



Oregon Teacher Scholars Program FAQs

What is the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program (OTSP)?

The Oregon Legislature and the Educator Advancement Council created the [Oregon Teacher Scholars Program](#) (OTSP) in 2017 and dedicated funding through [Senate Bill 182](#) to reduce financial barriers for racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse scholars while pursuing a teaching license at an in-state educator preparation program ([ORS 348.295](#)). In 2020, the [Student Success Act](#) increased the scholarship to \$10,000 awards for each academic year, up to two years.

What does the OTSP program provide to scholars?

Scholarships may be used for costs associated with pursuing a teaching degree and licensure, including tuition and “hidden costs” such as fees, materials, supplies, and living costs like housing, transportation, or childcare. In addition to financial support, scholars receive professional networking and mentoring opportunities, teaching resources, access to state education conferences, and may receive employment assistance. OTSP has a dedicated program coordinator who works to eliminate barriers impacting teacher candidates of color entering educator preparation programs and/or the field of education. Scholars are required to attend at least one education conference, with OTSP covering any registration fees.

Who is the program for?

OTSP was established to support [Oregon’s goal](#) of having an educator workforce that reflects the racial, ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of students in its P-12 schools. It is well known that the cost of higher education and pursuing a teaching license is a common barrier for many aspiring educators, particularly educators of color. Scholars are undergraduate or graduate students who identify as racially or ethnically diverse and/or Heritage speakers of a language other than English. Scholars are enrolled in teacher education programs at Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices-approved educator preparation providers. Scholars are also required to be residents of Oregon and enrolled at least half-time and in good standing at their institution ([OAR 575-066-0006](#)).

Scholars who are undergraduate students must be in the final two years of a teaching program and graduate students must be enrolling or currently enrolled in a teaching licensure program (“teacher candidates”). For a complete list of Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices (TSPC) approved programs, [see here](#).

Who should apply to this scholarship?

Applicants must be a resident of Oregon, enrolled in or planning to enroll in a program at a [TSPC approved educator preparation provider](#), and identify as racially or ethnically diverse and/or a Heritage speaker of a language other than English ([OAR 575-066-0006](#)). Some of the frequently asked questions relating to who should apply are answered below:

- **Applicants should apply even if not yet enrolled or accepted into a program**, as verification of acceptance and enrollment will happen after the application deadline.
- **DACA recipients and undocumented students are encouraged to apply** using the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA).
- **Applicants do not need to demonstrate a particular level of financial need** in order to apply for or qualify for the scholarship. All scholars receive the full scholarship amount, as it is intended to support costs beyond tuition and fees that can be barriers to licensure and employment.

How do you apply to OTSP?

Application instructions are available [here](#). The program accepts applications via the [Office of Student Access and Completion](#) (OSAC) website from November to March 1st for the following academic year. Applicants must complete either the [FAFSA \(Free Application for Federal Student Aid\)](#) or [ORSAA \(Oregon Student Aid Application\)](#) as part of their application to the scholarship on or before the March 1st deadline.

What is the timeline to apply and receive funds?

FAFSA/ORSAA applications open October 1st of each year and are due by March 1st in order to be eligible to the OTSP. OTSP applications are open November 1st through March 1st each year for students to be awarded the following academic year. No late or incomplete applications are accepted after the deadline.

Enrollment verifications are done May-June, students are notified in July-August about their award status. Funds are sent directly to the students institutions August-September before the beginning of the students term/semester.

OTSP Website: <https://eac.ode.state.or.us/page/otsp>

Contact Program Coordinator Horalia (Lala) Rangel
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