# Descriptions for Categories

## Academic Support and Resources

This category focuses on the academic challenges students encounter, emphasizing the need for improved tutoring, advising, and course flexibility. A peer-to-peer model can enhance learning experiences, while offering flexible makeup work and assignment deadlines can accommodate diverse student needs. Enhancing the awareness and accessibility of academic support services is vital for creating a supportive learning environment. Fostering a culture of understanding and compassion among faculty, along with revising attendance policies to accommodate student needs, can create a more inclusive academic environment. Potential changes to the term system can provide students with the adaptability they need to thrive. Establishing a one-stop hub, whether in-person or online, for all student support services can streamline the process of seeking assistance. Providing additional tutoring and study resources, especially for challenging subjects, will help students overcome academic obstacles and achieve their educational goals.

**"Better advertising and dissemination of the available academic support resources would ensure that students are well-informed and can easily access the help they need."​**

**"There should be more comprehensive advertising of the academic support services available to students, ensuring that they are informed throughout all four years of their college experience."​**

**"Encouraging professors to be more understanding and accommodating for the diverse challenges students face, including offering flexibility with deadlines and attendance policies, can significantly enhance the academic experience."**

## Access to Inclusive and Nutritious Food

This category focuses on ensuring all students have access to inclusive and nutritious food is important for their overall wellbeing and academic success. This means providing affordable and healthier food options in campus dining halls, establishing an on-campus food pantry for students, and implementing discounted dining plans for student employees and those with dietary restrictions. Additionally, the acceptance of food stamps (EBT) on campus and offering more meal points can significantly alleviate food insecurity among students. Educational initiatives like cooking classes and nutrition workshops can empower students to make healthier choices and manage their food budgets effectively.

**"Provide more nutritious and various dining options around campus, expanding funding for Ducks Feeding Ducks. It’s a genuine lifesaver."​**

**"Commit to funding the basic needs program more, same with committing to fund an on-campus food pantry."**

**"The meal plans suck we are literally being robbed every week if we do not spend all of the points on the meal plan it would make more sense to save up any points and then anything remaining at the end of each term is credited back to us."**

## College Affordability

This category encompasses all the issues related to the financial burdens faced by students, including high tuition and inadequate student employment opportunities. It includes scholarships, grants, financial aid programs, basic needs support, affordable tuition initiatives, and support services that help students manage and reduce the cost of college. The focus is on making higher education accessible to all students, regardless of their economic background, by providing financial resources, counseling, and tools to help them navigate college expenses. Efforts within this category aim to reduce student debt, provide transparent information about costs, and promote financial literacy to ensure students can afford and complete their education without undue financial burden. Addressing the high cost of tuition and other related expenses is essential to make college more affordable for all students to include transportation costs. Lowering tuition rates for both in-state and out-of-state students can significantly reduce financial stress. Increasing student wages and providing more financial aid and scholarships will help cover the various costs associated with college. Offering grants and financial support for expenses beyond tuition, such as books and supplies, can further alleviate the financial burden on students. Utilizing donations from alumni and boosters to support non-athlete students can provide additional financial resources and opportunities for those in need.

**"The University of Oregon needs to provide more financial resources to offset the cost of attendance and reduce the cost of student housing."​**

**"Stop charging excessive costs to even go to school here... I pay almost 60k to go to school here and last year over 50% of students asked for rental or food assistance."**

**"Offering lower tuition and cheaper housing with more scholarships and on-campus jobs; it is really difficult to find on-campus work that pays enough to cover living expenses."​**

## Community and Inclusion

This category addresses the social and inclusion-related challenges students face, such as difficulties in social integration, lack of support for marginalized and neurodiverse students, and the need for a more inclusive campus environment. It emphasizes the importance of creating a welcoming and supportive community for all students, that everyone, regardless of their background, has access to the resources and support needed to succeed. An approach to inclusion encompasses services, programs, and initiatives aimed at academic support, mental health services, cultural and identity-based resources, and accommodations for students with disabilities. Supporting marginalized students and promoting equity can help create a sense of belonging. Providing tailored resources and programs for students with children, nontraditional students, commuter students and those with disabilities helps these students feel supported, included, and can help them connect with their peers.

**"Creating a community where others are extremely kind would spread feelings of belonging, non-judgment, acceptance, and compassion, starting with staff and student representatives"​**

**"Have more neurodiverse clubs and improve the AEC. I have found very few social things related to neurodiverse issues, and the AEC needs improvement. A few of my friends have had bad experiences there, and they do not help, making situations worse"**

**"Promote more diversity and inclusion initiatives with balanced and non-preachy messaging to create a more welcoming campus environment"​**

## Housing Affordability

This category addresses the financial burden of housing for students in Eugene, where rising rents make finding affordable accommodations difficult. Lowering on-campus housing costs and offering more scholarships can help. UO can work with local authorities and landlords to develop affordable options and secure reduced rent agreements. A dedicated housing office can assist with leases, tenant rights, and housing searches would be ideal. UO can implement stricter security measures, such as increased lighting, regular patrols, and secure access systems by campus housing. Addressing hygiene issues in on-campus housing should be a top priority, with students experiencing illnesses due to food poisoning. Guaranteeing that housing is safe, accessible, and inclusive for all students, including those with disabilities, will create a supportive and secure living environment conducive to academic and personal success.

**"I live with family but if the housing cost was low, I would love to live on campus to be more involved."**

**“Providing cheaper housing and more scholarships or stipends can alleviate the financial burden and enable more students to participate fully in campus life."**

**"The University of Oregon needs to provide more financial resources to offset the cost of attendance and reduce the cost of student housing."**

## Mental Health and Wellbeing

This category addresses the mental health challenges students face, including the availability and accessibility of counseling services, managing academic stress, and ensuring physical health. It emphasizes the need for comprehensive mental health support and effective safety measures. Normalizing mental health issues and reducing their stigma are essential for fostering a supportive environment. Flexible attendance policies can accommodate students dealing with mental health struggles or illness. Expanding mental health services and support systems is a component of improving student wellbeing. Removing the cap on therapy sessions and providing information on local therapists and group therapy options will ensure continuous access to mental health care. Increasing the number of counselors and improving the accessibility of mental health resources can meet the growing demand for these services. Establishing regular mental health check-ins, offering emergency mental health support, and providing mental health days can help students manage stress and maintain their mental health. Educating professors on how to support students with mental health issues will create a more understanding and compassionate academic environment.

**"The counseling services need to be expanded upon I cannot get into the university health center counseling unless I am in a crisis I cannot afford preventative care."**

**"Educating professors in all departments about mental health, how to support students going through mental health downturns, ways to speak about stress and mental health inclusively and not condescendingly, and how to structure courses to ensure that students are not excessively stressed."​**

**"Making counseling services longer than the 6-session limit and providing more mental health support would be super helpful to students who need weekly services and cannot afford off-campus services."**

## Safety

This category focuses on ensuring the physical safety and security of students on and off campus. It includes concerns and suggestions related to campus lighting, security measures, transportation safety, and overall campus environment. The goal is to create a safe and secure atmosphere where students feel protected and supported, both during the day and at night. Students indicate the importance of adequate security personnel, effective safety protocols, and accessible transportation options to enhance students' sense of safety and wellbeing. Expanding Duck Rides to operate during all hours of darkness can enhance safety. Protecting the safety of students on and around campus can foster a secure and supportive educational environment. Additionally, enhancing emergency response protocols and providing clear communication about safety resources can address concerns about violence, theft, and other dangers. Creating safe housing options near campus for those that cannot afford to live on campus, particularly for marginalized students, and promoting a culture of respect and inclusion assure that all students feel safe and supported in their daily lives.

**"The sheer amount of drug addicts in this area makes me question if I really am in the prestigious University of Oregon."**

**"UO security absolutely needs to step up and make sure that all campus buildings and spaces are safe from a physical standpoint."​**

**"It is a bit concerning that in the past three terms my dorm has had a man break in and hold students hostage, an arsonist and various fires... the lack of an elevator in my building is incredibly questionable from a legal standpoint."**

# Recommendations

**Academic Support and Resources**

1. **Improve Tutoring Services**: Expand tutoring services, especially for challenging subjects like computer science and math, to ensure adequate academic support.
2. **Flexible Course Policies**: Offer flexible makeup work and assignment deadlines to accommodate diverse student needs.
3. **Advertise Support Services**: Increase the advertisement of academic support services to ensure students are well informed about the help available to them.
4. **One-Stop Support Hub**: Establish a centralized hub, either in-person or online, for all student support services to include basic needs to streamline the process of seeking assistance.
5. **Faculty Accountability**: Hold faculty accountable for their engagement with students and ensure they are accessible for academic support.

**Access to Inclusive and Nutritious Food**

1. **Expand Nutritious Dining Options**: Increase the availability of affordable and healthy food choices in campus dining halls, including more options for students with dietary restrictions such as gluten-free, vegetarian, and ketogenic diets.
2. **On-Campus Food Pantry**: Establish and fund an on-campus food pantry to support students facing food insecurity. Ensure it is accessible and well publicized.
3. **Discounted Dining Plans**: Implement discounted dining plans for student employees and those with dietary restrictions to make meal plans more affordable.
4. **Accept Food Stamps (EBT)**: Allow the use of food stamps (EBT) at campus dining facilities to support low-income students.
5. **Meal Points Rollover**: Allow students to rollover unused meal points to subsequent terms or convert them into Duck Bucks to avoid wastage.
6. **Cooking and Nutrition Workshops**: Offer cooking classes and nutrition workshops to help students make healthier food choices and manage their food budgets effectively.

**College Affordability**

1. **Lower Tuition Rates**: Advocate for lower tuition rates for both in-state and out-of-state students to reduce financial stress.
2. **Increase Financial Aid and Scholarships**: Provide more financial aid, scholarships, and grants to help cover the various costs associated with college, including books and supplies.
3. **Student Employment Opportunities**: Increase on-campus job opportunities and raise student wages to help cover living expenses.
4. **Utilize Alumni Donations**: Use donations from alumni and boosters to support non-athlete students and provide additional financial resources for those in need.

**Community and Inclusion**

1. **Support for Marginalized and Neurodiverse Students**: Provide tailored resources and programs for minority and neurodiverse students, including more neurodiverse clubs and improved services at the Accessible Education Center (AEC).
2. **Promote Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives**: Increase diversity and inclusion initiatives with balanced messaging to create a welcoming campus environment.
3. **Social Engagement Opportunities**: Increase opportunities for social engagement and community building, particularly for commuter and nontraditional students, to help them connect with their peers.
4. **Inclusive Campus Environment**: Foster a culture of understanding and compassion among students and staff, promoting a sense of belonging and support for all students.

**Housing Affordability**

1. **Lower On-Campus Housing Costs**: Reduce the cost of on-campus housing through subsidies or by reallocating funds to make living on campus more affordable.
2. **Affordable Housing Partnerships**: Partner with local landlords to secure reduced rent agreements for students and provide resources to help them navigate the off-campus housing market.
3. **Dedicated Housing Office**: Create a housing office that assists students with lease agreements, tenant rights, and housing searches.
4. **Safety in Housing**: Implement stricter security measures in dorms, such as increased lighting, regular security patrols, and secure access systems. Address hygiene issues promptly to ensure safe living conditions.

**Mental Health and Wellbeing**

1. **Expand Counseling Services**: Increase the number of counselors and extend the session limits to ensure continuous mental health support for students.
2. **Flexible Attendance Policies**: Implement flexible attendance policies to accommodate students dealing with mental health struggles or illness.
3. **Regular Mental Health Check-ins**: Establish regular mental health check-ins and offer emergency mental health support.
4. **Educate Faculty**: Train professors on how to support students with mental health issues, including ways to speak about stress and mental health inclusively.
5. **Increase Accessibility**: Improve the accessibility of mental health resources and provide clear information on local therapists and group therapy options.

**Safety**

1. **Improve Campus Lighting**: Increase lighting in poorly lit areas around campus to enhance visibility and safety at night.
2. **Enhance Security Measures**: Ensure adequate security personnel and effective safety protocols, including regular safety patrols and secure access to buildings.
3. **Expand Transportation Services**: Extend the operating hours of services like Duck Rides to all hours of darkness to ensure safe transportation options for students.
4. **Emergency Response Protocols**: Enhance emergency response protocols and provide clear communication about safety resources and procedures.