

Docket Item:

Senate Bill 81 “Oregon Promise” Update.

New Materials: Introducing the Oregon Promise

Below is a toolkit of informational materials on the Oregon Promise, introducing the program to students and schools. Please feel free to download and share these materials with others:

- [Oregon Promise Flyer - for use at High Schools and with GED® partners \(PDF\)](#)¹
- [Oregon Promise Flyer - for use at Community Colleges \(PDF\)](#)²
- [Oregon Promise Video - Introduction for Students](#)³
- [Oregon Promise Infographic](#)⁴
- [Oregon Promise Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)⁵

The [Oregon Promise Fact Sheet](#)⁶ also provides detailed information on eligibility and grant amounts. Finally, if you wish to include a notice about the Oregon Promise in an e-newsletter or on your website, feel free to contact us at info@OregonPromise.com and we will provide the content for a short (approximately 150-word) article for distribution

Materials also available at www.oregonpromise.org.

Staff Recommendation:

Information only; no action is needed at this time.

¹ http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/OregonPromise_HSFlyer.pdf

² http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/OregonPromise_CCFlyer.pdf

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KFvq34Zgw-Q&feature=youtu.be>

⁴ http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/OregonPromise_InfoGraphic_FINAL.pdf

⁵ http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/OregonPromise_FAQ.pdf

⁶ <http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov/osac-doc/OregonPromiseFactSheet.pdf>

NEED

MORE MONEY

FOR COLLEGE?

New Oregon Promise Helps Pay for Community College

The state is launching its Oregon Promise program—offering new high school graduates and GED recipients an opportunity to have some or all of their community college tuition covered. Grants are for students entering a community college in Oregon in Fall 2016.

You may qualify if you:

- Graduate from an Oregon high school or complete the 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

Steps to take:

- Apply** for the Oregon Promise between November 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016, including:
 - Complete the Oregon Promise application (online or written)
 - Submit your high school transcript or GED scores
 - Complete the FAFSA or its approved alternative
- Once approved, **Enroll** in an Oregon community college within six months of graduating high school or completing the GED (Fall 2016)—and accept all state and federal grants



For more information, visit

www.OregonPromise.org



IS THE

OREGON PROMISE

FOR YOU?

New State Grant Helps Cover Community College Cost

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- ✓ Once approved, **Enroll** in an Oregon community college within six months of graduating high school or completing the GED (Fall 2016)—and accept all state and federal grants

Oregon Promise grants are only available to future students entering community college in Fall 2016. Students who do not qualify for this grant are encouraged to talk to their school's financial aid office to explore the many other ways to afford their college goals.



For more information, visit
www.OregonPromise.org



To learn about other grants or scholarships, visit:
www.OregonStudentAid.gov

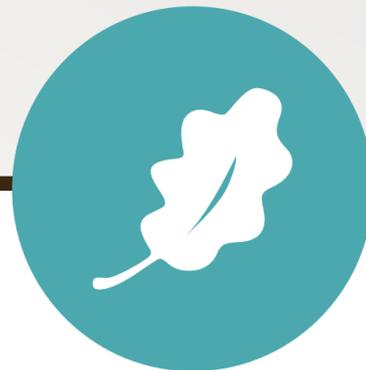
Can you qualify for Oregon's new community college grant program?



Will you **graduate** from an Oregon high school or get your GED in the spring or summer of 2016?



Will your **cumulative GPA** be 2.5 or higher?



Will you go to an Oregon community college in **fall of 2016?**



Will you be an **Oregon resident** for at least 12 months before enrolling for the 2016 fall term?



YES

 Oregon
Promise

New Oregon program could help you with tuition or costs. Apply between **Nov. 1, 2015 and March 1, 2016.**
www.OregonPromise.org

Students that don't qualify are encouraged to visit www.OregonStudentAid.gov to explore other financial aid options.

Administered by the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion.





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)

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.



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](#).