



OAKLAND  
UNIVERSITY™

CENTER FOR MULTICULTURAL INITIATIVES

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**OAKLAND UNIVERSITY  
TRUSTEE ACADEMIC SUCCESS  
(OUTAS) PROGRAM**

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*20 Years of Achievement*



## A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The Oakland University Trustee Academic Success (OUTAS) program has a legacy of innovation, excellence, leadership and service. Established in 1994, OUTAS is nationally recognized for building on cultural diversity, academic and personal student achievement, and improving student graduation and retention rates. For 20 years OUTAS has helped students stay in school, achieve their educational goals, and prepare for a bright and promising future — something for which we are extremely proud and gratified.

Within this booklet you will find examples of the OUTAS program's success. OUTAS students excel in their coursework, know how to be campus leaders, have deep respect for cultural differences and are fully prepared to work in a global economy. Their achievements are recognized throughout the campus and the community. They've received various awards including the Matilda Wilson Award, the Alfred G. Wilson Award and numerous other external and internal honors. More than 40 OUTAS students have received the Keeper of the Dream scholarship for their efforts at promoting cultural diversity. Forty percent of students are student organization presidents who boast cumulative GPAs well above 3.0.

In addition, students are involved in a multitude of diversity programs, arranged by CMI, in support of the OUTAS model, with guidance from peer mentors and CMI staff to ensure an awareness-building experience. But most important, OUTAS students are the type of individuals who give back. They serve as mentors, as leaders in their campus life and as graduates who contribute to society.

We're proud of the 20 successful years of OUTAS, and look forward to many more years of helping OU students be the best they can be.

Omar Brown-El  
Director  
Center for Multicultural Initiatives

*“Receiving the OUTAS award was a boost in confidence which led me to be a better student. The requirements to keep the scholarship kept me in the classroom, asking questions, and studying harder to make sure I earned well above the required GPA. Lastly, with the support of the CMI staff I will be able to complete my degree in three and a half years.”*

— Sean Miller, scholarship recipient

## WHAT IS OUTAS?

OUTAS is a nationally recognized program setting the standard for academic excellence and leadership development in the 21st century. Launched in 1994, the award-winning OUTAS program has provided comprehensive support services to a diverse group of OU students.

The program differs from many other student retention programs because it focuses on providing scholarships to a diverse group of students who experienced academic success in high school and met the university's admission requirements but need support adjusting to campus life.

Many student retention programs focus solely on non-regularly admitted (at-risk) students. OUTAS also fosters cross-cultural interaction by encompassing Caucasian, African-American, Native American, Asian Pacific Islander and Latino students. Students who meet the OUTAS program requirements receive scholarships (\$3,000) that are renewed annually. Components of the scholarship program include:

- **Peer mentoring:** CMI peer mentors are campus leaders. From New Student Orientation on, CMI mentors provide guidance and model academic and social success to their mentees and to the campus community. OUTAS students work with mentors who “know the ropes” and can provide goal setting guidance as well as information about campus activities, resources and student organizations. Peer mentors, who hold 3.0 or better GPAs, help new students become accustomed to college life and develop their academic and leadership skills. Assigned mentors meet weekly in one-on-one sessions with scholarship recipients to assess and monitor academic and social progress. Mentors provide scholarship recipients with information about classes, support services, academic programs and counseling. Students must meet with their mentors weekly for at least their first two years at the university. Beyond their scope of peer counseling, mentors serve as a link between CMI and the university community.
- **Counseling:** Counselors provide guidance on psychosocial development, academic enrichment, financial opportunities and career exploration.

- **COM 101 (Collegiate Communications):** COM 101 classes increase student awareness, communication skills, and personal and academic success.
- **Early academic warning system:** Designed to monitor and track the students' individual academic progress, the system includes faculty feedback, tutorial services and staff monitoring.
- **Leadership development:** Students work with professional staff and mentors to develop strong leadership abilities.
- **Career exploration:** Mentors, CMI staff and counselors provide guidance and insights as OUTAS students explore career interests and options.
- **Diversity programs:** Students are involved in a multitude of diversity programs, arranged by CMI, in support of the OUTAS model.

## OUTAS MISSION

To directly engage ethnically and culturally diverse scholars in a teaching and learning environment whereby the enriching nature of diversity fosters academic excellence and produces leaders with effective cross-cultural functioning skills.

*“Without the CMI and the OUTAS program, I can honestly say that I would not be an alum of Oakland University. My mentors helped me through many heavy times and always pushed me to do my best.”*

— Aretha Frazier, scholarship recipient and peer mentor



# OUTAS

## A SUCCESS STORY

OUTAS makes a difference in students' lives. During the 2013-14 academic year, 32 program scholarships were awarded and 23 OUTAS scholarship recipients graduated, bringing the total to 312 graduates since 1994.

Since its beginning, OUTAS has helped students achieve academically. OUTAS students, on average, achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.24 compared to 3.06 for all OU students.

## THE OUTAS PROGRAM IS A PROUD RECIPIENT OF

- The 2003 Michigan Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers (MACRAO) Equal Educational Opportunity Award
- The Noel-Levitz 2001 Retention Excellence Award. This national award places OUTAS among the top seven most successful, state-of-the-art retention programs at American colleges and universities.
- The 2000 Michigan Counseling Association Diversity Award
- The 1999 National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Noteworthy Program Award

*“OUTAS has been my backbone at OU. As a scholar I was required to meet with a great mentor who helped me adjust to college life and taught me valuable life lessons. Being a scholar helped me transition into becoming a mentor and allowed me to provide that same impact on the lives of others. Knowing that I have the support of the entire CMI office motivates me to be all that I can. I could not wish for a better program to be a part of.”*

— Daniel Lewis, peer mentor

## WHO ARE OUTAS STUDENTS?

OUTAS students:

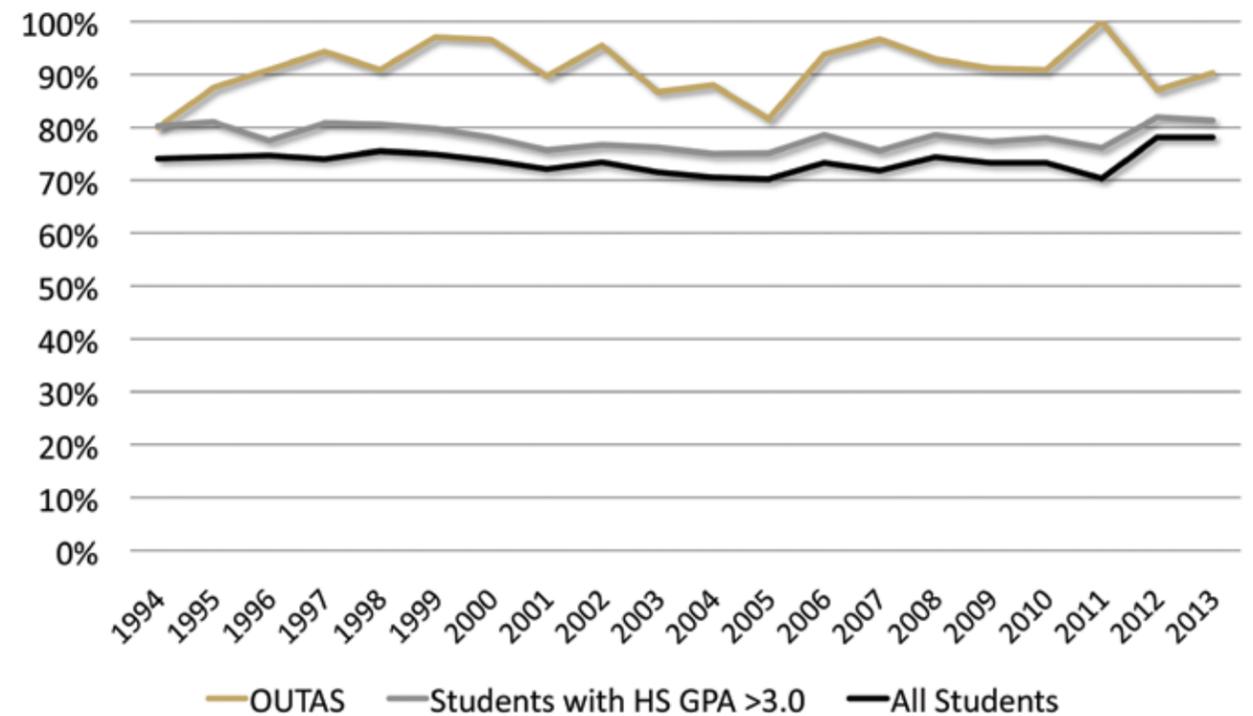
- Have a higher cumulative GPA
- Are more likely to stay enrolled
- Are involved in student organizations
- Have received the most prestigious awards granted at OU: Keeper of the Dream (44 recipients), Matilda R. Wilson Awards (6 recipients), Alfred G. Wilson Awards (2 recipients), Human Relations Awards (5 recipients)
- Graduate within five years (62 percent) compared to all OU students (36 percent)
- Are ambassadors for diversity on campus and in the community
- Are successful in the classroom and the community

## HOW DOES ONE BECOME AN OUTAS STUDENT?

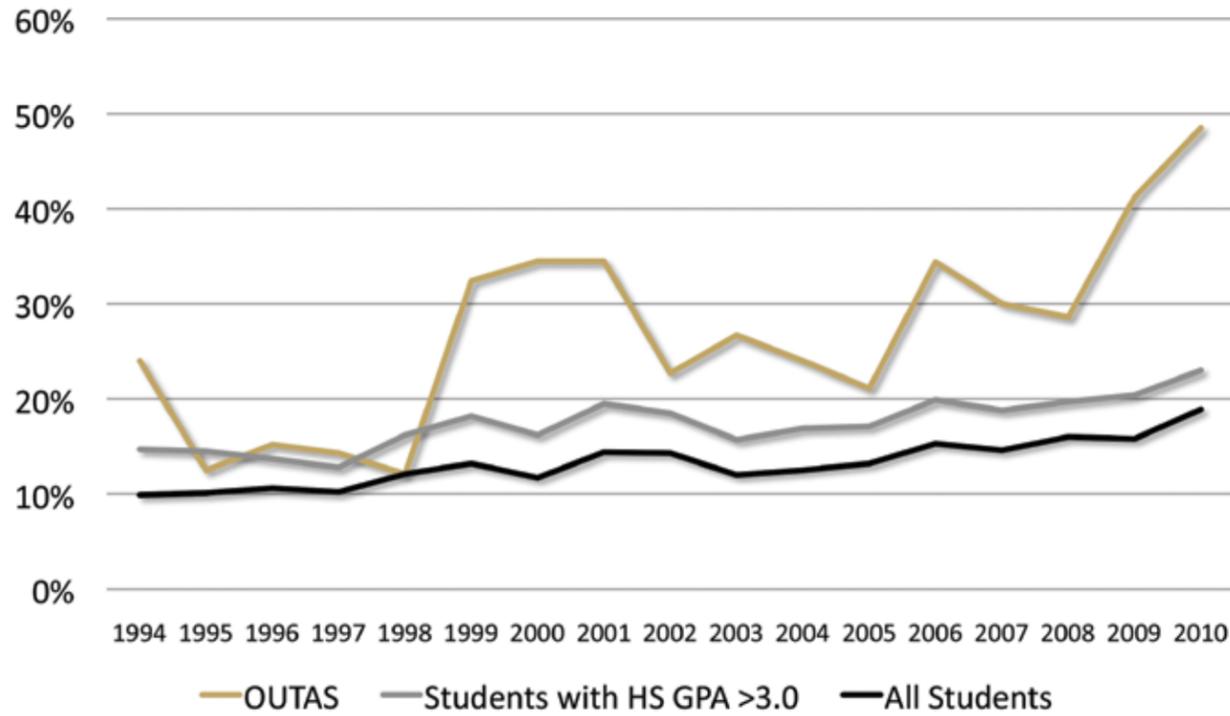
Requirements include:

- Entering freshmen must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, a minimum 21 ACT score and demonstrated leadership skills
- Transfer students require a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Once accepted, students must:
  - Complete 28 credit hours per academic year
  - Enroll in COM 101
  - Meet bi-weekly with a professional counselor
  - Meet weekly with a peer mentor
  - Maintain a GPA of 2.5 or better

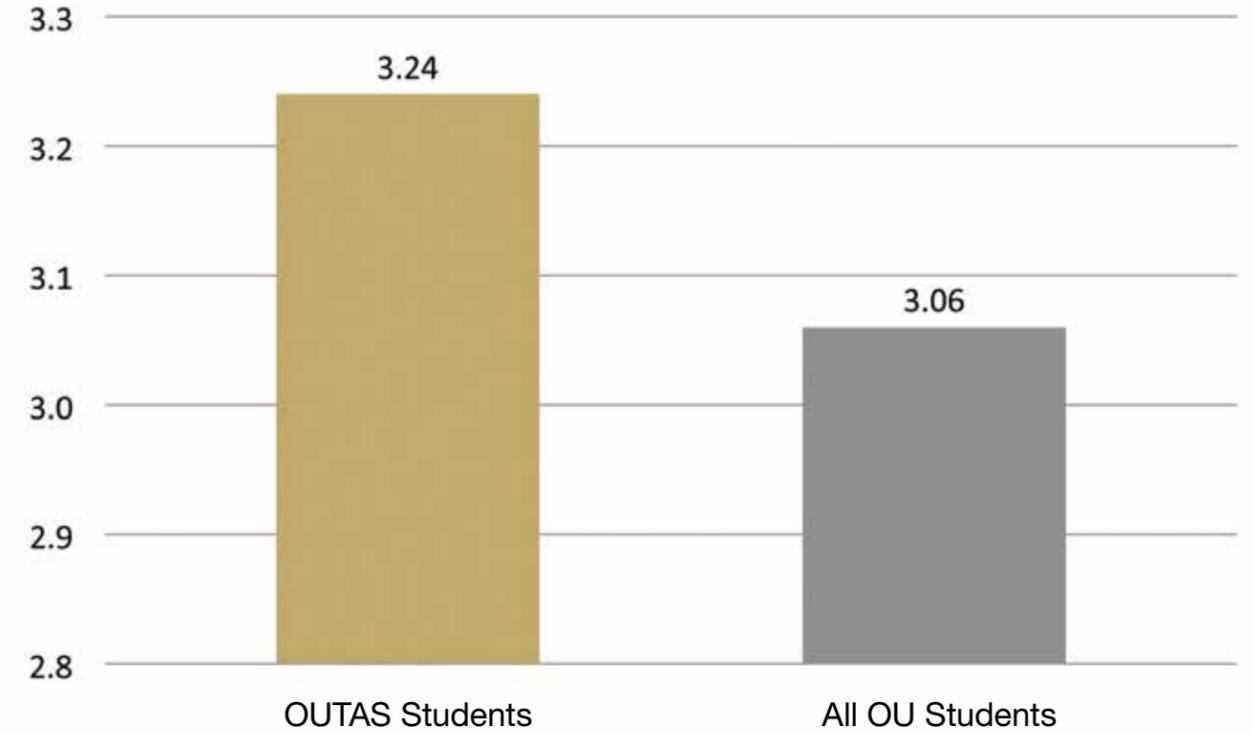
## First Year Retention



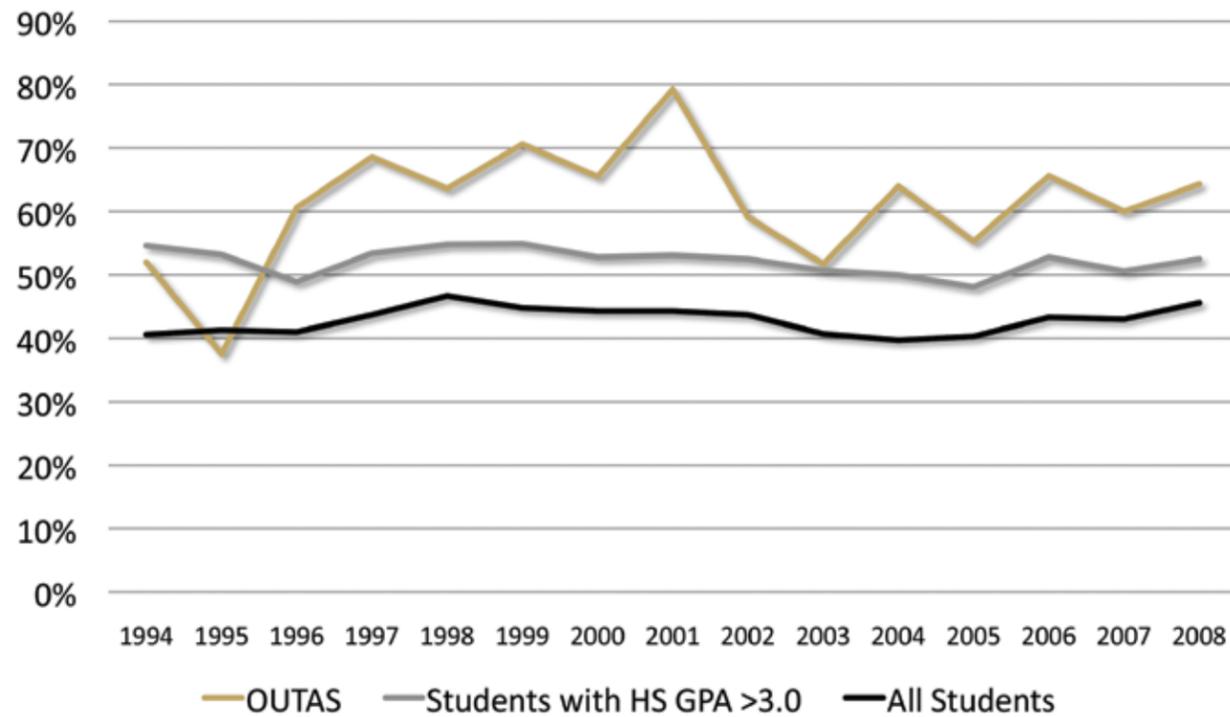
### Four Year Graduation Rate



### Cumulative Grade Point Average



### Six Year Graduation Rate



### Cumulative Grade Point Average Above 3.0

