Oregon Promise

High School

Resource Guide

www.OregonStudentAid.gov

Office of Student Access and Completion
Helping Oregon Students Plan and Pay for College

This guide is a resource for high school staff and other education partners to support Oregon Promise applicants.

*Please refer to **OregonStudentAid.gov** or contact the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) with questions.*

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Section One: Program Overview

What is HECC and OSAC?

The State of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) envisions a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training. The HECC is the single state entity responsible for ensuring pathways to higher education success for Oregonians statewide, and serves as a convener across the public and private higher education field. The HECC is a 14-member volunteer commission which is supported by a state agency comprised of eight offices.

The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) is one of eight offices within the HECC. We are committed to assisting Oregonians in their pursuit of higher education and a brighter future. Established in 1959 by the Oregon Legislature, OSAC provides innovative funding and programs to Oregon students and families. Each year, OSAC awards grants and scholarships totaling more than $118 million to thousands of Oregon students.

What is Oregon Promise?

Oregon Promise is a state grant that helps cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for recent high school graduates and GED® test graduates. The program was launched by legislation passed in 2015, and began serving community college students in the fall of 2016. During the first two years of the program (2016-18), over 12,000 college students received the Oregon Promise Grant across all 17 Oregon community colleges.

Student Eligibility

To be eligible for the Oregon Promise Grant, a student must meet all of the following criteria:

Application Requirements:

- Complete an Oregon Promise Grant Application by appropriate deadline
- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) by the deadline, and list at least one Oregon community college

General Eligibility Criteria:

- Be a recent Oregon high school graduate or GED® test graduate
- Have a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA or higher, or a passing GED® test score of 145 or higher on each test
- Attend an Oregon community college at least half-time *and* begin receiving the grant within 6 months of high school graduation or GED® test graduation*
- Be an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to college attendance. For dependent students, parent(s) must also live in Oregon
- Have no more than 90 total college credits
- Students may be subject to eligibility criteria based on their Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC criteria is subject to change. Visit website for up-to-date information

*If the student cannot attend college within six months, a waiver process is available for extenuating circumstances. The student should contact the financial aid office at their college for details.

Oregon Community Colleges

Students can receive the Oregon Promise Grant at any of the following 17 Oregon community colleges.

Blue Mountain Community College
Pendleton, OR / (541) 278-5759
https://www.bluecc.edu/

Central Oregon Community College
Bend, OR / (541) 383-7260
https://www.cocc.edu/

Chemeketa Community College
Salem, OR / (503) 399-5018
http://www.chemeketa.edu/

Clackamas Community College
Oregon City, OR / (503) 594-6100
https://www.clackamas.edu/

Clatsop Community College
Astoria, OR / (503) 338-2322
https://www.clatsopcc.edu/

Columbia Gorge Community College
The Dalles, OR / (541) 506-6021
https://www.cgcc.edu/

Klamath Community College
Klamath Falls, OR / (541) 880-2352
https://www.klamathcc.edu

Lane Community College
Eugene, OR / (541) 463-3400
https://www.lanecc.edu/

Linn-Benton Community College
Albany, OR / (541) 917-4850
https://www.linnbenton.edu/

Mount Hood Community College
Gresham, OR / (503) 491-7262
https://www.mhcc.edu/

Oregon Coast Community College
Newport, OR / (541) 867-8501
http://www.oregoncoastcc.org/

Portland Community College
Portland, OR / (971) 722-8888
https://www.pcc.edu/

Rogue Community College
Grants Pass, OR / (541) 956-7500
http://www.roguecc.edu/

Southwestern Community College
Coos Bay, OR / (541) 888-7352
https://www.socc.edu/

Tillamook Bay Community College
Tillamook, OR / (503) 842-8222
http://tillamookbaycc.edu/

Treasure Valley Community College
Ontario, OR / (541) 881-5833
http://www.tvcc.cc/

Umpqua Community College
Roseburg, OR / (541) 440-4602
https://www.umpqua.edu/

Section Two: Application Process

Students must apply for Oregon Promise so OSAC can determine if they meet all eligibility criteria for the grant.

Application Process:

1. Student submits Oregon Promise application
2. OSAC reviews application to determine if it is valid or rejected
3. After application is reviewed as valid, OSAC matches application to student's FAFSA or ORSAA
4. OSAC awards student if they have all of the following:
   a) Valid Oregon Promise application
   b) An error-free FAFSA or ORSAA submitted by the deadline
   c) List at least one Oregon community college
   d) [Meet all other eligibility criteria]

Students should check their email and their OSAC Student Portal account frequently during the review and awarding process for status updates, reminders, and notifications about incomplete items.

Find Application Deadline

To qualify for Oregon Promise, students must apply by specific deadlines. The program has multiple deadlines to accommodate year-round GED® test graduation and non-traditional high school graduation dates. Students must pay careful attention to the deadlines, since most students only have one timeframe to apply. Most students *must apply for Oregon Promise during their senior year of high school*.

I am graduating from:	I am graduating during this time:	DEADLINE to complete both: Oregon Promise App. & FAFSA or ORSAA	You must start community college by this term:
High School or Home School	**March 1 – June 30**	**June 1**	**Fall**
	July 1 – Nov. 30	Nov. 1	Winter
	Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	Feb. 1	Spring
GED® **Program**	March 1 – June 30	July 10	Fall
	July 1 – Nov. 30	Dec. 10	Winter
	Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	March 10	Spring

Students graduating between Oct.1 – Nov. 30 can apply for either Winter or Spring Term.

Deadline note: The deadline is 5:00 pm (PST or PDT). If a deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it is automatically extended to 5:00 pm (PST or PDT) on the following business day.

Once a student is awarded the grant, they must meet certain requirements to maintain eligibility. For the complete list, see section three.

Create an OSAC Student Portal Account

Students can apply for the Oregon Promise in the OSAC Student Portal, along with other grants and scholarships. From the OSAC Student Portal home page, the student logs in or creates an account. If the student has previously started an OSAC Scholarship application or other OSAC grant applications, they must use their existing account information to log in. To avoid creating duplicate accounts, students should contact OSAC for assistance if they cannot remember their username or password.

> **Quick Tip:** The student should use a **permanent email** to create their OSAC account, so they can access their account after high school.

Student Account Setup Tips:

1. Use a permanent email (not a school or parent email)
2. Complete all required steps before moving on to other sections
3. After clicking "continue" on section one, a verification email is automatically sent
4. Log into the email account and click the verification link (student must be logged into their OSAC account on the same device they will be accessing the email verification link)

Once the student logs back into their account, they arrive at the OSAC Dashboard where they find several applications. The OSAC Scholarship application appears at the top of this page, and second is the Oregon Promise application. These are *two separate applications* in the Student Portal.

Complete the Oregon Promise Application

In the Oregon Promise application, students must complete all six sections which are listed below. High school students should fully submit the application before they graduate (even if the high school has not yet verified their GPA), in order to meet the application deadline.

① *My Account*
This section contains the email address associated with the student's OSAC account. The student can change their password and update their email address in this

> **How to Apply for Oregon Promise**
>
> 1. Submit the Oregon Promise application in the OSAC Student Portal.
> 2. Submit the FAFSA or ORSAA and list at least one Oregon community college.
>
> *Complete both steps by the appropriate deadline.*

section. This section will update information for all OSAC applications (Scholarships, Oregon Promise, etc.).

2 *About Me*
The student provides identifying information, which OSAC uses to match their FAFSA or ORSAA to their application. Be sure that students use their legal first and last name(s) in this section.

3 *Contact Information*
The student enters their permanent mailing address and phone number.

4 *High School Information & Graduation Date*
The student provides their student type and selects their high school from a dropdown menu. They also enter their graduation date (or anticipated graduation date). When they enter the graduation date, the application updates to show the student which term they must begin attending community college in order to receive Oregon Promise. The student must select the appropriate term. If awarded Oregon Promise, the student must begin attending college and receive the grant by the selected term.

The student also enters their unweighted, cumulative high school GPA. They must have at least a 2.0 GPA by the time they graduate high school in order to be eligible for the grant. There is no appeal process if a student does not meet the GPA requirement at the time of graduation.

> **Can a student apply if they don't have a 2.0 GPA yet?**
>
> **YES.** The student must submit the application *by their deadline* even if they do not currently have a 2.0. OSAC will give the student and/or high school an opportunity to update their GPA information once final grades are available.

5 *GPA/Transcripts*
The student must demonstrate to OSAC that they meet the 2.0 GPA requirement or equivalent with their GED® test credential. High school students must complete one of two options to demonstrate their GPA:

1. **Recommended:** Student requests that high school verifies their GPA online (**GPA Verification – see Section 4**); or
2. Student submits high school transcript or their official GED® test transcript directly to OSAC via online upload or by mail.

> **Over 90%** of Oregon Promise applicants use **GPA Verification** to complete their application.

Students must select one of the two options above to complete this section. For either method, OSAC requires grades through the first semester, second quarter, or first trimester of the student's senior year (for spring graduates).

9

Most high school students are spring graduates who will begin using Oregon Promise in the fall. Spring graduates must wait to provide a transcript to OSAC or have their GPA verified until at least one term of senior grades is available, which is typically in January or February. The GPA does not have to include the student's final semester of grades. If the student selects the GPA verification option, they are responsible for ensuring that their high school completes this by the deadline.

Students who originally met the GPA, but then dropped below with final grades remain as MET. For more information about GPA Verification, see Section Four.

6 *Certify & Submit*
In the final section, the student certifies that the information they have entered is accurate. The student must submit their application by the deadline in order to be considered for the grant.

Application Review

After a student submits their application, OSAC will review it. OSAC sends the student an email once their application is reviewed.

In the OSAC Student Portal, the student can see any application error(s) with instructions and a deadline to submit their corrections. The most common correction is that the student must submit an updated transcript and/or have the high school verify their GPA.

If the student has a valid application status, this does not mean they have been awarded the grant. High school staff can see a student's *application review status*—but not their *award status*—in the Partner Portal. The earlier a student submits a valid application, the sooner OSAC can notify them about their application and/or if they have been awarded or not.

After a student submits their application, they are encouraged to check the OSAC Student Portal and their email frequently for updates.

FAFSA/ORSAA Completion

Oregon Promise applicants must also submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) by the same deadline as the Oregon Promise application.

The student must submit the correct year FAFSA or ORSAA, which corresponds to the academic year when they will begin college. There are multiple FAFSA or ORSAA application years open at a time. If the student is not sure which year FAFSA or ORSAA to file, they may contact OSAC to clarify. The student must list at least one Oregon community college on the FAFSA or ORSAA in order to be considered for an Oregon Promise award.

Learn more in the FAFSA & ORSAA Overview.

> **What is FAFSA Verification?**
>
> Some students are selected for FAFSA verification, a process that colleges use to confirm that data reported on the FAFSA is accurate. The student works directly with their college financial aid office to complete FAFSA verification.
>
> *A student cannot receive financial aid until verification is complete. If this process is delayed, the Oregon Promise award may be cancelled.*

Award Status

Once a student has both a valid Oregon Promise application and a FAFSA or ORSAA, OSAC will provide an Oregon Promise award status. If OSAC has begun awarding for the year (typically in spring), then the student can see whether or not they are authorized for an award in the OSAC Student Portal. OSAC will also email the student regarding their award status. OSAC emails students if they have been awarded or not.

If the student is authorized for an award, all Oregon community colleges that the student lists on their FAFSA or ORSAA are notified of the student's award amounts. OSAC sends funds directly to the college financial aid office, which the college then applies to the student's account. If the student has multiple schools listed for Oregon Promise, then they will receive the grant at the college where they choose to enroll. *Students must complete all requirements with their college in a timely manner in order to be disbursed financial aid; if this is significantly delayed, then the student's Oregon Promise award may be cancelled.*

If the student is not authorized for an award, they will see the reason(s) and whether or not they can make corrections (i.e. correct FAFSA errors). Students should contact OSAC if they have questions about why they are not authorized for award.

Award Calculation

Each student's Oregon Promise award is calculated based on a formula set in Oregon statute. Once a student is authorized for award, they can view their award amounts in the OSAC Student Portal. Changes to the FAFSA or ORSAA may result in an adjustment to the student's Oregon Promise award amount or possibly revoking their award, even if this occurs during the school year.

Oregon Promise covers the remaining tuition amount (up to the average cost of 12 credits per term) after any [Federal Pell Grant](#) and [Oregon Opportunity Grant](#) funds are deducted from tuition costs. If the college's tuition costs are above the annual average, the student is responsible for paying the difference with their own funds or other financial aid. If the college's tuition costs are below the average, Oregon Promise only pays up to that college's actual tuition costs.

If the student is taking between 6-11 credits, they will receive less than the full-time award amount. The student can contact OSAC or their college financial aid office to determine exact part-time award amounts.

> **How much money will a student receive from Oregon Promise?**
>
> [Watch this video](#) | [Visit the website](#)

A student's eligibility is based on how many college credits they have attempted; there is **no term or year limit for grant eligibility**. Once the student attempts a total of 90 college credits, they are no longer eligible to receive Oregon Promise.

All of the following types of credits may count toward the 90 credit limit:

- College credits taken in high school or as part of a high school completion program
- College credits taken during summer term*
- College credits taken at another college or university while dual-enrolled at a community college
- College credits for courses where the student withdraws or fails
- Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) credits earned
- Any other college credits attempted or completed prior to and during a student's time as an Oregon Promise recipient

*Oregon Promise does not pay for summer courses.

[Learn more about what the 90 credit limit includes.](#)

Section Three: Information for Recipients

How to Receive Funds for Year One

Once a student is authorized for an award in their OSAC Student Portal, OSAC sends the award information to each college listed on their FAFSA/ORSAA. If the student is selected for FAFSA verification, they need to complete that process with the college financial aid office **before** the start of the term.

To add a different community college for Oregon Promise, the student must update the school list on their FAFSA or ORSAA and submit it again. This update needs to occur in a timely manner for the college to be able to process the award. They will also need to complete FAFSA verification at the new college they have added, if they are selected for FAFSA verification.

> **Remember:** The student must complete all requests from their college financial aid office in a timely manner (including FAFSA verification), or their award may be cancelled. ⚠

The student may need to complete additional requirements with their community college financial aid office in order to receive Oregon Promise funds. The student should check their college email, their college account, and/or contact their college financial aid office for more information about final requirements in order to receive funds. **If the student does not complete all requirements at the financial aid office, their award will be cancelled.**

> **When are students required to start college?**
>
> Most students must start college during the next term after they graduate (excluding summer term).

Dual Enrollment or Degree Partnership Programs

Students can dual enroll between multiple colleges or universities and be eligible for Oregon Promise. *The community college must be listed as the student's official "home college" for financial aid purposes*, and the student must take at least six credits at the community college each term. Oregon Promise only pays for credits taken at the community college. However, credits completed at *both schools* count toward the 90 credit limit allowed under Oregon Promise. Students should contact their community college to declare the home college and complete the dual enrollment agreement process.

Satisfactory Academic Progress

In order to receive financial aid for a given term, students must meet Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) standards at their college. Each college has their own definition of SAP; it typically considers the student's GPA and how quickly they are progressing through degree requirements. If a student is not meeting SAP at the start of a term, they cannot receive Oregon Promise funds for that term. If they still attempt at least 6 credits at the community college for that term, their Oregon Promise may be reinstated in future terms and/or renewal years. If a student has SAP questions or concerns, they should contact the financial aid office at their college. Continuous enrollment is a key requirement to remain eligible for renewal of the grant.

Where to Direct Students with Questions

After a student is authorized for Oregon Promise, they can visit the Oregon Promise website (and their college website) for more information:

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Information for Recipients](#)

After reviewing the website, there are two places to direct students with additional Oregon Promise questions: OSAC or the financial aid office at their community college. Once a student is authorized for an award, most questions should be directed to the financial aid office at the college.

Here is the full list of next steps that students should complete once they have been authorized for an Oregon Promise award:

- Complete all requirements with college financial aid office
- Start community college as indicated in their Oregon Promise application at least halftime. Typically, students must start the next college term after high school graduation or GED completion (excluding summer)
- Keep email address up-to-date in the OSAC Student Portal. OSAC sends out important email updates to students – it is recommended to use a permanent email address
- Follow up with the financial aid office at the community college on how/when the award will be put into their student account

> **Remind students to check email frequently!**
>
> *Email is the main communication method that colleges and OSAC use with students.*

Renewal Information for Future Years

Students are not *guaranteed* to receive the Oregon Promise Grant for up to 90 credits; they must meet certain renewal criteria beyond year one, in order to continue and receive a renewal award. Beyond year one, the only application requirement is the FAFSA or ORSAA. Students do <u>not</u> complete another Oregon Promise application after they are awarded in year one. To apply for Oregon Promise renewal, the student must submit the next year's FAFSA or ORSAA by <u>June 1</u>.

Students can log into their OSAC Student Portal account to view their renewal award information. Awarding for renewal students begins mid-June each year. Throughout the academic year and during the summer, students should frequently check their email; email is the primary communication method that OSAC and the community colleges use to contact students regarding outstanding requirements, updates, etc.

Renewal Award Eligibility Criteria

o   Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress, as determined by the community college
o   Maintain at least half-time (i.e. 6 or more credits) continuous enrollment at a community college during fall, winter and spring terms*
o   Attempt or complete no more than 90 college credits
o   Be an Oregon resident
o   Attend college – and receive Oregon Promise funds – during fall term of each renewal year (if not, the renewal award will be cancelled)*
o   Submit the FAFSA or ORSAA each year of college by JUNE 1
o   Complete any other requirements or requests from the community college

*A waiver process is available for extenuating circumstances, such as severe illness, family emergency, or military duty. Students should contact the financial aid office at their community college for details.

Section Four: Resources & Training for High Schools

GPA Verification

GPA Verification is a process where high school registrars and/or other staff use the secure OSAC Partner Portal to confirm whether senior applicants meet the **2.0 GPA requirement** for the Oregon Promise Grant. Read full **GPA Verification Instructions**.

OSAC encourages students to select GPA verification in Section 5 of the application; it is the easiest option for the student and it saves schools time. High school staff members who have access to student transcripts should participate in GPA Verification. In the OSAC Partner Portal, **school staff can begin verifying GPAs for spring graduates once students have at least one term of senior grades completed. (Dec-Feb).**

GPA Verification Deadlines

High School Graduation Range	Student Application Deadline	GPA Verification Deadline
July 1 – Nov. 30	Nov. 1	**Nov. 8**
Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	Feb. 1	**Feb. 8**
March 1 – June 30	June 1	**July 10**

When a student selects their high school in Section 5 of the Oregon Promise application, they appear on that high school's GPA Verification list in the OSAC Partner Portal. Applicants are organized based on the college term when they will *begin* college and Oregon Promise——Fall, Winter, or Spring——which is determined by their graduation date. Staff members click "Met" or "Not Met" for each student to confirm if they have achieved the 2.0 cumulative, unweighted GPA requirement. The information is automatically submitted to OSAC once high school staff select MET or NOT MET.

Students who graduate between July 1 and February 29 **do not** need to have senior grades completed in order to have their GPA verified.

A student may turn in a "GPA Verification Reminder Form" to the school. The form is optional and OSAC does not need to receive it; it is simply a reminder to the school staff to verify the student's GPA.

Updating GPA Verifications

High School staff update GPA Verifications at the end of the academic year for students who did not meet the GPA requirement with first semester grades, but raised their cumulative with final grades.

Application Review Status

There are several different review categories. Within the OSAC Partner Portal, high school staff can view some basic review information about the student's application. High school staff should verify GPAs for *all students on their list who currently attend their school,* regardless of their application status.

Application Review Status in High School Portal	Definition
Oregon Promise Application Not Submitted	Student has not submitted their application. OSAC will not review application until it is submitted.
Review: Transcript* Rejected	Student needs to make corrections to their application. OSAC will then re-review the application.
Review: Ineligible for Oregon Promise	Student is ineligible for the program, based on their graduation date, GPA, etc.
Oregon Promise Application Not Submitted (Student is grayed out: "*possibly ineligible or inaccurate application*")	Student listed that their graduation date is outside of the eligible range. **Do NOT verify their GPA.**

*Although these statuses mention "Transcript", this refers to their overall application review status. The student may apply with either GPA verification from the high school or a transcript that the student uploads; they will receive the same status here.

Student Transcript Submission

If the student chooses to submit their transcript to OSAC instead of GPA verification through their high school, the student must either upload it as a PDF into the Oregon Promise application or mail/hand deliver it to the OSAC office. If the student mails in their transcript, OSAC **must receive the transcript by the deadline, not by postmark date**.

> **Quick Tip:** *If the school cannot verify the GPA,* the student may upload a PDF transcript in their application. OSAC can process and review the PDF transcript faster than the mail-in option.

High school staff **cannot** upload transcripts for Oregon Promise applicants (only for OSAC Scholarship applications); the student must obtain the transcript and provide it directly to OSAC.

Resources

OSAC has created many different resources to help those working with Oregon Promise applicants and recipients. Below are some of the resources available. Please check the website for the most up-to-date information on the program and materials.

Communications Toolkit
The Oregon Promise Communications Toolkit features webinars, videos, flyers, social media, and other resources about the program. There are several Oregon Promise webinars focused on different audience types. All recorded webinars are located on the OSAC YouTube Channel. Check the OSAC website for scheduled upcoming webinars.

Along with the Oregon Promise webinars, there are different videos on the OSAC YouTube Channel about the FAFSA, ORSAA, OSAC Scholarships, and more.

Frequently Asked Questions Page
Oregon Promise has dozens of common questions compiled online as a reference. OSAC staff update this page frequently with program changes and as new questions arise.

> **Oregon Promise FAQs**
>
> Web Page | PDF Version

Oregon Promise Handout
The Oregon Promise handout is a two-sided reference to display at your school, distribute at financial aid nights, and refer to as you are working with students. OSAC updates this reference as necessary. Please visit the OSAC website to download the latest version, available in English and Spanish.

Presentations
OSAC staff and partners are able to provide presentations about OSAC programs—including Oregon Promise—at your school's event. Please complete the online form to request a presenter. For the best chance of finding an available presenter, please submit your request at least one month in advance of your event if possible.

Appendices

FAFSA & ORSAA Overview
To be eligible for most types of financial aid, students must complete the FAFSA or ORSAA. These applications compile financial information and other details about students and families, which the U.S. Department of Education (only for FAFSA applicants) and/or the State of Oregon use to determine financial need and eligibility for various financial aid opportunities.

The FAFSA is the required application for all federal financial aid opportunities, including the Federal Pell Grant, Federal Direct Loans, and Federal Work-Study. A completed FAFSA or ORSAA is required for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, the Oregon Promise Grant, and many OSAC scholarships. Many colleges and universities also use the FAFSA (or the ORSAA, in Oregon) to determine eligibility for aid opportunities at the college. Visit the FAFSA/ORSAA page of the OSAC website to learn more.

FAFSA Support & Verification
Students can find support on the FAFSA website or the Federal Student Aid site.

Some students are selected for verification after submitting their FAFSA. Verification is the process that colleges use to confirm that the data reported on the FAFSA is accurate. A student cannot receive financial aid until verification is complete.

> **Learn more about FAFSA Verification**
>
> Informational Video | Federal Student Aid Website

Once a student submits their FAFSA and is flagged for verification, their college financial aid office may contact them to request additional documents. They may also see a reminder message in the OSAC Student Portal. Students need to provide the requested documents to their college financial aid office as soon as possible. If the student does not complete the verification process by the time they start college, then their Oregon Promise award may be revoked permanently.

Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA)
The Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) is an Oregon-developed alternative application to the FAFSA for *undocumented Oregon students, including students who have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).* It is a confidential application that is used solely by the HECC and Oregon colleges to qualify students for financial aid in Oregon. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes.

> **ORSAA Support**
>
> *Contact OSAC:*
> ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov
> (800) 452-8807
> Mon – Fri: 8:00am to 4:30 pm
>
> *Find more ORSAA resources online.*

Students should not complete the ORSAA if they are a U.S. citizen, a legal noncitizen with an Alien Registration number, or an international student with a valid visa.

Students, parents, and staff working with students should contact the OSAC office for questions on the application and technical support.

Students are <u>not</u> eligible to file the ORSAA or receive state grants if they are an international student in Oregon *with one of the following visas: A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, V, TROV, or NATO.*

Legislative Changes

SB 1032 (2017)
This bill gives HECC/OSAC the authority to consider EFC limits when establishing eligibility as needed to control program costs. Also, OSAC has the ability to grant waivers for students who cannot enroll in college within 6 months of high school or GED® graduation due to a significant hardship.

HB 2910 (2019)
Students who obtain their high school diploma or GED® test credential while incarcerated or in custody in an Oregon correctional facility have additional time to apply for the Oregon Promise Grant. These applicants may be eligible to begin attending a community college and use Oregon Promise within 6 months of their release date (rather than their graduation date). This change only impacts students who obtain their high school diploma or GED® test credential on or after January 1, 2020 while in an Oregon correctional facility.

Learn more about eligibility criteria, deadlines and FAQs for HB 2910 applicants:

- [Oregon Promise Handout for HB 2910](#)
- [Oregon Promise Fact Sheet for HB 2910](#)

SB 1605 (2020)
Foster youth who obtain their high school diploma or GED test credential while in an out-of-state placement will have their residency requirement waived. These students will have 12 months, instead of 6, to enroll at least halftime at an Oregon community college. Students must apply for Oregon Promise by the appropriate deadline. For this particular set of students, they must contact Oregon Promise staff for deadline and application information: OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov

This bill is effective as of July 1, 2020. This change only impacts Oregon students who obtain their high school diploma or GED test credential on or after July 1, 2020 while placed in <u>out-of-state</u> foster care.

Permanent Administrative Orders – Response to COVID-19 (2020)
During Spring Term 2019-20 (March 2020 – June 2020), some flexibilities were passed to accommodate the grading changes for high school students, and the remote learning/course availability challenges for college students under Governor Brown's Executive Order No. 20-09

High School Students

- OSAC is allowing students who would have otherwise raised their cumulative, unweighted GPA to the requirement or higher to be considered for Oregon Promise as a result of school district actions relative to local or state emergency orders on issuing all P/N grades. The GPA requirement is still in effect. However, there will be flexibility provided for students who would

HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING COMMISSION
Office of Student Access and Completion
Helping Oregon Students Plan and Pay for College

(541) 687-7400
OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov

have mathematically had the opportunity to raise their GPA if letter grades were assigned during March 2020 – June 2020
- o High school registrars can either submit GPA Verification as MET for a student who meets the criteria above OR students can submit a transcript with a cover letter included stating that they mathematically could have raised their GPA
- o This GPA flexibility remains active until there are no longer students who have Spring Term 2020 on their transcript

College Students:

- All students participating in Oregon Promise for Spring Term 2020 will be issued an automatic enrollment waiver to provide flexibility to those who could not attend college
- Students who still were within the three-term window to complete the First-Year Experience (FYE) requirement as of Spring Term 2020 are granted an additional term to complete it

SB 1522 (2022)
Starting with the Class of 2022 (March 1, 2022 – June 30, 2022 graduates), the GPA limit for Oregon Promise is lowered to a cumulative, unweighted high school GPA of 2.0.

The award calculation and renewal requirements also adjusted, beginning in the 2022-23 academic year for all students:

- The $50 per term co-pay has been removed
- The minimum award increased to $2,000 for full-time, full-year students, and it will increase at the same rate as the maximum award each year
- The First-Year Experience no longer is a requirement to renew the grant

EFC Limits
Since the Class of 2017, OSAC and HECC have the authority to set an EFC limit for the Oregon Promise grant based on total applicants and available funds to ensure the grant is not overspent. Students may be subject to eligibility requirements based on their EFC from their FAFSA/ORSAA. EFC eligibility requirements for Oregon Promise are subject to change. Students are always encouraged to apply for Oregon Promise regardless of their financial situation, since the EFC limit can always change – but the deadline does not change. The application will not prevent a student from applying if they have a high EFC. Some years, there is a *tentative EFC limit* set. This means that students above the EFC limit **may or may not** be awarded the grant. A final decision is typically made once the application closes for all students in July.

EFC is not equal to a family's AGI, nor does it equal what the student/family will owe to the college. The EFC number is from the federal calculation within the FAFSA/ORSAA to determine how much the family could contribute to the student's education. **The higher the number, the less need the student has for financial aid assistance.** For example, an EFC limit of 18,000 roughly translates to a parent AGI of $111,000.

If there is an EFC limit, it is only applicable for the new students of that academic year. Renewal Oregon Promise students are not subjected to the EFC limit of the new class.

EFC limit history for Oregon Promise based on college academic years:

- 2016-17 (Class of 2016): No EFC limit

- 2017-18 (Class of 2017): Final EFC limit of 18,000 imposed in August 2017. After Fall Term, the EFC limit was changed to 20,000 and OSAC retroactively awarded those valid applicants who attended Fall Term at least HT between 18-20K EFC

- 2018-19 (Class of 2018): No EFC limit. And, OSAC awarded all new students from the Class of 2017 with an EFC above 20,000 who had a valid OPG application from the prior year, attended community college all year in 2017-18 without OPG funds, and were only rejected an OPG award due to the EFC limit. These students were not retroactively awarded for 2017-18, but were allowed to start using OPG during Fall 2018 (and counting all their attempted credits prior toward the 90 credit limit).

- 2019-20 (Class of 2019): No EFC limit.

- 2020-21 (Class of 2020): Tentative EFC limit of 34,000 set in April 2020. In July 2020, the EFC limit was adjusted and finalized to 22,000 due to a $3.6 million budget cut from the Oregon Legislature, which revoked awards from about 1,000 students. State-wide budget cuts were made in response to close the $1.2 billion Oregon state budget shortfall caused by recent public health and economic events. OSAC was required to revoke awards issued to students who had and EFC between 34K and 22K, in order to meet the reduced budget of the grant.

- 2021-22 (Class of 2021): Tentative EFC limit of 42,000 set in May. In July 2021, the EFC limit was removed and all eligible students of the Class of 2021 were awarded.