



# Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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## March Agency Update:

March 2023 | 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:

Oregon Tribal Student Grant: We are very pleased to report that Governor Kotek included in her Governor's Recommended Budget continued funding for the Oregon Tribal Grant for 2023-25 and HECC will present on this and other funding proposals to the Oregon Legislature (see more details on page 2). The proposed legislation related to the program is in the HECC-proposed [HB 3565](#). The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (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](#). We thank Government to Government tribal partners for the close consultation and partnership with launching the grant and supporting

### 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](http://www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx) [Sign up for newsletters and updates here](#).

### Upcoming Meetings:

**Higher Education Coordinating Commission,**  
April 13, 2023

**HECC Funding and Achievement**

**Subcommittee:** April 12, 2023

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](http://www.oregon.gov/HigherEd)

### Grant and Contracting Opportunities:

Explore all HECC [Grants and Contracting Opportunities here](#). **Please note HECC will soon issue a RFA for the second round of Future Ready Oregon Workforce Ready grants and we encourage tribal partners to apply.**

applicants. At a recent legislative presentation to the House Committee on Higher Education, Juan Báez-Arévalo, director of OSAC, provided an overview of financial aid programs, including [recent data on the Oregon Tribal Student Grant recipients and awards to date](#). [View that presentation here](#). Please feel free to contact OSAC and Director Báez-Arévalo with any questions at [juan.baez-arevalo@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:juan.baez-arevalo@hecc.oregon.gov).

## **Funding and Policy Updates**

During each legislative session, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) presents to legislative committees and advises the Oregon Legislature and the Governor on topics of critical concern to Oregon postsecondary education, working in close collaboration with campus leaders and partners. View recent HECC testimony and presentations on our [2023 Legislative Resources web page here](#).

2023-25 Governor's Recommended Budget: On January 31, Governor Tina Kotek announced her recommended balanced budget for 2023-25 with a focus on addressing housing and homelessness, mental health and addiction, and Oregon schools. We are excited that her proposed budget for higher education includes continued funding of the newly launched Oregon Tribal Student Grant; a \$100 million increase in the state's underfunded need-based financial aid program, the Oregon Opportunity Grant; authorization of the federal investments in Future Ready Oregon; and funding for regional university planning and support; among many other important priorities.

- [Read the Governor's Recommended Budget here](#)
- [Read the HECC fact sheet on the GRB here](#)

Each session, the HECC presents the consolidated budget proposal for the postsecondary education and workforce system to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education, and we are currently planning for this presentation this spring. The legislature also schedules opportunities for public testimony to this subcommittee in conjunction with the budget presentations; [stay informed on the hearing dates here](#).

Interim Joint Legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education Update: After a historic statewide listening tour, the Joint Legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education in December issued their final [Report on Findings and Recommendations for 2023 Legislative Session](#). While the 2023 Legislature does not have the financial capacity nor space on the agenda to address all of the findings in the first year, considerations for first steps include: an initial focus on further increasing financial aid, creating further workgroups to study specific issues students raised in the public listening tour, and examining some policy and structural improvements that will ensure underrepresented students have easier access to the knowledge and services required to succeed in higher education.

HECC Legislative Concepts: The HECC has introduced several legislative concepts this session which will be introduced as bills soon under the following bill numbers: LC 425—HB 3566, LC 426—HB 3565 (Oregon Tribal Student Grant bill), LC 452—HB 3564, LC 458—HB 3563, LC 460—HB 3562, LC 469—HB 3561, LC 472—HB 3560, LC 466—HB 3559. [These concepts are described in a previous update to our Commission posted here](#). We will post [updates on our website as available](#).

## **Other Affordability and Financial Aid News**

New Oregon Student Aid Website: The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion continues to encourage visiting the newly designed Oregon Student Aid website at [OregonStudentAid.gov](https://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. 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](http://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](http://www.oregonstudentaid.gov). OSAC representatives would be pleased to help any Tribal staff. Please contact Kristin.Vreeland@state.or.us).

OSAC Student Child Care Grant Continues to Award Grants: Due to additional funding for the current 2022-2023 academic year, OSAC is continuing to make new [OSAC Student Child Care Grant](#) awards to currently enrolled undergraduate students. In addition, the 2023-24 grant application is open. Find out about eligibility here: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/grants/oregon-student-child-care-grant/>

- Grants for 2022-23: For those who are interested in the 2022-2023 OSAC Student Child Care Grant, contact [PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:PublicPrograms@hecc.oregon.gov) to find out how to apply.
- Grants for 2023-24: The 2023-24 [OSAC Student Child Care Grant](#) application is open until May 31, 2023 for the upcoming academic year in the [OSAC Student Portal](#).

In addition to the OSAC Child Care Grant program, see the announcement below on expanded eligibility for affordable childcare through the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program.

PARTNER NEWS: More Oregon Students Now Qualify for Affordable Child Care Program: The Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) and Early Learning Division (ELD) of the Department of Education recently announced expanded eligibility for affordable childcare through the Employment Related Day Care (ERDC) program. Many families will qualify for more childcare assistance, including students for study time and caretakers who work night shifts. Students can now qualify to receive childcare support regardless of their employment status, if they attend an institution of higher education that qualifies for federal financial aid\* and meet other ERDC eligibility requirements. Students aged 20 or younger and enrolled in high school or GED classes can also qualify for ERDC. [Read more in the recent ELD press release here](#). *\*Students do not have to be receiving financial aid to qualify, the institution of higher education itself must be eligible to receive federal financial aid.*

## Supporting Pathways and Student Success

State Approves Common Course Numbering for 10 Popular Community College and University Courses to Improve Transfer – in a [recent press release](#), HECC announced the approval at its February 9 public meeting of the first 10 commonly numbered courses at Oregon’s public postsecondary institutions, a change intended to help students receive credit for these undergraduate courses when they transfer between institutions. With this approval, all Oregon community colleges and public universities are required to accept a transfer of academic credit for each course as if the credit was earned identically at the accepting institution, starting in the 2023-24 academic year.

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 latest issue of this quarterly newsletter](#) focused on Oregon’s statewide policy work and promising practices for improving transfer pathways.

Future Ready Oregon Workforce Ready Grants Expand Community Partnerships and Innovative Solutions: The Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) announced in a [recent press release](#) that it has awarded \$10 million in the first round of Future Ready Oregon Workforce Ready Grants to 42 projects focused on encouraging innovation and removing barriers to job training and education for historically underserved and marginalized populations. The Workforce Ready Round One: Capacity Building grants successfully expand the state’s network of workforce partnerships with community-based and culturally specific organizations and workforce service providers. We expect to issue a request for applications (RFA) for the second round of Workforce Ready Grants in March, and we encourage tribal partners to apply. [The RFA will be posted on our grants and contracting opportunities page here.](#) **To receive updates, you can sign up for the [Future Ready Oregon email list here.](#)**

HECC Convenes New Leadership Council for Equity: Building off the statewide convenings supported in past years by the Talent, Innovation, and Equity grant from Lumina Foundation, HECC is revamping its Leadership Council for Equity (LCE), a council of community partners who help raise state awareness about the inequities that affect historically marginalized and underserved students. In addition to the LCE, the HECC regularly convenes an Equity Advisory Committee (EAC), comprised of DEI experts and leaders from across the 17 public institutions who provide regular insight and input. Partners with questions on how to best stay connected with HECC are more than welcome to contact [Rudyane Rivera-Lindstrom](#), director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Commission Considers Review of the Community College Funding Formula: Over the last year, the HECC has been convened a work group to review the community college funding formula model, which has not been reviewed in more than 10 years in relation to statewide and community goals. The current model distributes funding entirely through enrollment that is equalized between local property tax revenue and state taxpayer dollars. [Recommendations on the funding model](#) were made by HECC staff to in February 2023; the Commission discussed the recommendations and is expected to consider action related to this in June 2023. The recommendations include a framework that keeps much of the existing formula but adds two, student-focused components: one for student support and one for student success. Both components prioritize four populations including low-income learners, adult students, career/technical education seekers, and traditionally underrepresented students as identified by race/ethnicity.

Academic Program Approvals: At its December, and February Commission meetings, the HECC approved the following new academic programs at Oregon’s community colleges and public universities. New community college programs--Clackamas CC, Certificate of Completion (CC), Phlebotomy; Rogue CC - Certificate of Completion in Medical Assistant Bridge. New public university programs: EOU MS in Accounting; UO BA/BS in Child Behavioral Health; UO BA/BS in Environmental Design; WOU MS in Human Wellness and Performance. A new location was also approved for the OSU BS in Teaching.

In addition, one applied baccalaureate program proposal advanced to the next phase in the approval process: Lane CC– BAS in Applied Business Management enters Phase Three Approval.

Oregon Apprenticeship Website: To learn more about apprenticeship or explore apprenticeship opportunities please visit [www.oregonapprenticeship.org](http://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.

### **New Reports and Other Updates**

Report Shows Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) is Strongly Linked with Student Success: In its annual evaluation of the Oregon Opportunity Grant program, HECC researchers found that the program is consistently effective in supporting student success, but at current funding levels, many students are left out of sufficient support. Students who receive the OOG consistently do as well or better in public colleges and universities than their peers who come from similar backgrounds with only slightly higher incomes. The analysis finds that students who receive the OOG are more often from underrepresented and underserved groups: students of color, women, rural, and especially first-generation-college students. Consistent with the last such report, the 2020-21 analysis shows that OOG recipients at public institutions continue to be more likely to earn a certificate or degree than other low-income students. [Read the full report here.](#)

Where are they now? New Infographic Highlights Education Pathways in Oregon: In a new visual summary published by the Oregon Longitudinal Data Collaborative (OLDC), the [Where are they now? Educational Pathways in Oregon Infographic](#) shows the journey of the nearly 50,000 students who entered high school in 2006-07, following student pathways as they leave high school, through postsecondary and into the workforce. The OLDC team worked through the complexities of linking data across K-12, GED®, postsecondary, and workforce, which has set the foundation for future reporting and research studies. Questions on this research-based infographic may be sent to: [hecc.oldc@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:hecc.oldc@hecc.oregon.gov).

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.

PARTNER NEWS: Student Loan Help for Oregonians - 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 loans.

NCHEMS Oregon Higher Education Landscape Study: At its November public meeting, the HECC received a briefing on a significant new study on Oregon higher education. In October, 2022, the Oregon Community College Association (OCCA) and Oregon Council of Presidents (OCOP) jointly released the [NCHEMS "Oregon Higher Education Landscape Study,"](#) a study to inform Oregon's statewide vision for higher education and increase partners' understanding of what is needed to effectively serve current and future students and the state and its various regions.