

# DIVERSITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## Program Overview

- Monthly stipend
- 20 hours per week
- Corvallis location
- Nine-month appointment, renewable for a total of 18 months
  - October-June
  - July-March
- Healthcare insurance provided
- Professional development funds of \$1,000

## FAQs and Learn More

<https://guides.library.oregonstate.edu/diversity-scholars-program/>

## Contacts for the Diversity Scholars Program Committee

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Kelly McElroy Committee Co-Chair

Beth Filar Williams Member

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## About the Diversity Scholars Program

Diversity Scholars work half time in the Valley Library at Oregon State University while taking online courses towards a Masters of Library and Information Science. Scholars will be provided opportunities to connect theory to practice, learn more about working in an academic library, attend regional library conferences, expand their mentoring networks, and gain support during the job search.



*This publication will be made available in an accessible alternative format upon request. Please contact [LibraryAccommodations@oregonstate.edu](mailto:LibraryAccommodations@oregonstate.edu).*



## What is this Program?

The Diversity Scholars Program (DSP) at Oregon State University Libraries and Press (OSULP) aims to create a more diverse and inclusive profession by providing a wider variety of students with career opportunities in academic and research libraries and archives. For current Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) students, the DSP provides extensive support, mentorship, and paid hands-on experience within the profession to broaden opportunities after graduation.

It is critical to foster understanding of, and a commitment to, social justice, inclusion, and multicultural awareness in the library and archives professions. OSULP hopes that this applied learning experience will empower the Diversity Scholars to be change agents.

## Social Justice and Inclusion

- The Core Values of Librarianship, as outlined by the American Library Association, include Access, Diversity, Intellectual Freedom, Social Responsibility, and the Public Good. These core values illustrate the many points of connection between social justice and librarianship.
- Students who value social justice are likely to be interested in pursuing fields that actively work toward equity and inclusion. Social justice and public service intersect in libraries and archives. The Diversity Scholars Program is an opportunity for individuals to apply their values in meaningful ways.

## Who are Diversity Scholars?

Diversity Scholars are students pursuing an MLIS degree. The Diversity Scholars Program has a particular emphasis on providing pathways for underrepresented students into library and archives careers. Groups underrepresented in librarianship may include, but are not limited to: first-generation college students, low-income, LGBTQ+, students of color, military veterans, transfer students, students with disabilities, etc.

While working toward attaining their degree, the Diversity Scholars will have a half-time position within the Valley Library in Corvallis, Oregon. The purpose of this program is to recruit, mentor, and retain people from underrepresented groups into the library and archives professions.

The Diversity Scholars Program is a cohort program hosting two scholars each academic year.

## Why Should I be Interested?

The DSP provides the following extensive support and mentorship alongside your education:

- Paid half-time, hands-on experience in the Valley Library
- Learning opportunities in each department within a busy academic library
- Project work designed to help Diversity Scholars translate theory to practice
- Funded professional development, including travel to regional library conferences
- Mentoring from librarians and archivists with unique experiences and perspectives about the profession
- Assistance and support in finding MLIS-based scholarships, networking opportunities, and the job search

## How to Apply

### Pre-application requirements:

- Acceptance into an online ALA-accredited MLIS program
- Residence (or planned future residence) in the Corvallis area, or within commuter distance to Corvallis for a half-time position at the Valley Library
- An in-person meeting or video call with a member or members of the Diversity Scholars Program Committee

### Application requirements:

- Current résumé
- Contact information for at least two references (work supervisors, professors and/or community mentors)
- A cover letter, of no more than two pages, that explains how you meet the qualifications and showcases your demonstrated commitment to principles of diversity and to serving underrepresented groups

*“DSP has allowed me to learn about the academic library field and helped me realize that academic libraries are the right work environment for me.”*

— Marisol Moreno Ortiz



*“[I]t is important that those of us in LIS with privilege...serve as effective allies to those who do not [have privilege]. We need to make space for our diverse colleagues to thrive within the profession.”*

— April Hathcock, Scholarly Communications Librarian at New York University, from her 2015 article “White Librarianship in Blackface: Diversity Initiatives in LIS”

Marisol Moreno Ortiz, Spectrum Scholar and the first Diversity Scholar at Oregon State University Libraries and Press