



## FREQUENTLY ASKED

# QUESTIONS

### About the Oregon Promise

#### **What is the Oregon Promise?**

The Oregon Promise provides grants to new high school graduates and GED® recipients who will begin community college classes in Fall 2016. This grant program is administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) in Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

### Eligibility

#### **Who is eligible for this program?**

Individuals who:

- Graduate from an Oregon high school or complete a GED® in Spring/Summer 2016
- Have a 2.5 cumulative GPA or higher
- Have been an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in community college
- Enroll in an Oregon community college within 6 months of graduating high school/completing GED® (Fall 2016)
- Be enrolled in an eligible program at least half time (6 or more credit-hours) each term

To remain eligible term-to-term once enrolled in community college, students must maintain a 2.5 GPA or higher as they work toward degree or certificate completion.

#### **Is the Oregon Promise program available to non-U.S. citizens?**

Yes. To be eligible, individuals must complete their high school or GED® program in Oregon and have resided in the state of Oregon for at least 12 months prior to enrollment at a community college.

#### **Is the Oregon Promise available to students who are enrolled less than full time?**

In some cases, yes. Students who attend Oregon community colleges at least half time (6 to 11 credits per term) and meet the other eligibility requirements will be able to benefit from the Oregon Promise. Students who are enrolled less than half time (5 or fewer credits per term) are not eligible.

#### **I'm currently pursuing a certificate or degree in community college, is this program for me?**

No. The program is only available for students who first complete high school or the equivalent in Spring/Summer 2016 and enroll in community college within 6 months of graduating. It is not available for current students pursuing a certificate or degree.

## Application

### **When do I need to apply?**

Application materials must be submitted between November 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016. These include:

- Oregon Promise application
- High school transcript or GED® scores
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or the state's approved alternate application

### **Is there a rolling application deadline?**

No. Application materials must be submitted between November 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016.

### **Is there an alternate form to complete for students who are not eligible for federal financial aid?**

U.S. citizens and eligible non-U.S. citizens must complete the FAFSA to be considered for the Oregon Promise grant. Individuals who are not eligible for federal student aid must complete the state's approved alternate application.

## Using Your Oregon Promise Grant

### **How can Oregon Promise funds be used?**

The Oregon Promise provides tuition grants for students working toward completion of a community college certificate or degree. In instances where their tuition is covered by other state and federal grants, students may receive a \$1,000 Oregon Promise grant for use toward room and board, transportation, or books.

### **Will the Oregon Promise grant cover all of my tuition at my community college?**

The Oregon Promise program provides funding up to the state community colleges' average tuition for full-time enrollment. Students are responsible for paying the difference between the average tuition cost and the cost at the school where they are enrolled.

The average cost for Fall 2016 tuition has not been set. Please check back for further information.

### **What expenses will I be responsible for?**

The Oregon Promise provides tuition grants. In instances where a student's tuition is covered by other state and federal grants, students may receive an Oregon Promise award of \$1,000 for use toward room and board, transportation, or books.

### **If I qualify for other grants or scholarships, how will the Oregon Promise funds be applied?**

All state and federal grants, such as Federal Pell Grant and Oregon Opportunity Grants, will be applied first toward your tuition. Once all state and federal grants are applied, the Oregon Promise funds will be used to offset remaining tuition costs.

If all tuition costs are covered by other state or federal grants, you may receive a minimum \$1,000 Oregon Promise grant for use toward room and board, transportation, or books.

Please note that under some circumstances, financial aid may be taxable. Details available on the IRS webpage ([www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov))

## Award Notification and Receipt of Funds

### **How will I be notified of my award?**

OSAC will notify students by email in Spring 2016. To ensure receipt of email notifications, students should provide an active email address on the FAFSA and the Oregon Promise application. The award will also be included in the financial aid package students receive from the school they plan to attend in Fall 2016.

### **How will my award be disbursed to me?**

OSAC will release a portion of the student's Oregon Promise funds to the student's school at the start of each academic term, and the student's school will apply funds to the student's campus account.