association. She is the community outreach officer for her science interest sorority Sigma Delta Omega at OSU. In this position she encourages young people in STEM subjects.

7. Tara Judkins

Tara, originally from Portland, is a junior majoring in Ecological Engineering, with plans to graduate in June 2025. Her academic record is strong.

In her essay, Tara discusses how her nineteen months serving as a missionary for her church allowed her to meet and learn from Latinos from very poor backgrounds, hearing their sad stories. This experience now leads her to choose a goal of applying her major to help less fortunate populations improve their situations. Tara has been employed for years in a wide variety of jobs.

One of her letters of recommendations, from her undergraduate research advisor, emphasized Tara's intellect and abilities, leading to assigning her the role of developing a project on Improving Undergraduate STEM Education. Another letter pointed out Tara's "...fierce sense of curiosity..." and ranked her in the top five percent of students he had interacted with.

8. Marlenne Mendoza

Marlenne is a BioHealth Sciences major with a minor in Chemistry, and her career goal is to become a dentist. Her hometown is Umatilla, Oregon, and she is the daughter of immigrant parents. She has witnessed the problems that they have had in adjusting to life and work in the United States. Therefore, she has made an effort to become involved in leadership activities that deal with diversity. She has taken the initiative to find and complete work experiences both on and off campus that are relevant to her career goal of becoming a dentist who can best serve a migrant community. For example, she was a Diversity Learning Assistant for Univ. Housing and Dining Services, a mentor for the Migrant Leadership Institute to guide migrant students to pursue higher education, and she served on a committee to select dormitory resident assistants. In addition, she has shadowed a Latino dentist.

Marlenne has an excellent academic record and is scheduled to graduate in 2025.

She has two very strong letters of recommendation. The writers noted that Marlenne came to Oregon State University as a timid and shy student. While she has been here,

she has developed leadership skills. One person wrote that it has been his pleasure to work with such a talented and motivated person as Marlenne.

9. Paige Campbell

Paige, from Eugene, is a junior majoring in Kinesiology with an option in Pre-Therapy and Allied Health. Her career goal is to become a physical therapist. Her academic record is very strong. She plans to graduate in June 2026.

In her essay, Paige points out, “As a physical therapist, the main goal is to improve the quality of life of others...” and she is currently volunteering as an intern at the Corvallis Clinic to gain experience. She discusses how she is learning how “...physical therapy can be applied and its benefits on populations...and allow me to contribute to the healthy aging of others.”

Paige has also been working for the past two years as a veterinary nurse in Junction City. Her long-term employer calls attention to Paige’s maturity and determination for self-improvement, as well as her being loved by her co-workers and clients. Her undergraduate research project is on how movement and music affect self-regulation in children.

10. Shayla Spiva

Shayla, from Saint Helens, Oregon, plans to graduate at the end of 2025. Her major is Agriculture Sciences with a Dual Degree in Sustainability, minoring in Horticulture. Her career goal is to become a landscape architect and designer focusing on sustainability. She is dual enrolled at Chemeketa and OSU. Her grades are excellent.

Shayla has a strong interest in watershed restoration and dealing with invasive species, where she has volunteer experience. She has an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Automotive Technology, and she has worked with the Association of Women in Automotive. Most of her job experience has been in automotive shops, and for two years she was the owner/proprietor of a company helping staff and plan for such shops.

Shayla’s supporting letters of recommendation from OSU faculty are enthusiastic and describe in detail her involvement in agriculture, some of which involved extension work in Ecuador as well as extensive participation in watershed councils all over the Northwest.