

Grant

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aspects — such as cuts to K-12 — are taken into consideration.

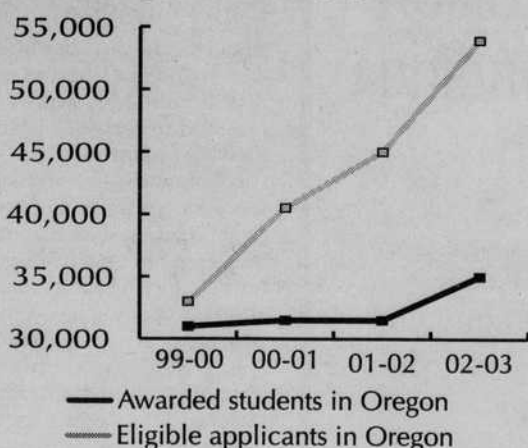
Other lobbying efforts have intensified at the University as student leaders work to restore funding for the grant and other need-based funding sources.

“A lot of work right now is centered more around tuition, but implicit in that is the need for need-based grants,” said Adam Petkun, state affairs coordinator for ASUO.

Petkun said an ASUO intern is currently leading a “letter to the editor” campaign in which students around Oregon write letters to their local papers about the need for grant funding in an effort to increase public recognition of the issue.

A postcard campaign is also being organized where students can sign

Opportunity grants



SOURCE: Oregon Student Association
Adelle Lemnox Emerald

postcards in support of the grant. The postcards will be taken to Salem on May 5 for student lobby day.

“I don’t know whether or not the numbers themselves will hold up,

but we’ve done so much work on it,” Petkun said. “Just keeping up the pressure on this should work.”

Contact the news editor at janmontry@dailyemerald.com.

ROTC

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After graduation, ROTC cadets are given several choices of what fields to enter based on their performance in the ROTC. Matthews said his top two choices are engineering and transportation because they are job skills he can use after his service is up.

Cadets receive their commission and are usually sent into four years of active duty, followed by four years of reserve duty.

However, the ROTC is a world away from the Army. The mood is lighter — for instance, cadets aren’t punished if they break ranks or let their arms sag during Physical Fitness Training, or PFT, which is held only three times a week.

“We get a taste of what it’s like to train,” Matthews said.

For PFT, cadets meet at the Student Recreation Center by 6:30 a.m., wearing gray Army T-shirts and black Army shorts. Ten minutes later, they line up in two platoons for roll call.

On this particular Wednesday, Matthews’ platoon performs guerrilla exercises in the Rec Center Mat Room. The cadets warm up by doing stretching exercises and jogging, conducted by Wednesday’s leader, cadet Sam Gross.

“Left arm, right arm, sit down,” Gross says. “Left leg, right leg, roll over. Left calf, right calf.”

After five sets of 26 push-ups for men and 16 for women, and four sets of 31 sit-ups, Gross orders cadets to partner up for “guerrilla drills,” which ROTC Col. John Sneed said simulate battle situations — for instance, having to carry in injured soldier.

In addition to PFT, cadets also attend military science and leadership classes along with regular University courses. During their freshman and sophomore years, cadets learn basic Army knowledge. By their junior year, they must sign a contract to remain in

the program through graduation and in the Army for eight years afterward.

During Matthews’ second year in the program, he learned U.S. military history as well as how to shoot an M-16 rifle, read a map, tie knots and complete squad infantry tactics. He will now be spending the rest of his junior year and senior year taking classes in individual leadership, tactical proficiency, critical thinking and battle drills.

Once per term, cadets travel to Camp Rilea, near Seaside, for Field Training Exercise — where they go through real-life battle situations

“They are training to do something we hope they don’t have to do.”

John Sneed
ROTC Colonel

such as navigating with a map and compass and having to move to attack a bunker by a certain time at a certain grid coordinate.

The specialized training is meant to train cadets for the Army, and eventually combat — so cadets are prepared for a possible call-up.

“I definitely didn’t join the Army to win medals, but I know that if I was faced with combat, I would be ready for it,” Matthews said. “But it’s not something I look forward to.”

Sneed said while no records are kept to determine whether conflicts such as the war in Iraq affect recruitment for the program, enrollment appears to stay steady in times of peace and war alike. ROTC leaders talk with cadets about current issues and hear their concerns, and Sneed said he makes sure that cadets know what they are getting themselves into before they are contracted.

“They are training to do something we hope they don’t have to do,” he said.

Matthews said cadets’ opinions of the war vary.

“We know as much as the next person about policy and national security,” he said. “One thing I’ve learned is that situations in the world are very complex. So in the end, I support the troops and their sacrifice.”

But before ROTC cadets even have a chance to go to war, they still have to complete their education. Matthews said he does not have a problem managing a normal school curriculum with the ROTC.

“It does seem kind of like another aspect of school,” he said. “You’re still learning, but it’s more hands-on.”

He is also looking forward to graduating, and said that even though college is fun, he wants to continue growing in his military education — this he credits to the ROTC.

“It’s an opportunity to serve that many people don’t have,” he said. “It will definitely stretch you as a person.”

Contact the reporter at romangokhman@dailyemerald.com.

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