The Summer Academy to Inspire Learning (SAIL) is an innovative bridge program that serves middle and high school students from underrepresented backgrounds, including both low-income and those who would be the first in their families to attend college. Our aim is to encourage teens, through early exposure and exploration, to believe they can succeed at higher education.

During the summer, SAIL offers free, week-long day and residential programs on the University of Oregon campus. Students learn from distinguished UO faculty members through fun, interactive and social activities.

What is SAIL?

Our Mission

Our goal is to have students attend up to four years of SAIL and to emerge with the belief that applying to college is the natural next step in their lives. We work to give them the tools they will need to go from admission to graduation.

Our History

SAIL was launched in 2005 by professors in the Department of Economics who wanted to take an active part in increasing the economic diversity of the UO student body.

Our efforts have focused mainly on high schools in the Eugene/Springfield area with low socio-economic status and four-year college enrollment rates under 30%. In 2019 we began offering a dormitory experience for teens from elsewhere in Oregon.

The SAIL staff strives to make the summer programs an intensive and enjoyable introduction to what college life is like. UO professors volunteer their time to engage the students in the subjects they are passionate about because they believe education can be the key to a better life.

Mission and History

sail.uoregon.edu
The impact on our students is notable...

“The SAIL Program allowed me to get early exposure on a university campus while providing vital information on the admissions process, scholarship availability and changing my mindset that higher education is possible.”

Former SAIL Student Oscar Sigala Ramos

“I learned so much about the University of Oregon and its opportunities during SAIL, that I was not only more comfortable applying to the university, but also more comfortable when I was accepted as a student.”

Former SAIL Student Marissa McDaniel
UO Cultural Anthropology and Ethnic Studies Major

The numbers speak for themselves...

Students Served

3,000+

Attend College

96%

SAIL 4-Year HS Grad Rate

99.3%

High school graduation rates for non-SAIL students average 74.8%

How can you help?

In addition to expanding the overall size of the program and increasing the number of residential spaces for non-local students, we would like to:

• Expand our capacity to interact with and advise our students and their parents year-round through mentorship and tutorial programs
• Provide scholarships for SAIL seniors to attend the University of Oregon
• Host events at the UO during the school year for SAIL students and their families to increase parental involvement

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