



## 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](https://OregonPromise.org). Contact [OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov](mailto:OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov) with questions.*

As of August 2020, OSAC has updated 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](mailto:OregonPromise@hecc.oregon.gov) to your email account's Safe Senders list.

My award status in the OSAC Student Portal says "Exceeds EFC Limit."

What does this mean?

If your [Expected Family Contribution](#) (EFC) is at or above the EFC limit of 22,000, then you are not eligible for the Oregon Promise Grant; your status will say "Exceeds EFC Limit" in the OSAC Student Portal. The decision results from a larger applicant pool, available funds, and a \$3.6 million budget reduction from the Oregon Legislature on August 10, 2020. OSAC had to lower the EFC limit from 34,000 to 22,000 due to the Legislature reducing the Oregon Promise budget by \$3.6 million, which revoked awards from about 1,070 students. The previous EFC limit affected about 1,450 students from being awarded Oregon Promise.

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.*
- **The decision is final.** If your EFC is at or above 22,000, you are not awarded Oregon Promise. There is no appeal process for the EFC limit.
- View the next page for tips on next steps to pursue other financial aid opportunities and more information.

## Next steps:

- 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?

**NO.** If you graduated high school or obtained your GED® test credential between March 1, 2020 - June 30, 2020, you have missed your deadline to apply for Oregon Promise, and the appeal process has also passed. All students only have one opportunity to apply for Oregon Promise: **during their senior year of high school** (before you graduate) - or immediately after you complete the GED® test credential.

## 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. **The deadline for new students to submit the 2020-21 FAFSA or ORSAA was July 10, 2020.** 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](mailto:ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov) or 1-800-452-8807.

If you have not filed the 2020-21 FAFSA or ORSAA yet, **[submit it now!](#)** **You could still apply for federal or institutional financial aid at this time**, but it is too late to apply for Oregon Promise if you have not submitted your FAFSA or ORSAA. 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](#).