

Frequently Asked Questions

What Are the Costs for Full-Time College in 2005 - 2006?

Oregon Community Colleges (averaged)	State Universities in Oregon (averaged)	Oregon Independent Colleges (averaged)
Tuition and Fees \$2,726	Tuition and Fees \$5,224	Tuition and Fees \$20,591
Room and Board \$5,611	Room and Board \$7,257	Room and Board \$7,010
Books \$1,121	Books \$1,215	Books \$943
Expenses/ Travel \$2,475	Expenses/ Travel \$2,942	Expenses/ Travel \$2,142
Average Total \$11,933	Average Total \$16,638	Average Total \$30,686

Costs for private trade schools (beauty schools, business colleges, etc.) vary according to program length and type.

How can anyone afford college?

Half of all students in Oregon receive help from need-based student financial aid.

- Students from low-income families often receive need-based aid that pays most college costs.
- Students from middle-income families can receive need-based aid that pays some college costs, while the family and student pay the rest (including borrowing from non-need-based loan programs).
- Students from upper-income families use family resources and borrow from non-need-based loan programs.

What is financial aid?

Financial aid for college comes from a variety of government and private programs:

Grants - do not have to be repaid

Loans - must be repaid

Wages - for work performed

Scholarships - (competitive) not repaid

Students should apply for all forms of aid. In addition, IRS Publication 970: *Tax Benefits for Higher Education* explains the HOPE and Lifetime Learning tax credits, tax-advantaged college savings programs, and other tax benefits for students.

How is eligibility determined?

Eligibility for most federal and state programs is based on "need." Families are primarily responsible for educational costs, but need-based aid is available when a "needs analysis" shows that a family cannot pay the full cost of education.

The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is calculated from the *FAFSA*, which must be completed by every student wanting financial aid for college. *FAFSAs* are available from high schools and colleges or may be filed electronically at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You must file a new *FAFSA* each year so that your need can be reevaluated.

"Need" is determined using family financial information to estimate what the family is expected to contribute toward college costs in a year. That is compared with college costs for

a year. When the EFC is less than college costs, the difference is "need." This need is the maximum a student may receive in need-based financial aid. After the EFC is subtracted from the college cost, the remaining need can be met through federal Pell Grants, Oregon Opportunity Grant, student loans, scholarships, workstudy, etc. Note: Need may differ depending on college costs.

Example: A student applies for financial aid at three colleges. The family contribution is calculated to be \$2,000 for that year.

Oregon Community College

Cost	\$11,933
Expected Family Contribution	\$2,000
Need	\$9,933

State University in Oregon

Cost	\$16,638
Expected Family Contribution	\$2,000
Need	\$14,638

Oregon Independent College

Cost	\$30,686
Expected Family Contribution	\$2,000
Need	\$28,686

You must complete and submit forms by deadlines. Check with your school to determine the deadline for filing for financial aid.

To get an estimate of your own EFC, visit "The Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid" page: www.finaid.org.

