

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Office of Student Access and Completion – Chapter 575

Division 105

Oregon Tribal Student Grant

575-105-0001 Definitions

(1) "Certificate of Completion" means a form of recognition awarded by an eligible institution for meeting the minimum occupational course, curriculum or proficiency requirements at the undergraduate or graduate level. Certificates of completion for certificate programs must be state-approved, if so required by OAR 589-006-0300, have a defined job entry point, represent collegiate-level work, be credit bearing, and meet commission standards and criteria.

(2) "Concurrently enrolled" means a student who attends more than one eligible institution during the same academic term or year under a written consortium agreement or concurrent enrollment program.

(a) "Home Institution" means the institution that grants a certificate or degree upon the concurrently enrolled student's completion of an eligible program. It is the home institution that determines the student's eligibility for federal and state financial aid, disburses funds to the student, and is responsible for reporting enrollment and disbursement information to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (Commission).

(3) "Cost of Attendance" means the sum of tuition for 15 credit-hours per academic term for undergraduate students and the number of credit hours per academic term as defined by the institution as full-time enrollment for graduate student programs; standard fees charged to all students; room and board (where applicable); and estimates of books, supplies, modest personal expenses, transportation, and other allowable costs identified by the U.S. Department of Education. Students who are incarcerated shall not receive an award amount that exceeds their actual cost of attendance. The calculation of their actual cost of attendance will be conducted by the institution.

(4) "Degree program" means a program that leads to an associate, baccalaureate, master, professional, or doctoral degree.

(5) "Eligible institution" means any Oregon community college established under ORS Chapter 341, any Oregon public university listed in ORS 352.002, Oregon Health and Science University, or a qualifying private nonprofit institution which meets the criteria defined in ORS 348.597(2) for exemption from ORS 348.597 to 348.615.

(6) "Good standing" means the qualified student is maintaining satisfactory academic progress as defined by the institution in accordance with Federal Title IV regulations and guidelines.

(7) "Half-time Enrollment" means registration and payment of required fees as a half-time student, at an eligible institution or combination of eligible institutions, based on the number of credits for half-time enrollment as defined by the institution for undergraduate and graduate student programs.

(8) "Institutional Assistant Aid" means institutional financial assistance provided to graduate students for Graduate Teaching Assistant and Graduate Research Assistant positions.

(9) "Student" means an individual who meets the Oregon Tribal Student Grant program eligibility requirements and enrolls at an eligible institution and meets the residency requirements outlined by OAR 575-030-0005(1)(f)(B).

(10) "Tuition" means the amount charged to a student for a course and is based upon the number of credit hours for which the course is offered.

575-105-0005 Student Eligibility

(1) The purpose of the Oregon Tribal Student Grant is for the Commission to provide grants to offset the cost of attendance to any qualified student who meets all of the following criteria:

(a) Is an enrolled member of an Oregon federally recognized tribe as defined under ORS 182.162.

(b) Completes the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or an Oregon-recognized equivalent form.

(c) Accepts any state and federal educational grant and scholarship aid available to such student.

(d) Has not achieved a degree or credential equivalent to or higher than that issued by a program into which such student seeks to enroll.

(e) Be enrolled at an eligible institution;

(A) be in academic good standing; and

(B) be enrolled at a minimum of half-time enrollment in a Federal Title IV eligible program or curriculum designed to lead to a certificate of completion, or degree program as defined by the Commission by rule.

(2) No student shall receive a grant for more than the equivalent of 5 years of full-time enrollment at the undergraduate level. And no more than the equivalent of 3 years of full-time enrollment at the graduate level.

(a) Maximum timeframe eligibility for a grant for an undergraduate and graduate student shall not be reduced or restricted on the basis of a student's credits earned prior to participation in the grant.

(b) Maximum timeframe eligibility for a grant for a graduate student shall not be reduced or restricted on the basis of a student's eligibility or participation in the program at the undergraduate level.

(3) No Oregon Tribal Student Grant shall be made to any student enrolled in a course of study required for and leading to a degree in theology, divinity, or religious education.

575-105-0010 Application Process

(1) Applicants must complete and submit, depending upon status, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or an Oregon-recognized equivalent form.

(2) Applicants must submit the Oregon Tribal Student Grant application to the Commission including any required supporting documents.

(3) Applications must be submitted during the timeframe established by the Commission.

575-105-0015 Grant Amount

(1) The Commission shall provide a qualified student with an award calculated in the following manner:

(a) For an undergraduate student attending an Oregon public university listed in ORS 352.002, Oregon Health and Science University, or an Oregon community college established under ORS Chapter 341, the Commission shall provide an award equal to and not to exceed the average cost of attendance, as calculated by the eligible institution at which the student enrolls, reduced by the amount of state and federal educational grant and scholarship aid available to such student. The total award of combined resources shall not exceed the cost of attendance.

(b) For an undergraduate student attending a qualifying non-public institution, the commission shall provide an award equal to the average cost of attendance of the highest cost institution, reduced by the amount of state and federal educational and scholarship aid available to such student, in the equivalent public institution sector as follows:

(A) If such student is attending a qualifying four-year non-public university, the public university listed in ORS 352.002 with the highest undergraduate average cost of attendance.

(B) If such student is attending a qualifying two-year non-public institution, the community college operated under ORS chapter 341 with the highest average cost of attendance.

(c) For a graduate student enrolled in a master's degree seeking program, the Commission shall provide an award equal to the average cost of attendance reduced by the amount of institutional assistant aid, state and federal educational grants, and scholarship aid available to such student. The award shall not exceed the highest average undergraduate cost of attendance at an Oregon public university listed in ORS 352.002. The total award of combined resources shall not exceed the cost of attendance.

(d) Priority consideration for funding graduate students shall be given first to students who are enrolled in a master's degree seeking program.

(e) Should funding be available after awarding applicants at the undergraduate and master's level the commission may review and consider partial or full awards to students in either professional or doctoral programs of study, and/or graduate certificates. For a student who is enrolled in either professional or doctoral degree seeking program and/or graduate certificates who has been determined to be eligible to receive grant funding as determined by subsection (1)(c) of this section, the Commission shall provide an award equal to the average cost of attendance reduced by the amount of institutional assistant aid, state and federal educational grants, and scholarship aid available to such student, not to exceed the highest average undergraduate cost of attendance at an Oregon public university listed in ORS 352.002. The total award of combined resources shall not exceed the cost of attendance.

(2) Exemptions to required student aid reductions to the grant award:

(a) Grants and scholarships awarded by an Oregon federally recognized tribe as defined under ORS 182.162.

(b) Educational funding provided by the United States Department of Veteran Affairs.

(c) Federal or private student loans offered to the student.

(d) Other federally excluded student financial assistance.

(3) Prior to the start of the fall term of each academic year, the Commission shall determine whether moneys available to the Commission are sufficient to award a grant under this section to each eligible student. If appropriate, the Commission shall prioritize as follows:

(a) renewing prior recipients, supporting their completion;

(b) new undergraduate students; and then

(c) all other applicants as funding permits.

(4) On the basis of any determination under Section (3), the Commission may:

(a) Limit eligibility to receive a grant under this section to a person using alternate methodology, as determined by the commission by rule, if available funding is at or below a level the Commission determines is necessary to allow the commission to operate the grant program under this section with available moneys; or

(b) Reduce or eliminate any limitation on eligibility previously imposed by the Commission under paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(5) If at any time the Commission determines that moneys available to the commission are insufficient to provide a grant under this section to each eligible person, the Commission may decrease the total amount of the grant awarded to each recipient

575-105-0020 Disbursement of Grant Funds to Students

(1) Institutions shall disburse grants to eligible students from funds provided by the Commission on an academic term basis within a time schedule established annually by the Commission. A disbursement may not be made to a student who does not meet student eligibility requirements as defined in OAR 575-105-0005.

(2) If, as a result of an institutional error, grants are disbursed to ineligible students, to students in ineligible programs, or to students for an inappropriate number of terms, the institution shall reimburse the commission the full amount of moneys erroneously disbursed.

(3) Institutions shall refund unused grant funds to the Commission within a time schedule established annually by the commission.

(4) With Commission approval, institutions may make late disbursements of retroactive awards for prior academic terms as determined by the Commission.

575-105-0025 Requirements for Concurrently Enrolled Students

(1) The Commission will prescribe eligibility requirements and grant calculations for students concurrently enrolled in a community college established under ORS Chapter 341 and a public university listed in ORS 352.002.

(2) For students who are concurrently enrolled in two or more public institutions, the Oregon Tribal Student grant award will be based on the cost of attendance determined by the student's "home" institution.

575-105-0030 Record Keeping

(1) As a condition of receiving program funds, each institution shall maintain sufficient records to document its activities relating to the program by rule regarding student financial aid records (OAR 166-450-0045, OAR 166-475-0055).

(2) As a condition of receiving program funds, each institution shall make its academic and financial records available to the Commission upon request for the purpose of assuring that the institution is complying with the requirements relating to the administration of the program.
