



Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)

Established in 1971, The Oregon Opportunity Grant is Oregon's largest state-funded need-based program for students planning to go to college. Nearly 20,000 students received awards last year.

Availability: In August 2005, the Governor and the Oregon Legislature increased funding to make awards available to all eligible students attending community colleges and Oregon University System (OUS) schools as well as to most eligible students attending private, independent four-year institutions. For 2006-07, awards will be available to all eligible full-time students from both public and private colleges. Awards for part-time students will also be available in 2006-07. Students must apply and qualify annually. Qualified individuals with disabilities are eligible to receive funding until completion of their undergraduate programs.

How to Apply: Apply for the Opportunity Grant by completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*, which is also the application for most federal student aid programs. All high school and postsecondary students should complete a *FAFSA* each year to ensure their access both to federal programs and to grants and scholarships that OSAC administers.

Amount of Awards: Opportunity Grants vary in amount, based on the cost of attendance at the institution the student chooses to attend.

2005-06 OOG Award Amounts

Community Colleges \$1,323
 Oregon University System \$1,587
 Private 4-year Institutions
 (varies by school) \$2,052 –\$4,432

Eligibility: To be eligible, a student must:

- * Be a full-time undergraduate student at a participating Oregon institution
- * Be financially needy (based on household size and family income and assets)
- * Be an Oregon resident and U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- * Meet eligibility requirements for a Federal Pell Grant

Privately Funded Scholarships

OSAC administers or assists in administering more than 320 private scholarship programs. OSAC partners with The Oregon Community Foundation, The Ford Family Foundation, U.S. Bank, Wells Fargo Bank, Bank of America, and other private donors, employers, and organizations throughout the state to establish these scholarships, which range from small, one-time awards for graduates of a single high school to large, renewable scholarships for students statewide.

This year, OSAC will help provide more than \$11,000,000 to some 3,000 students.

How to Apply: Submit a complete "application packet" by March 1. The packet includes the OSAC Scholarship Application, an Activities Chart, two one-page essays, and transcripts of coursework through fall term. You must also indicate the scholarships you wish to apply for. Some programs require extra documents or information. Carefully read instructions and eligibility criteria for each program.

Where and When to Obtain OSAC Applications: Applicants can use a single web-based or paper application to apply for as many as 20 programs. Both versions are available in mid-December. Paper applications are mailed to Oregon high schools and colleges in early December. The web-based application is online at www.GetCollegeFunds along with instructions and a catalog of OSAC scholarships.

Deadlines: The general deadline for all application packets is March 1. However, if you submit your complete application packet by the "Early Bird" priority deadline February 15, you will be entered to win one of a number of \$500 Early Bird scholarships—just for following instructions and submitting early! This year, OSAC awarded 19 Early Bird scholarships. (Get a headstart by going to the OSAC website and downloading the Activities chart portion of the application.)



Chafee Education & Training Program

For the federal Chafee Education and Training Scholarship applicants must be (1) a youth 14 years of age or older who is currently in foster care with: Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS) or one of the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon; or (2) a youth who was previously in foster care with Oregon DHS or one of the nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon, after the age of 14 and remained in foster care for an accumulative 180 days or longer.

Awards are a maximum of \$5,000 and may be received until age 23. It is expected that more than 100 scholarships will be awarded for 2005 - 2006 in excess of \$500,000.

If you have questions about your foster care status, please call Rosemary Iavenditti, ILP Coordinator, at 503-945-5688.

Technical & Vocational Help

Many OSAC scholarships can be used at technical and vocational schools, including the Angelina and Pete Costanzo Vocational, Kaiser-Permanente Dental Assistant, and the Brian Moody Memorial Aviation scholarship programs.

Some Scholarships Do Not Require Financial Need

Are you of Native American heritage majoring in math or science? If you are from Clackamas, Multnomah, or Washington counties in Oregon or Clark County in Washington and are of Native American descent, the Howard Vollum American Indian Scholarship might be for you.

Are you a top student? You'll be considered for the federal government's **Robert C. Byrd** renewable award if you have a GPA of 3.85 or above and an SAT score of at least 1300 (or ACT of at least 29).

Consult the OSAC paper and online application form and scholarship catalog to look at more than 40 OSAC programs that do not require financial need.

REMEMBER: Eligibility varies depending on the award for which you are applying. We urge all students to complete their *FAFSA*, regardless of income, and to do so as soon after January 1 as possible.