



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Ben Cannon, Executive Director

Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom, Director of DEI, rudyane.rivera-lindstrom@hecc.oregon.gov

Phone: 503-378-5690

3225 25th Street SE | Salem, OR 97302

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

December Agency Update:

December 2022 | Our partners can find previous quarterly Government to Government updates as well as other information on work and initiatives in the [Coordination with Tribes](#) section of our website.

Featured Updates:

[Students Can Still Apply for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant](#): We are pleased to report that as of November 2022, a total of 519 students have been authorized to be awarded [Oregon Tribal Student Grant](#) applications for the 2022-23 academic year. OSAC is continuing to accept and review applications for the [Oregon Tribal Student Grant](#) for 2022-23 until funds are exhausted. The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is a new state financial aid program supported by the Oregon Legislature's 2022 historic investment in equitable college access and success for tribal students. The grant is expected to pay for most or all public undergraduate college-related expenses—including tuition, housing, books, and other costs not covered by other grants—for eligible students who are enrolled members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes. Current and prospective students can [learn more and apply here](#). Students planning to attend college in the 2022-23 academic year—including fall term—are still encouraged to apply. We thank Government to Government tribal partners for the close consultation and partnership with launching the grant and supporting applicants. OSAC staff met with representatives from tribal governments as well

Our Commission

OUR VISION:

The State of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) envisions a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training. [Learn more about our vision here](#). Oregon's [Strategic Roadmap for Postsecondary Education and Training](#) finalized in 2021 sets an ambitious path forward by describing how postsecondary systems, policies, and practices need to change in order to achieve Oregon's goals for educational attainment and equity.

The HECC is the State of Oregon's Commission and agency working to improve equitable access to and success in higher education and workforce training for Oregonians statewide. Established in 2011, and vested with most of its current authorities in 2013, HECC is a volunteer commission responsible for advising the Oregon Legislature and the Governor on higher education policy. The Commission is supported by an executive director who oversees eight offices of the agency. To learn more about the HECC go to: www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx [Sign up for newsletters and updates here](#).

as schools serving tribal students and provided webinar trainings and ongoing support to school partners.

Funding and Policy Updates

Upcoming Meetings:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission,

December 9, 2022

HECC Funding and Achievement

Subcommittee: December 8, 2022

For other [upcoming public meetings of the HECC](#), [see our website here](#). For [Affiliated Boards \(WTDB, others, see here\)](#). For email notices of upcoming public Commission meetings, or to sign up for our newsletter, go to www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

Grant and Contracting Opportunities:

Explore all HECC [Grants and Contracting Opportunities here](#).

[Joint Legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education Update](#): The HECC is looking forward to the final report with recommendations of the Joint Legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education, which is due to the Oregon Legislature on December 15th, 2022. Thanks to all who have participated for the important testimony and insights that have emerged so far. The HECC staff have presented regularly at task force meetings, participated in planning and identifying experts, and have strongly encouraged participation of students and community members in the historic statewide listening tour. The HECC has included in its 2023-25 agency request budget a \$100 million equity investment to support and align with these future recommendations.

2023-25 Agency Request Budget: On September 1, HECC submitted its agency request budget for 2023-25. HECC's state budget recommendation calls for a large increase in spending on higher education to support the transformative change needed to improve equity and affordability in postsecondary education and training for all Oregonians. The Commission has recommended a nearly four-fold increase in need-based financial aid to put college and training programs within reach for more low and middle-income Oregonians. We are also working with the Joint Legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education workgroups as it crafts its final report with recommendations to transform our systems to foster the talents of historically underserved communities. HECC has recommended public university and community college funding levels designed generally to sustain those institutions' program and service levels without the need for major tuition increases. Some of the largest proposals are briefly summarized below.

Financial aid and equity investments:

- [\\$40 million General Funds \(GF\) to the Oregon Tribal Student Grant](#) (established in 2022) to continue this newly launched grant as a permanent program and continue to serve new and existing eligible tribal students.
- [\\$789 million Total Funds \(TF\) increase above the 2021-23 state budget in financial aid funding](#) to increase student support and adjust the design of the primary state grant programs for equity and access. This would increase Oregon Opportunity Grant funding by nearly four-fold (373 percent), serving many more students and increasing current award amounts to meet a higher percentage of college costs at public institution rates for the highest need students. The grant would be awarded in tiered award amounts based on student needs and sector costs, and would add more flexibility to award nontraditional learners such as those who attend less than half time. The proposal also adds targeted awards to students near completion to incentivize graduation. The Oregon Promise investment would roughly double the program's funding (103 percent increase), and policy changes would increase eligibility so the award may be accessed by a larger number of students by removing the current 2.0 GPA requirement, removing the discounting of accelerated credit prior to Oregon Promise, and allowing students broader college access options to use the grant at any eligible Oregon postsecondary institution, including four-year colleges/universities.
- [\\$100 million GF new funding for equity strategies](#) to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education.

Institutional operations funding including:

- \$205 million GF increase (29.5 percent above the 2021-23 state budget) to sustain operational and educational funding for the 17 community colleges through the Community College Support Fund (CCSF), bringing it to \$905 million. Because \$50 million of that would represent one-time funding, the base (i.e., ongoing) CCSF level would be \$855 million, or 20.1 percent above 2021-23.
- \$92 million GF increase (10.3 percent above the 2021-23 state budget) to sustain operational and educational funding for the seven public universities through the Public University Support Fund (PUSF), bringing it to \$992 million.

[Learn more about the typical budget timeline here.](#)

HECC Future Ready Oregon Grants Awarded to 19 Public Institutions to Expand Credit for Prior Learning: The HECC continues to award funds and implement strategies as part of the comprehensive Future Ready Oregon investment package (Senate Bill 1545, 2022), supporting education and training that leads to employment and family-wage careers, and prioritizing Oregon's historically underserved and vulnerable communities. We are pleased to report that after

receiving applications from Oregon community colleges and public universities to expand what is known as Oregon's Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Program, all 19 institutions that applied were recently awarded Future Ready Oregon funds totaling \$10 million. The \$10 million Future Ready Oregon investment in Credit for Prior Learning is one-time funding to increase opportunities for students from priority populations to receive academic credit for prior experience or skills gained outside of traditional higher education institutions. View the full list of recipients below or in the [CPL grantee document attached here](#). [Learn more about Future Ready Oregon here](#).

Other Affordability and Financial Aid News

New Oregon Student Aid Website: The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion is pleased to announce the launch of the newly designed **Oregon Student Aid website** at OregonStudentAid.gov, the state website where thousands of Oregonians go to apply for state-administered grants and scholarships to help afford their college goals, and to get help planning for college, training or careers. The new site features a mobile-friendly, accessible design aimed at current and future students, adult learners, and those who support them, including counselors and other career and college readiness practitioners, educators, families, and others. While the address is the same as the previous OSAC site, the new website name of Oregon Student Aid (OregonStudentAid.gov) gives audiences an easy-to-remember parallel with the FederalStudentAid.gov site that is the primary site for federal financial aid. The site features easy-to-navigate updated sections on financial aid applications, state grants, over 600 scholarships, ASPIRE mentoring program, outreach opportunities, and other college and career planning resources. Students can complete, submit, and follow up on applications. Students and those who support them can attend webinars on a variety of career and college readiness topics. Practitioners can access the partner portal, learn about workshops, order publications, and request presentations. Please share the site widely!

Financial Aid Applications: To be eligible for most types of financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). These applications compile financial information and other details about students and families, which the U.S. Department of Education and the State of Oregon use to determine financial need and eligibility for various financial aid opportunities. OSAC encourages Oregonians to [complete the FAFSA or ORSAA](#) and to apply for state grant programs at OregonStudentAid.gov.

OSAC offers the [FAFSA Plus+ program](#) for schools, community-based organizations, and other sites that work with a specific student population. Becoming a FAFSA Plus+ site allows an organization to upload a roster of students and then be able to see the FAFSA filing status for those students. Learn more and [sign up to become a FAFSA Plus+ site](#) for free.

OSAC continues our outreach and presentations across the state. Go online to [request support](#) from OSAC at an upcoming event, in a classroom, or providing training to your students/communities. OSAC outreach is available to students, families, and career/college access staff across Oregon to provide support and guidance. [You can also sign up to receive our e-newsletters here](#).

- [Free Publications and Posters:](#) Order or download free posters and brochures here including the OSAC Poster, a quick reminder for students to apply for financial aid, including the FAFSA/ORSAA, grants, and scholarships. English and Spanish versions available.
- [Webinars:](#) OSAC hosts a variety of webinars throughout the year for students, parents, and career/college practitioners. Our webinars are to provide up-to-date information about programs we serve.

Tribal Access to Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver: HECC-OSAC continues to be available to ensure Tribal foster youth have access to the Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver program, which waives tuition and fees for the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies after other public grants and any school aid are applied. Learn more about eligibility at www.oregonstudentaid.gov. OSAC representatives would be pleased to help any Tribal staff. Please contact Kristin.Vreeland@state.or.us).

Supporting Pathways and Student Success

Transfer Council Focused on Streamlining Transfer Pathways: The [Transfer Council](#)—convened in October 2021, has made considerable progress on streamlining the credit transfer process from two to four-year institutions to save students time and money. Since convening in October 2021, the Transfer

Council and its subcommittees have focused on developing a common course numbering system, advancing the work on Major Transfer Maps, and other credit transfer-related issues. The Transfer Council is also moving forward the [Oregon Transfer Compass](#) Maps that started with HB 2998 (2017). To stay updated on this work, [subscribe to the new Transfer Hub newsletter!](#) You can [read the inaugural October issue of this quarterly newsletter](#) focused on Oregon's statewide policy work and promising practices for improving transfer pathways.

[Oregon Apprenticeship Website](#): To learn more about apprenticeship or explore apprenticeship opportunities please visit www.oregonapprenticeship.org. Registered Apprenticeship provides individuals with a job, education, and an entry point into a lifelong career. Registered Apprenticeship helps employers develop and cultivate a skilled, certified, and engaged workforce.

[2022 Educator Equity Report Highlights Diversification Efforts](#): The Educator Advancement Council recently announced the release of the [2022 Educator Equity Report](#) focused on educator workforce diversification efforts in Oregon. This year's report provides an updated review of research on recruitment and retention for educator diversity, recent data on educator preparation and licensure programs, and recommendations.

[Academic Program Approvals](#): At its October and November Commission meetings, the HECC approved the following new academic programs at Oregon's community colleges and public universities. [Community Colleges \(CCs\)](#): Klamath CC: Cosmetology AAS. Treasure Valley CC: Agriculture Machine Technology AAS; Horse Training AAS; Nursing AAS. [Universities](#): University of Oregon: MS in Immersive Media; MS in Immersive Media; Ph.D. in Data-driven Music Performance and Composition. Western Oregon University: Doctorate, Occupational Therapy. Eastern Oregon University: MS in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. The Commission also approved a new location for the following program: Oregon State University: BS in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Other Updates

[HECC Key Performance Metrics](#): Interested in the state's progress on college access, affordability, completion and earnings? All executive branch agencies have Legislatively approved key performance measures (KPMs) that relate to the mission of the agency. HECC's Office of Research and Data recently presented a summary of the 2022 Key Performance Metrics for the HECC. The HECC has 16 KPMs related to tracking progress toward the State's educational attainment goal (40-40-20). [See the summary presentation here.](#)

[Fifth Annual "Statewide Higher Education Snapshots" Highlight Key Metrics on Oregon Postsecondary Learners in 2020-21](#): The [Statewide Higher Education Snapshots](#) answer common questions on the enrollment, affordability, and outcomes of Oregon's college and university students—with breakouts by race/ethnicity, first-generation status, and more. Explore all Snapshots on the [Oregon map here](#), including statewide summaries and 24 individual Snapshots for each public college and university.

[Student Loan Help for Oregonians](#) - Interested in student loan relief? Having issues with your student loan servicer? Go to the [Student Loan Help for Oregonians web page here](#). Oregon now has a Student Loan Ombuds, located in the Department of Consumer and Business Services. Oregon's Student Loan Ombuds can help borrowers resolve disputes with their loan servicer, and make sure loan servicers are in compliance with the law. The [Student Loan Help](#) web page also includes links to recent news and resources related to student loan forgiveness and other topics.