



FACT SHEET: THE OREGON PROMISE UPDATED 7.8.15

[Senate Bill 81 \(2015\)](#), the “Oregon Promise”, was passed by the Legislature and awaits the Governor’s signature; it provides a \$10M appropriation targeted toward tuition payments for students who are recent Oregon high school graduates 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 community college student awarded, to be administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) under the Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC).

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Oregon resident for at least 12 months prior to enrolling in community college
- Received a 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 completion, enrolls in courses at an Oregon CC required for....
 - One-year curriculum for students transferring to another postsecondary institution
 - Associate degree
 - Program in career and technical education
- Completed a FAFSA for each academic year
- Has not completed more than 90 credit hours or the curriculums/programs noted above.
- Continues to be eligible if person ...
 - Maintains a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better
 - Makes satisfactory academic progress
 - 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

TUITION WAIVER/GRANT AMOUNTS

For a full-time student (12 credits or more) enrolled for the full year (three terms) in eligible courses:

- Maximum grant will cover actual cost of full-time full-year community college tuition (currently approximately \$4,900).
- 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 study.
- Grant will be prorated for person enrolled at least half time but not full time
- Grant will be prorated for person enrolled at least one term but not three terms
- May or may not include standard fees in addition to tuition

OTHER FACTORS

- 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 students are guaranteed at least \$1000 annually (prorated), even if their tuition costs are fully covered by state/federal grants.
- The HECC is permitted to make 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.
- \$10M is appropriated for the program for the 2016-17 academic year, to cover cost of waivers and reasonable administrative costs.
- Students will apply via an online application, not yet developed.
- High schools and community colleges will be notified when the application is available, and of any rules or requirements established by the Commission.
- Approximately 4,000-6,000 students are expected to be served in the first year of the program.
- The program will be administered by the Higher Education Coordinating Commission’s Office of Student Access and Completion in cooperation with their Office of Community Colleges and Workforce Development.