

STAY HOME. SAVE LIVES.



April 6, 2020

COVID-19 Unemployment and other Economic Relief Sources for Private Career Schools and Private Colleges and Universities

From Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission

We are aware of school owners, staff, and students who are concerned with how COVID-19 is affecting everyone's life and livelihood. New programs and new guidelines will be implemented for assistance at the State and Federal level. We encourage all schools to look into all options and share information with your employees and students.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

There is a common understanding that school owners and staff do not qualify for Oregon Unemployment insurance because they are self-employed, a small business owner, or an independent contractor. However, federal and state governments have put into place many temporary rules that may allow benefits to a large number of individuals who would not normally qualify for unemployment benefits.

If the current COVID-19 crisis has had an impact on your source of income (either a reduction or complete loss of income), then please reach out to the Oregon Employment Department and file a claim. There is no cost and no penalty if you do not qualify.

The staff at the Oregon Employment Department are working long hours and are handling volumes of claims beyond anything they have seen in the last 50 years. The phone lines are busy and the online claim system can stall, but please be diligent in your efforts.

To file an Oregon Unemployment claim online:

<https://www.oregon.gov/employ/unemployment/pages/default.aspx>

Unemployment Insurance Contact Centers:

Portland Area: (503) 292-2057

Salem Area: (503) 947-1500

Eastern/Central Oregon/Bend: (541) 388-6207

TOLL FREE: (877) 345-3484



Contact:
Private Postsecondary Education
Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission
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RESOURCES FOR EMPLOYERS AND LAID OFF WORKERS

The HECC Office of Workforce Investments coordinates business layoff and closure services through the Oregon Dislocated Worker Unit and Local Workforce Development Boards Rapid Response Teams. This includes services and resources for [school owners](#), [staff](#), and [other educational entities](#) and [employees](#).

HECC's Office of Workforce Investments can provide you with additional information:

<https://www.oregon.gov/highered/institutions-programs/workforce/Pages/warn.aspx>

SMALL BUSINESS HELP

Many of our schools are small businesses (including not-for-profits) with fewer than 500 employees that may qualify for small business financial help recently passed by Congress. Funds may be available to help bridge current gaps in income. A COVID-19 Economic Injury Disaster Loan or other programs may assist you in keeping your school viable until this crisis passes.

We encourage school owners to reach out to the Small Business Administration for information about these new programs, guidance and help. SBA staff can best determine what may be available to you. The SBA has a dedicated page for COVID-19 relief: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

The National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) has published [information on tax relief for small businesses](#), including private colleges and schools, that retain their employees.

If we become aware of any additional agency or programs that may be available to assist our schools, we will do our best to communicate that information.

Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission: www.oregon.gov/highered/

Private Career Schools Licensing Unit: <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/institutions-programs/private/Pages/private-career-school-licensing.aspx>

Office of Degree Authorization: <https://www.oregon.gov/highered/institutions-programs/private/Pages/office-degree-authorization.aspx>



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