

About the Program

The Jackson/Josephine Pledge Program is a unique college program created exclusively for high school students graduating from Jackson or Josephine counties. The "Jack/Jo Pledge" allows students to earn a bachelor's degree in just three years and offers a significant tuition discount.

How does it work? It's quite simple, really: SOU evaluates high school coursework and applies credit reductions wherever possible, so students will not need as many classes to finish their degree. With fewer required courses, students can enjoy a regular course load and still have time for extracurricular activities. Students work closely with Student Success Coordinators (SSCs) and major advisors to complete a college degree in just three years!

The Jackson/Josephine Pledge is only open to recent high school graduates.

Your chosen major must be in an academic department that is able to participate in the Jackson/Josephine Pledge Program. The following majors are available to Jack/Jo Pledge students:

- Business Administration
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Digital Cinema
- Economics
- Education Studies
- Emerging Media & Digital Arts (EMDA)
- English
- Environmental Science & Policy
- Gender, Sexuality & Women's Studies
- Health & Exercise Science
- History
- International Studies
- Mathematics
- Outdoor Adventure Leadership
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology & Anthropology
- Spanish Language & Culture
- Sustainability
- Sustainable Tourism Management

Students may also choose to complete a minor or certificate program while pursuing their undergraduate degree. A minor can be from any department on campus.

Applications for the Jackson/Josephine Pledge Program are reviewed by a committee who determines the appropriate number of credit waivers in each area of SOU's general education requirements based on

factors such as prior coursework, writing sample and letters of recommendation. Students who are accepted into the program are granted between 8 and 24 general education credits and up to 21 elective credits. They must successfully complete between 135 and 151 additional credits at SOU.

To ensure normal advancement toward degree completion, each Jack/Jo Pledge student will work with an advisor to develop a three-year plan during their first term at SOU. All students must maintain progress consistent with their three-year plan, or they will be required to switch to a regular four-year degree program (180 credits). At such point, any credits waived through the Jackson/Josephine will be removed from the student transcript, and the tuition going forward will be priced at the regular, in-state tuition rate.

Criteria for Admission

To be considered for the Jackson/Josephine Pledge Program, you must meet the criteria listed below:

- 1) Possess superior GPA and/or standardized test scores, as defined below:
 - a. Cumulative high school GPA of **3.2**
- 2) Have already selected your major.
- 3) Be a resident of Jackson or Josephine counties in Oregon.

How to Apply

Before applying for the Jackson/Josephine Pledge Program, students must first be fully admitted to SOU. Please visit the Admissions office website at www.sou.edu/admissions for further information on applying for admission to the University.

To apply for the Jack/Jo Pledge Program, please prepare/complete the following materials:

- The Jackson/Josephine Pledge **application form**.
- A **personal essay** (minimum 500 words) addressing your interest in the Accelerated Baccalaureate program and the major you have chosen.
 - This essay should discuss the qualities and abilities you possess that would make you successful in the program (e.g., self-discipline, writing and critical thinking skills, academic accomplishments in your chosen major). The analytical and research qualities of this essay are used to assess your writing and critical thinking ability for a possible general education reduction in that area.

- **Two samples of exceptionally well-written work.**
 - One sample should be a recent research paper or expository essay that demonstrates the ability to write skillfully, evaluate information critically and support a thesis statement effectively (please do not submit creative writing samples).
 - Preferably, one sample should be related to the selected major. This sample is a written assignment or project (which may also include photographs, artwork, videos, or any other media) that demonstrates an ability, dedication and interest in your chosen major.
 - Both samples should show mastery of a recognized style of documentation (MLA, APA, Chicago, etc.)

- **Two letters of recommendation.** Please use the **Jackson/Josephine Pledge recommendation form.**
 - Job or volunteer supervisors in an area related to the chosen major are acceptable.
 - At least one recommendation form should be from a teacher. It could be from a current teacher or a previous one. Select teachers who can talk about your abilities in different subject areas. If both of recommendation letters are from teachers, please do not choose two teachers from the same subject area.

Submitting Your Application

Completed applications can be submitted in any one of the following ways:

- 1) Via email to: jackjo-pledge@sou.edu
- 2) Via post to:

Southern Oregon University
ATTN: Jackson/Josephine Pledge Program
1250 Siskiyou Blvd
Ashland, OR 97520

For more information, please contact Matt Moreali, J.D., faculty administrator to the Degree in Three programs, at jackjo-pledge@sou.edu

Note: If a student leaves the program, all waived credits will be removed from your transcript and are not transferrable to other universities. Coursework must be completed within three years.