



FACT SHEET: THE OREGON PROMISE UPDATED 8.6.15

[Senate Bill 81 \(2015\)](#)—the “Oregon Promise”—was passed by the Legislature and signed by Governor Kate Brown in July, 2015; it provides a \$10M appropriation targeted toward tuition payments for students who graduated (or the equivalent) from an Oregon high school no more than six months prior to attending and pursuing a certificate or degree at one of Oregon’s 17 community colleges. The bill funds grants at a minimum of \$1,000 for each full time community college student awarded, and it is to be administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) under the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). Grants will first be available for the 2016-17 academic year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in community college
- Received an Oregon high school diploma or GED certificate, or completed grade 12
- Earned a cumulative high school GPA of 2.5+ or equivalent
- Within six months of high school (or equivalent homeschool or GED) completion, enrolls in courses at an Oregon community college required for...
 - One-year curriculum for students transferring to another postsecondary institution
 - Associate degree
 - Program in career and technical education
- Has completed a FAFSA and accepted all state and federal grant aid offered
- Has not completed more than 90 credit hours or the curriculums/programs noted above
- Continues to be eligible after the first year if person...
 - Maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better
 - Makes satisfactory academic progress
 - Completes a FAFSA each academic year
 - Enrolls at least half time each term for at least three terms each consecutive academic year
- Persons who fail to maintain a 2.5 GPA become ineligible for the term after which they fail to meet the GPA requirement unless the requirement is waived by OSAC

GRANT AMOUNTS

- For a full-time student (12 or more credits/term) enrolled for the full year (three terms) in eligible courses:
 - Maximum grant amount will be the full-time full-year community college tuition (using tuition at a single community college or the average across all 17 colleges, whichever is less).
 - Grant recipients will be required to pay \$50 per term as a copayment.
 - Grant will be reduced by any state or federal grant aid received (i.e. Pell Grant, Oregon Opportunity Grant) down to a minimum \$1,000 annual grant for full-time, full-year enrollment.
 - For eligible students whose tuition is fully covered by state or federal grant aid, the \$1,000 grant can be used for college costs such as transportation, books, and living expenses.
 - Students receive a portion of the grant for each term they are enrolled.
- Grants will be prorated for persons enrolled at least half time but not full time.
- Up to one third of the grant will be distributed each term, based on the student’s enrollment status and credit hours attempted in the term.
- The HECC has yet to determine whether the grant will include standard fees in addition to tuition, and would do so by a rule process.

OTHER FACTORS

- Approximately 4,000-6,000 students are expected to be served in the first year of the program.
- Funding under the program is meant to offset any remaining tuition after deducting any state/federal grants and the \$50 per term student copay. Participating full-time, full-year students are guaranteed at least \$1000 annually, even if their tuition costs are fully covered by state/federal grants.
- The program will be administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) in cooperation with their Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.

- The HECC is permitted to establish other eligibility requirements by rule, including programs or policies that improve academic success, and may give preference to graduates of certain school districts or high schools.
- The Oregon Legislative Assembly appropriated \$10 million for the program for the 2016-17 academic year, to cover cost of Oregon Promise grants and reasonable administrative costs.
- The Oregon Promise Program process is under development at OSAC. Information about the program will be available online at www.oregonstudentaid and www.oregon.gov/HigherEd, circulated through schools, and announced on OSAC's social media accounts.
- High schools and community colleges will be notified of any rules or requirements established by the Commission.

FIND OUT MORE

If you wish to receive future updates on the program, please email info@OregonPromise.com. If you are interested in receiving public meeting notices about public rules hearings, please [sign up here](#).