



Fact Sheet for New Students & Families: Oregon Promise Awarding for 2020-21

This fact sheet provides information about Oregon Promise awarding and eligibility criteria for the 2020-21 academic year. The Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) is an office of the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC). For more information, visit OregonPromise.org. Contact OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov with questions.

As of March 2020, OSAC has started awarding the Oregon Promise Grant to new students (Class of 2020) who will begin college in Fall 2020.

How can I check my status? I haven't received any emails from OSAC.

- Log in to the [OSAC Student Portal](#) to view your Oregon Promise status. In the Portal, click "Messages" to view all emails that OSAC has sent you.
- Check the Spam/Junk folder in your email account on a regular basis to catch any missed messages. You should also add OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov to your email account's Safe Senders list.

Apply for Oregon Promise now!

Regardless of your EFC, you will only be considered for the grant if you complete all application requirements by your deadline. Most students must apply by JUNE 1 at 5:00pm.

My award status in the OSAC Student Portal says "PENDING."

What does this mean?

If your [Expected Family Contribution](#) (EFC) is at or above the *tentative* EFC limit of 34,000, you may or may not be awarded the Oregon Promise Grant; your status will say "PENDING" this spring. OSAC will determine a *final* EFC limit by July. The final EFC limit may remain at 34,000 or it may be adjusted higher in July to award additional students. This will depend on the total number of applicants and available funds for the grant.

What should I do?

- *If you have been selected for [FAFSA verification](#), contact your college financial aid office as soon as possible to complete this. You must complete this in order to receive any financial aid (including Oregon Promise). Not all students are selected for FAFSA verification.*
- **In July 2020, check the [OSAC Student Portal](#) for a final decision** about whether or not you are awarded the Oregon Promise Grant. OSAC will also send you an email in July regarding the final decision.

What if I'm not awarded the Oregon Promise Grant?

Students with an EFC at or above 34,000 are **not guaranteed to receive the Oregon Promise Grant** in 2020-21. Students and families should plan accordingly and seek out other financial aid opportunities:

- Seek out grants and scholarships through your college, your department of study, and with employers. Many local, regional, and national organizations have scholarships as well.
- Search for merit-based and need-based scholarships on websites such as College Board [BigFuture](#) and [FastWeb](#). Apply for [OSAC Scholarships](#) each year. The OSAC Scholarship Application opens on November 1 and the annual deadline is March 1.
- Be aware of scholarship scams and only apply to organizations you know and trust. OSAC discourages students from engaging with entities that charge scholarship application fees.

I haven't applied for Oregon Promise yet. Can I still apply?

YES. If you will graduate high school or obtain your GED® test credential between March 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020, you can apply now. Find your [application deadline and learn how to apply](#).

Most students must apply by June 1 at 5:00pm.

What if my EFC is below 34,000?

APPLY NOW. If you are eligible and apply for Oregon Promise by your [application deadline](#), you can be awarded soon and plan ahead for college. OSAC will continue to award eligible applicants with EFCs below 34,000 during the coming months. Most students must apply by **June 1 at 5:00pm**.

What if my EFC is 34,000 or higher?

APPLY NOW. If you apply by your [application deadline](#) and your EFC is at or above the *tentative* EFC limit of 34,000, you will receive a "Pending" award status message until July. In July, OSAC will make award decisions based on a *final* EFC limit. You may or may not be awarded the grant, depending on available funds. OSAC strongly encourages you to apply. Most students must apply by **June 1 at 5:00pm**.

What is my Expected Family Contribution (EFC)?

Your EFC is a number that is calculated according to financial and other information that your family submits on the FAFSA or ORSAA. **You are required to complete either the FAFSA or the ORSAA when you apply for Oregon Promise.** Once you complete the [FAFSA or ORSAA](#), you can find your EFC in your account:

- In your [FAFSA account](#), find your EFC on the 2020-21 confirmation page. If you need help, contact [Federal Student Aid](#) online or call 1-800-433-3243.
- In your [ORSAA account](#), select the blue down-arrow icon to download the PDF of your ORSAA. Your EFC is listed on the last page of the PDF. If you need help, contact ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov or 1-800-452-8807.

If you have not filed the 2020-21 FAFSA or ORSAA yet, **submit it now!** Your EFC is not the amount of money your family will have to pay for college nor is it the amount of financial aid you will receive. Learn more about the [Expected Family Contribution calculation](#).