

The OSAC Scholarship App scholarship application – Podcast Transcript

Opening:

Hi, I'm Cassie Soucy, a work-study student for the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, also called OSAC for short.

Today, I am going to talk to you about the OSAC Scholarship Application, also known as the eApp, and interview a student about (his/her) experience about the application process.

Body:

Before we get started with our interview, I am going to present some important tips about the scholarship application that is important for you to know about.

Tip #1: Start your OSAC application early.

- OSAC's scholarship application process starts in early fall each year.
- You can select from more than 400 scholarships by starting your scholarship search online. The scholarship catalog is available at www.GetCollegeFunds.org.
- Scholarships are available for graduates of specific high schools, by college major, academic interest, or career choice, by county of residence, and by affiliation with an employer or membership organization.
- You can compete for as many as twenty (20) OSAC scholarships using only one application, saving you a tremendous amount of time and energy.

Tip #2: Complete your eApp online

- The OSAC online application called the eApp is available online at www.GetCollegeFunds.org. If you cannot access the Internet at home or school, you can request a paper application from OSAC.
- You can start your eApp beginning in the fall, but don't submit it until all application sections are complete.
- There are five major parts to the application, many of which can be started in the fall:
 - your personal information
 - your school information
 - your Activities Chart
 - your four personal statements
 - and your school transcripts. Unofficial transcripts are accepted at OSAC.
- Also, there may be additional essays or documents required, so read the instructions carefully for each scholarship you are applying for.

1. If you are a high school senior, your transcript needs to have grades for all work completed from your freshman year through the end of your first semester, trimester, or first two quarters of your senior year. If your high school is on a semester system, your transcript may not be available until early February.
2. If you are a current college student, your transcript must include all college coursework with grades and credits through the most recent or current fall term.
3. If you have been out of high school or college for quite some time, you will need to submit your transcripts from the last school you attended.
4. Read the transcript instructions carefully; submitting the wrong transcript is the number one reason for rejected applications.

Tip #3: Watch for deadlines

- The final deadline for applying is March 1 so plan accordingly. Request your transcript from your school registrar in advance for either transmitting from your school to OSAC or obtaining an unofficial copy for you to scan and upload to your application. Make sure your Activities Chart, four required personal statements and scholarship essays are complete to your satisfaction.
- The **Early Bird Review deadline is February 16**, and you could be in the running for a \$500 scholarship if your application is error-free! More importantly your application will be reviewed and if incomplete you will be given a chance to fix your error.

Tip #4: After you submit your eApp

- You can verify the status of your application by logging into your e-Student Profile where you started your application. Just visit www.GetCollegeFunds.org and go to the Quick Links box and Log on to your OSAC e-Student Profile.
 - If the status message reads "Valid eApp Accepted," congratulations - your application is complete, but if it reads "eApp Problem," you must correct the problem and submit by the deadline mentioned in the message. Check back often until your application status is valid.
- Once you submit your application to OSAC, you must make sure that any changes in your personal information, such as your name, address, and email address, or your college choice or major is updated as soon as possible, as this may affect your eligibility to receive a scholarship. To make updates, click on the Scholarship Application Update button in your e-Student Profile. You will not be able to add or subtract the scholarships you applied for or make changes to your Activities Chart or personal statements.

Conclusion:

Some final ideas to keep remember:

- OSAC retains all applications so you can update it the following year.
- You are responsible for making sure your application is complete and errors are corrected by the appropriate deadline.
- Make sure your transcripts are correct, as an incorrect transcript can disqualify you from competition for scholarships.
- The only changes that can be made after submitting your eApp are changes to your name, address, phone number, e-mail, college choice, and major.
- Apply for any scholarships you qualify for, even if you feel like you do not have a chance, you will never know unless you try!

Closing:

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important topic. For more podcast topics, please visit our website at www.OSAC.state.or.us. From all of us here at the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, this is Cassie Soucy, and we look forward to helping you again soon.