SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS
THE NORTH UMPQUA FOUNDATION

The North Umpqua Foundation Scholarship, established by Paul and Lory Utz, provides financial assistance to outstanding students working towards a career in fisheries science, aquatic ecology, or related fields with relevance to the Umpqua River basin. Preference is given to residents of Douglas County, Oregon; students at or from Umpqua Community College; students considering advanced degrees, and work and research related to the North Umpqua River and/or its native flora, fauna, and their habitats. Nominees must be enrolled in full-time study related to their career goal at an accredited college or university. Applications will be considered for students at every collegiate level (Associate, Bachelor, Master, and PhD). Also, in order to support High School students in planning their education, a Scholarship may be tentatively pledged to a HS senior or graduate, to be awarded upon college enrollment.

Applications are considered year-round – there is no application deadline. The dollar amount of an annual scholarship award ranges from $1,000 to $5,000 per academic year. Scholarship awardees must maintain satisfactory academic progress, as defined by the institution and TNUF Board, in order to continue to receive the scholarship. Scholarship recipients may re-apply in subsequent years for potential additional awards. Scholarship recipients are requested to meet at least once a year with the Board of Directors of The North Umpqua Foundation to present a summary of their recent progress and endeavors. The Scholarship Committee may recommend more than one scholarship applicant within any year to the Foundation Board, which makes the final funding decisions.

An application for scholarship consists of:

1) a letter of recommendation from the student's faculty advisor at the School, College, or University describing the student's character, aptitude, academic promise, academic and extracurricular accomplishments, awareness, experience, and leadership skills; and

2) a brief essay from the student outlining their connections to the Umpqua River basin, academic journey and plans, professional goals and how they relate to the Umpqua River basin and its native ecology. For graduate studies, include a description of the specific research topic. Conclude the essay with a statement of how this scholarship will assist the student in achieving their goals, and provide contact information and a mailing address valid for three months beyond the application date.

Application materials must not exceed 10 pages and must be provided via email and/or attached "pdf" or "doc" files to:

The North Umpqua Foundation
Scholarship Committee
Chair: Richard Grost
Rich@NorthUmpquaRetreat.com

Consideration may take up to two months since TNUF is a volunteer organization. Thank you for considering our scholarship program, and for your interest in understanding and wisely managing the native aquatic resources of the North Umpqua River and the Umpqua basin.

Scholarship Recipient History
The North Umpqua Foundation

TNUF scholarship recipients, since the program's inception in1996, have made significant contributions to the understanding and conservation of aquatic resources of which we can all be proud. Some have received multiple scholarships (generally $1,000-5,000 /yr) for appropriate research topics, performance, and need. Several students have become leading experts in their field, and in the education and conservation arenas. The diversity of recipients and their areas of interest and passion is evident in this chronological summary:

1. Jeffrey Dambacher, PhD candidate, OSU - *Zoogeography of Oregon fishes / theoretical ecology* (1996 recipient)
2. Lisa Krentz, MS candidate, OSU -- *Estuary movement of sea-run cutthroat trout in the Salmon River*.
3. Sharon Frazy, MS candidate, OSU -- *Relationship of stream-side vegetation to juvenile-anadromous fish population numbers.*
4. Pollyanna Lind, MS candidate, U of O, *Geomorphology as related to watershed erosion and deposition on the Sprague River*.
5. Jeremiah Bernier, MS candidate, Humboldt State University -- *Differential gene expression between fall and spring Chinook salmon on the Feather River.*
6. John McMillan, MS candidate, OSU -- *Life history diversity of rainbow trout in the John Day River*.
7. Kelly Crispen (now Coates), MS candidate, University of Montana -- *Retrospective Analysis of the ecology of salmonid fishes in the Umpqua River*. (Currently Natural Resources manager of the Cow Creek tribe.)
8. Sierra Lewis, MS candidate, OSU -- *Factors related to anadromous fish migration over anthropogenic and natural barriers, and distribution in the headwaters of the North Umpqua basin*. (2010-11 recipient).
9. Cris Salazar, BS candidate, OSU (Roseburg resident and UCC graduate; now Restoration Coordinator at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers) -- (2011-14 recipient).
10. David Treskey (UCC graduate) -- BS candidate, Environmental Science, OSU (2015-16).
11. Leslie Jensen, MS candidate, OSU - *Fish population and community responses to forest harvest and environmental variability in Western Oregon.* (2016, 17 recipient).
12. Cheyanne Rico (Douglas County resident and UCC student), BS candidate, Lane-Benton CC and OSU, (2017-18 recipient).
13. Michelle Pepping, MS candidate UC-Davis - *Spatial distribution of juvenile summer and winter run steelhead in the North Umpqua Basin based on genetic markers.*(2017-19 recipient).
14. Bailey Daniels, BS candidate, OSU - Roseburg native, fly-fisher, and whitewater guide (2017 recipient).
15. Eric Stauder, BS candidate OSU/UCC, *restoration ecology emphasis*; Roseburg native (2018-19 recipient).
16. John Stevenson, PhD candidate OSU, *Dammed water quality: Longitudinal stream responses below beaver ponds in the Umpqua River* (2019 recipient)
17. Dave Busby, MS candidate, University of Montana, *Hydrogeomorphic response of steep streams in the Western Cascades to the 2020 Archie Creek and Holiday Farm fires* (2021 recipient)
18. Araya Jensen, BS candidate, OSU College of Natural Resources; Phoenix HS (Roseburg) graduate, Douglas County native (2021-22 recipient)
19. Kylie Rubrecht, BS candidate UCC/OSU, College of Natural Resources; Glide native and Glide HS graduate (Valedictorian), creator of science building ecology mural (2022 recipient)
20. Wilhem Diehl, MS candidate, OSU Environmental Science Graduate Program, evaluation of habitat restoration in Wolf Creek OR on substrate conditions and coho salmon abundance (2023 recipient)
21. Jordan Adams, Douglas County native, UCC graduate, and Fisheries Technology student at Mount Hood Community College (2024 recipient)

Selected Scholarship Student Testimonials

From Jordan Adams, 2024 recipient and Fisheries Technology student at MHCC: *My goal is to graduate from Mount Hood Community College in the spring of 2026 and begin a new career in fisheries, hopefully working for an agency like ODFW. My Plan is to move back to the area and help with conservation of salmonids in the North Umpqua River. … I like many others enjoy fishing and would like to see it continue on in the future so the next generation can have the same fun I did as a kid on the North Umpqua River. This scholarship would be a great help in my educational journey because I would be able to focus on school and take a step back from my current job. I have decided against taking out any student loans at this time because I figured paying for my classes out of pocket would be a huge motivator to do my best. It has been working out but I've realized I do need some help in paying for all the expenses.*

From Araya Jensen, 2021-22 recipient: *I have been busy working with the USGS monitoring amphibians, primarily in the Sky Lakes and Three Sisters Wilderness. Much of our research includes eDNA sampling of alpine lakes to better understand their inhabitants, fish included! … Moving forward, I hope to pick up a position tracking stream flow permanence with the Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis during the Fall. My hope is to find a permanent position with the Forest Service next year, in the Umpqua...but am open to see what great opportunities are available now that I have this degree! Eternally grateful for your support in earning my degree. It has been such an amazing blessing.*

From Dave Tresky, 2015-16 recipient (now a Hydrology Technician on the Umpqua National Forest, and a TNUF Director): *I just wanted to write and say how much I appreciate the scholarship and how much it is going to help me. I had been losing sleep on how I was going to get my loans paid in the time between when I graduate and when I get my career going and this has taken a huge worry off of my shoulders. So once again I just wanted to say thank you to everyone in TNUF.*

From Cris Salazar, 2011-14 recipient (now Restoration Coordinator at the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers):
Again, I'd like to thank you and TNUF for helping me out. I would likely still be in Roseburg taking online classes, if it weren't for your support, and I feel I'm getting much more out of it, here in Corvallis... Please let the rest of TNUF know of my progress and appreciation.
I've just been busy with school and work, mostly preparing for finals. I'm also learning a ton helping Gordie Reeves' grad student, Haley Ohms, age her steelhead smolts, scales and otoliths, at the Corvallis Forestry Sciences Lab. Gordie has also got me lined up to go to Cordova, AK for the Summer working on the fish crew in the Chugach NF, which I am really looking forward to. And I can't thank Paul Utz enough for helping me get in touch with Mr. Reeves, as well as TNUF for helping me make the move from Roseburg to Corvallis. Things are working out well.

From Jeffrey Dambacher, 1996 recipient (now a Principal Research Scientist, Environmental Modelling and Monitoring, CSIRO, Australia):
Yes I was the recipient of the first award.... I was starting a PhD on the zoogeography of Oregon fishes, and I used the money to take my first class. That class turned out to be on qualitative modeling, which captured my attention so much that I subsequently changed my dissertation topic to theoretical ecology. It's been a great journey and I remain very grateful for the foundation's initial support which came at a critical time for me. I am presently in Bordeaux France attending a symposium on estuary ecology where I presented a keynote address on my modeling work.