

# OREGON ASSOCIATION *of* SCHOLARS



*Issue Brief #2 (May 2020)*

## *Men Need Not Apply* *Oregon State University's Imbalance of Sex-Specific Scholarships*

### *The Issue*

Federal laws generally prohibit federally-funded universities from offering scholarships that “on the basis of sex, provide different amounts or types of such assistance, limit eligibility for such assistance which is of any particular type or source, apply different criteria, or otherwise discriminate.” Despite the clarity of this rule, a growing number of universities and colleges in the United States offer a significant imbalance of scholarship opportunities for women compared to men, even as female enrollment exceeds that of men. In 2019 the [Title IX Equity Project](#) of the national due process advocacy group SAVE surveyed the scholarships available at 319 large universities and colleges. The review counted the number of sex-specific scholarships designated for men and for women, and calculated the difference.

Of the 319 institutions, only 107 maintained a general balance between male and female scholarships. The remaining 212 all had imbalances of four or more. Of these, the review identified the 84 (excluding the private University of Phoenix) with the most egregious imbalances. On average, these 84 offered 21 more female-only scholarships than male-only scholarships.

Two major Oregon universities were included in the “Worst 84”: Oregon State University was the third worst in the entire nation with 51 female-only scholarships compared to just 5 male-only scholarships (a gap of 46). Portland State University ranked 67<sup>th</sup> worst, with 12 female-only scholarships and no male-only scholarships. Chemeketa Community College and Portland Community College also made it into the “Worst 84” with gaps of 13 and 11 respectively. Only 5 other states had four or more institutions in the “Worst 84”.

### *Oregon State University*

Oregon State University provides one of the most glaring examples in the country of a federally-funded higher education institution that repeatedly violates the Title IX implementing regulations by offering a gross preponderance of scholarships for women compared to men with little in the way of justification beyond vague references to “equity”. An example is the

Gilleland Family Fellowship (see below) that offers fellowships to “high achieving female graduate students” enrolled in the MBA program “to support gender equity parity” and to help the university “to achieve its diversity goals.”



**Oregon State University**

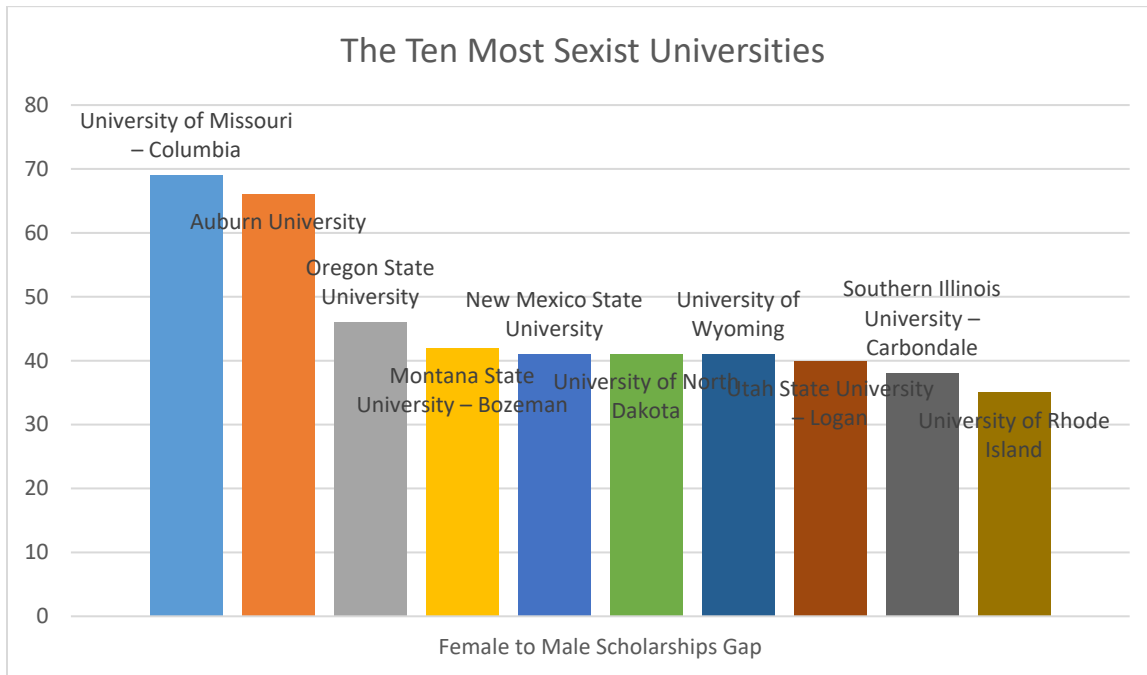
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**Gilleland Family Fellowship**

Fund to be used to provide fellowships for high achieving female graduate students at Oregon State University enrolled in the College of Business MBA program, with a preference for women who received their undergraduate degree in a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) subject area to support gender equity parity. It is understood that gender parity within the various areas of STEM will change over time and that the University will use these funds to achieve its diversity goals. Recipients are to be selected in accordance with the policies and procedures for awarding University scholarships.



**Solutions**

The Title IX Equity Project sent demand letters to the universities in March 2020 asking them to correct these policy violations. While there are limited exceptions to the equality rule, these require detailed reporting and exemption requirements, none of which, the review found, have been met by the violating institutions.

*The Oregon Association of Scholars is the Oregon affiliate of the National Association of Scholars. Visit NAS at [www.nas.org](http://www.nas.org), and OAS at [www.oregonscholars.org](http://www.oregonscholars.org). Contact: Dr. Bruce Gilley, OAS President, [info@oregonscholars.org](mailto:info@oregonscholars.org)*