

GUIDE ON FINANCIAL RESOURCES FOR INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO BECOME TEACHERS IN OREGON



Ever get lost trying to locate financial resources that can help you with the costs of college and teacher licensure? We know It can be very confusing so we have summarized key sources including links, eligibility requirements and timelines.

This list changes frequently as changes occur in eligibility or amounts. You are strongly encouraged to check the links provided for updates regularly to ensure you have the most recent and accurate information.

Resources specific to those seeking to become licensed teachers are highlighted in **yellow**.

This resource is provided by the Willamette Education Service District Oregon Teacher Pathway Navigator Network. It is updated regularly on the [Shape Oregon's Future: Become a Teacher](#) website. Funding for this was provided by Grow Your Own grant funds provide by the [Oregon Education Advancement Council](#).

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Known as the FAFSA, this is your first step because it opens the door to both federal and state student financial aid. The FAFSA, or Federal Application for Student Aid, is a free form you can submit to the federal government in order to get financial aid to attend college. College's look at the information in your FAFSA to determine how much aid, such as grants, scholarships, or loans, to give you. You will first be asked general information including your date of birth, social security number, email address, citizenship & immigration status, marital status, legal residence, your parents' level of education, and your grade level. Step 2 asks you several questions regarding your income before taxes, your most recent tax return, etc. Step 3 and 4 include questions to determine if you will need to provide parental information including social security number, gross income before taxes, income tax status, number of people in your household. You can preview all of the questions you will be asked on the FAFSA at this [website](#) which helps you know what information you will need to fill out the form. Note that you will be asked to update your FAFSA each year in order to stay eligible.

NOTE: Undocumented students, including DACA students, are NOT eligible for federal financial aid (including the Federal Pell Grant), BUT may be eligible for other types of financial aid in Oregon if they complete the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) which is a confidential application that is used solely to qualify students for financial aid in Oregon.

Financial Aid for Undocumented and DACA Students

Oregon residents who have undocumented status, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status, and/or Temporary Protected Status (TPS) should submit the [Oregon Student Aid Application \(ORSAA\)](#) instead of the FAFSA. Do not complete the ORSAA if you are (1) a U.S. citizen, (2) a legal noncitizen with an Alien Registration number, or (3) an international student who is in the United States with a valid visa.

The state uses information from the ORSAA to calculate students' financial need and award eligibility for grants and scholarships. If you need help with the ORSAA, please call (800) 452- 8807 or email ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov.

The 2023 - 2024 ORSAA opened October 1, 2022.

- Students who plan to attend college in fall 2023 - spring 2024 need to complete the 2023-24 ORSAA as soon as possible after October 1, 2022.

- The 2022-23 ORSAA (*for students attending college fall 2022 - spring 2023*) is open as of October 1, 2022.

ORSAA Students: Add ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov to your email contacts so that important messages do not go to Spam/Junk.

Undocumented students in Oregon may be eligible for a number of state financial aid programs, as long as they meet all other program requirements.

Federal Pell Grant

The federal government provides grants for students attending college or career school. Most types of grants, unlike loans, are sources of financial aid that generally do not have to be repaid. Federal Pell Grants usually are awarded only to undergraduate students who display exceptional financial need and have not earned a bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. Filling out your FAFSA is the first step to determining if you are eligible for a Pell Grant. The amount you get, though, will depend on:

- your [Expected Family Contribution](#),
- the cost of attendance (determined by your school for your specific program),
- your status as a full-time or part-time student, and
- your plans to attend school for a full academic year or less.

TEACH Grant

A Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant is different from other federal student grants because it requires you agree to complete a teaching service obligation as a condition for receiving the grant, and if you don't complete the service obligation, the TEACH Grant will be converted to a loan that you must repay, with interest. The TEACH Grant Program provides grants of up to \$4,000 a year to students who are completing or plan to complete course work needed to begin a career in teaching.

To receive a TEACH Grant, you must sign a *TEACH Grant Agreement to Serve or Repay* in which you agree to —

- Serve as a full-time highly-qualified teacher for four elementary or secondary school years at a school or educational service agency that serves low-income students;
- Teach in a high-need field; and
- Complete the required four years of teaching within eight years after you graduate from or otherwise cease to be enrolled at the institution of higher education where you

received your TEACH Grants.

Oregon Opportunity Grant

The Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Oregon's largest state-funded, need-based grant program for college students. This grant provides funding to more than 40,000 Oregon resident students each year.

OOG is awarded to low-income Oregon residents who are pursuing their first associates or bachelor's degree at an [eligible institution](#). Award amounts are based on a student's financial need, the type of institution the student attends, and FAFSA/ORSAA submission date. There is not a separate application for the OOG. To be considered for the grant, students must submit their FAFSA or ORSAA by the deadline date each academic year.

Tuition Equity criteria:

- You must have attended an elementary or secondary/high school in Oregon during all three years immediately prior to earning a high school diploma or leaving school before earning a diploma
- You must have attended an elementary or secondary/high school in the United States for at least five years immediately prior to earning a high school diploma or leaving school before earning a diploma
- You must have received a high school diploma or GED in Oregon
- You must certify intention to become a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident

Undocumented students can apply by submitting the [Oregon Student Aid Application \(ORSAA\)](#) **as soon as possible after October 1**. [See additional eligibility requirements below.](#)

OOG Awards for 2022-23

Eligible students who submitted their FAFSA/ORSAA by **April 15, 2022**, and had an **EFC of \$8,000** or less have been awarded the Oregon Opportunity Grant.

For 2022-23, the OOG award amount is based on the student's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC), the school they attend, and how many credits they enroll each term. The chart below is the maximum award amount for each Estimated Financial Contribution level and is based on full time and full-year enrollment (i.e. 12 credits or more each term, for all three quarters or two semesters):

| Expected Family Contribution (EFC) | Community College Award Amount | 4-Year Institution Award Amount |
|--|--|---|
| 0 | \$3,600 | \$4,692 |
| 1-2,000 | \$3,300 | \$4,512 |
| 2,001-4,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,876 |
| 4,001-6,000 | \$2,778 | \$3,612 |
| 6,001-8,000 | \$1,500 | \$2,352 |

To Apply: Submit the [FAFSA or ORSAA](#) as soon as possible after October 1 each year.

Oregon Promise

Oregon Promise is a state grant that helps to cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for recent high school graduates and GED® test graduates. Oregon Promise helps pay for community college **tuition** after other state and federal grant aid has been applied. However, there are other college costs of attendance that Oregon Promise does not cover, such as books, fees, and housing. **Students must apply during their senior year or immediately after GED® test completion.** [Find your deadline here.](#)

Awards range from \$2,000 to \$4,128 per year (in 2022-23) for full-time students. Your Oregon Promise award amount depends on [several factors](#).

- **Federal Pell Grant and Oregon Opportunity Grant Award Amounts** - Oregon Promise is a last-dollar grant that covers your remaining tuition amount (up to the average cost of 12 credits per term) after any Federal Pell Grant and Oregon Opportunity Grant funds have been applied.
- **Number of Credits Taken** - You must enroll in at least 6 credits per term to receive Oregon Promise. Oregon Promise covers up to 12 credits per term. Students are financially responsible for paying for any additional credits above 12. Oregon Promise [award amounts are based on standard enrollment ranges](#).
- **Tuition at Your Community College** - Oregon Promise will cover up to the average tuition charged by an Oregon community college (\$4,128 in 2022-23). Some community colleges have a higher or lower tuition cost than this average. If the tuition cost is above the

average, the student is responsible for the difference. If the tuition cost is below this average, Oregon Promise pays up to that college's actual tuition cost.

ELIGIBILITY

- Be a recent Oregon high school graduate or GED® test graduate.
- Attend an Oregon community college *by your [required start term](#)*, based on your graduation date.
- Have a 2.0 cumulative high school GPA or higher, or a 145 grade on all GED® tests. • Be an Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to college attendance. For dependent students, your parent(s) must also live in Oregon.
- Have no more than [90 college credits](#) completed or attempted.
- Students may be subject to eligibility requirements based on their **Expected Family Contribution (EFC)**.

You can receive Oregon Promise until you have attempted a *total of 90 college credits*. There is no limit to the number of years or terms you can receive the grant; it is based on the [90 credit limit](#). College credits earned in high school and other types of credits count toward the 90 credit limit, even if they are not paid for by Oregon Promise.

There were four main legislative updates for Oregon Promise. For more information, visit the Oregon Promise FAQs or [watch this short video](#).

1. Starting with the Class of 2022 (March 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022 graduates), the **GPA requirement has been lowered to a cumulative, unweighted 2.0**
2. **\$50 Co-Pay** - Starting Fall Term 2022, the co-pay will no longer be part of the award calculation.
3. **First year experiences for 1st year college students** are no longer required.
4. **The minimum award was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for full-time, full year students and it will increase at the same rate as the maximum award each year.**

How can students check their Oregon Promise status? What if they are not receiving emails from OSAC?

- Log in to the [OSAC Student Portal](#) to view your Oregon Promise status. In the Portal, click "Messages" to view all emails that OSAC has sent you.
- Check the Spam/Junk folder in your email account on a regular basis to catch any missed messages. You should also add OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov to your email account's Safe Senders list.

When will current college students be notified about their Oregon Promise Grant renewal?

- Students who are currently receiving Oregon Promise while in college will be notified in

June if they are eligible for a renewal award – this is because the staff must wait for Spring Term data to ensure your continuous enrollment.

If you have additional questions, please contact OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov.

Oregon's Office of Student Access and Completion

Once you have completed your FAFSA, you can apply for Oregon based scholarships using one common application hosted by the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC). The Office lists over 600 scholarships on their [OSAC Student Portal](#). Application deadline is **March 1** each year with an early bird date of **February 15th**. Remember, unlike student loans, scholarships do not have to be repaid so this is a great source to check out.

Undocumented students can also apply by completing the [ORSAA](#) and submitting an OSAC Scholarship application in the [OSAC Student Portal](#) that is used for more than 600 different scholarships.

Certain scholarships, including those offered by Oregon Community Foundation and [The Ford Family Foundation](#), are available to undocumented students. [See additional eligibility requirements below.](#)

Sample Scholarships offered through OCF/OSAC

G.S. Barnes Scholarship

For a graduating high school senior who is Black or African heritage from Roosevelt, Parkrose or David Douglas High School, who is planning to attend a four-year public university in Oregon. Download the .

[application](#)

Darlene Hooley Scholarship for Oregon Veterans

For Oregon National Guard and Oregon Reservists who have served or been deployed overseas in the post-9/11 conflict.

Download the [application](#) - accepted on a continuous basis.

Oregon College Savings Plan's Diversity in Leadership Scholarship

To support underrepresented and diverse students in pursuing higher education in Oregon. Download the .

[application](#)

Institute for Cultural Initiatives Scholarship

For bilingual (Spanish/English) Latino students who are graduates of an Oregon high school, received a GED in Oregon, or complete home school in Oregon, and plan to enroll or are enrolled at a community college in Oregon. Download the

[application](#)

Ford Family Foundation Scholarships

The [Ford Scholars](#) Program is for graduating high school seniors (or equivalent) who have never enrolled full time in a 2- or 4- year college and seeking a bachelor's degree. This program is offered in both Oregon and Siskiyou County, Calif. [Learn more »](#)

The [Ford Transfer Scholars](#) Program was created for current community college students with sophomore status or recent graduates (within the last academic year) of an accredited community college in their home state or Oregon or Calif. This program is offered in both Oregon and Siskiyou County, Calif. [Learn more »](#)

The [Ford Opportunity](#) Program is designed for parents of any age and adult learners over the age of 25, who are seeking an associate or a bachelor's degree. This program is offered in both Oregon and Siskiyou County, Calif. [Learn more »](#)

College and University Based Scholarships

This is only a sampling of specific projects with financial resources for BIPOC teacher candidates.

1. **Eastern Oregon University Oregon Teacher Pathway** <https://www.eou.edu/otp/about/>

Offers HS students two dual credit courses while still in HS, professional development with leading national experts, and a tuition discount once enrolled at EOU.

2. University of Oregon Sapsik'wala Teacher Preparation program

<https://education.uoregon.edu/sapsikwala> for Native American and Indigenous teachers. Program participants do service payback by teaching for 2 years in schools with high Native American student populations. Applicants are encouraged to apply from anywhere in the United States. Participants in the program receive: tuition, books, computer, living stipend, dependent allowance.

3. Chemeketa Community College Grow Your Own Teacher Pathway

<https://www.chemeketa.edu/about/news/articles/chemeketa-provides-pathway-into-teaching.php> providing funding for about 300 students to earn 1800 credits at no cost starting at the high school level and also available for school district employees.

4. Western Oregon University Bilingual and Diverse Teacher Scholars Program

<https://wou.edu/teachered/scholars/> offers scholarships up to \$3,000 a year towards tuition and living expenses for either a Bachelor's or Master's level teacher licensure program.

5. Pacific University Noyce Scholarship

<https://www.pacificu.edu/academics/colleges/college-education/school-learning-teaching/education-teaching-programs/residency-teacher-licensure-program/pacific-noyce-scholarship> for science and math teaching candidates. Recipients are awarded full-tuition scholarships for becoming a STEM teacher in Pacific's Residency Teacher Licensure (RTL) or MAT programs, earning an Oregon teaching license with endorsements in physics, chemistry, biology, integrated science, and/or mathematics (advanced or basic).

Oregon Teacher Scholars Program

The Educator Advancement Council established the [Oregon Teacher Scholars Program](#) to specifically address financial barriers posing challenges for racially, ethnically and linguistically diverse candidates pursuing a teaching license. The Oregon Teacher Scholar Program offers a scholarship of \$10,000 per school year for ethnically diverse or Heritage Speakers of a language other than English. The program serves *undergraduate* students who are in the final two years of a teaching program or Education major, and *graduate* students enrolled in an Oregon [TSPC approved](#) educator preparation program. Recipients of a scholarship from the Oregon Teacher Scholars Program may be eligible for a second year of funding (\$10,000) depending on funding availability.

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 expenses, such as housing, transportation, or childcare. In addition to the scholarship, the program coordinator provides recipients with networking, paid admissions to professional development conferences, teaching resources, employment assistance, and other resources. **Applications to the program are due March 1st each year.**

For more information on this scholarship, including deadlines and eligibility, please see the 2022-23 [FAQs](#).

School District or ESD Resources

Many school districts and Education Service Districts now offer special financial support for high school students or classified employees interested in becoming teachers. This can include covering the tuition cost for select courses, money for textbooks, and paid internships. Be sure and ask your local school district Human Resource office about any pathway funding they can offer.

Teacher Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC)

To help with the costs of teacher licensure, TSPC offers [The Diversity License Expense Reimbursement Program](#) to assist educators who meet the definition of “diverse” with expenses related to the cost of becoming licensed. Eligible expenses must have been paid by the applicant, and directly related to the process for becoming a licensed educator.

“Diverse” in this case means culturally or linguistically diverse characteristics of a person, including:

- (a) Origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa but is not Hispanic;
- (b) Hispanic culture or origin, regardless of race;
- (c) Origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands;
- (d) Origins in any of the original peoples of North America, including American Indians or Alaskan Natives; or
- (e) A first language that is not English.

Reimbursable costs include:

- ⇒ TSPC license application fees
- ⇒ Fingerprint costs to TSPC or FieldPrint
- ⇒ Assessment costs (includes required tests or approved performance assessments)
- ⇒ Mileage costs from your residence to a testing center and back
- ⇒ Transcripts or foreign transcript evaluation
- ⇒ Tuition costs for tutoring or remedial courses otherwise ineligible for financial aid but necessary to achieve your license

You can learn more about the process for applying for reimbursement at TSPC’s [website](#).