



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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September Agency Update:

September 2022 | 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:

As First Notifications of Awards go out, Students Can Still Apply for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant : We are pleased to report that as of August 29, 430 students have submitted complete [Oregon Tribal Student Grant](#) applications and are tentatively eligible for the grant for the 2022-23 academic year. Of these, 357 submitted by the August 1 priority deadline. The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) started notifying students of their eligibility, and details will be provided by the financial aid offices at the institutions they plan to attend. While the August 1st priority deadline has passed, 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

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

[Sign up for newsletters and updates here.](#)

Upcoming Meetings:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission,

October 13, 2022 (tentative)

HECC Funding and Achievement

Subcommittee: October 12, 2022 (tentative)

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

Grant and Contracting Opportunities:

Explore all HECC [Grants and Contracting Opportunities here.](#)

can [learn more and apply here](#). Students planning to attend college in the 2022-23 academic year—including fall term—are still encouraged to apply. We thank Government to Government tribal partners for the close consultation and partnership with launching the grant and supporting applicants. OSAC staff met with representatives from tribal governments as well as schools serving tribal students, and provided webinar trainings and ongoing support to school partners.

In-person visits to Tribes: This summer HECC staff had opportunities to meet and work with several of our tribal partners, including visits to Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and Coquille Indian Tribe. Visits allow us to build relationships and work directly with tribal partners on grant programs and awards, such as the Oregon Tribal Student Grant and the Oregon Youth Corps (OYC). HECC staff hope to continue visiting and learning from our tribal partners and finding ways to collaborate and improve our processes. We extend gratitude for hosting us.

Funding and Policy Updates

2023-25 Agency Request Budget: At its August 11 public meeting, the HECC approved its comprehensive postsecondary education Agency Request Budget (ARB) for 2023-25. HECC's state budget recommendation calls for a large increase in spending on higher education to support the transformative change needed to improve equity and affordability in postsecondary education and training for all Oregonians. **The ARB focuses the vast majority of new state funds on state-funded financial aid to students and equity strategies** to align with the important developing work of the [Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students](#). HECC has recommended public university and community college funding levels designed generally to sustain those institutions' program and service levels without the need for major tuition increases. Some of the largest proposals are briefly summarized below.

Financial aid and equity investments:

- \$40 million General Funds (GF) to the Oregon Tribal Student Grant (established in 2022) to continue this newly launched grant as a permanent program and continue to serve new and existing eligible tribal students.
- \$789 million Total Funds (TF) increase above the 2021-23 state budget in financial aid funding to increase student support and adjust the design of the primary state grant programs for equity and access. This would increase Oregon Opportunity Grant funding by nearly four-fold (373 percent), serving many more students and increasing current award amounts to meet a higher percentage of college costs at public institution rates for the highest need students. The grant would be awarded in tiered award amounts based on student needs and sector costs, and would add more flexibility to award nontraditional learners such as those who attend less than half time. The proposal also adds targeted awards to students near completion to incentivize graduation. The Oregon Promise investment would roughly double the program's funding (103 percent increase), and policy changes would increase eligibility so the award may be accessed by a larger number of students by removing of the current 2.0 GPA requirement, removing the discounting of accelerated credit prior to Oregon Promise, and allowing students broader college access options to use the grant at any eligible Oregon postsecondary institution, including four-year colleges/universities.
- \$100 million GF new funding for equity strategies to carry out the recommendations of the Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education.

Institutional operations funding including:

- \$205 million GF increase (29.5 percent above the 2021-23 state budget) to sustain operational and educational funding for the 17 community colleges through the Community College Support Fund (CCSF), bringing it to \$905 million. Because \$50 million of that would represent one-time funding, the base (i.e., ongoing) CCSF level would be \$855 million, or 20.1 percent above 2021-23.

- \$92 million GF increase (10.3 percent above the 2021-23 state budget) to sustain operational and educational funding for the seven public universities through the Public University Support Fund (PUSF), bringing it to \$992 million.

After the HECC submits the ARB September 1, we will look forward to the release of the Governor's Recommended Budget (to occur sometime after a new Governor is elected this fall), and the subsequent deliberations and decisions of the Oregon Legislature. We sincerely thank our many partners who have provided us with input that helped us improve these proposals over the course of their development. [Learn more about our recommendations in our August newsletter here.](#) [Learn more about the typical budget timeline here.](#)

Future Ready Oregon Implementation updates: We are pleased to announce that the first funding distributions of the \$200 million dollar [Future Ready Oregon funding package are well underway by HECC](#) and partner agencies. This funding supports workforce education and training systems that have shown a history of success as well as new programs to foster equity-focused solutions and innovations. The first round of Workforce Ready Grants focusing on capacity building is under review. Local workforce boards have begun distributing Prosperity 10,000 funds in support of [high impact projects in local areas](#). Credit for Prior Learning applications are under review, and funding for the Postsecondary Career Pathway Training program has been distributed to Oregon's community colleges. Finally, exciting progress has been made toward establishing the Industry Consortia. In consultation with the Woolsey Group, we are designing the three consortia in healthcare, manufacturing, and technology. In addition to components led by the HECC, please reference opportunities through the [Bureau of Labor and Industries Apprenticeship Grants Program](#) as well as the Youth Development Division's [Future Ready Youth Programs](#).

Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students Moves from Listening to Crafting Solutions: The HECC is looking forward to the next phase of work of the [Joint Legislative Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education](#), with thanks to all who have participated for the important testimony and insights that have emerged so far. The HECC staff have presented regularly at task force meetings, participated in planning and identifying experts, and have strongly encouraged participation of students and community members in the historic statewide listening tour. To develop final recommendations the Task Force is now splitting into three workgroups: Affordability, Wraparound Services and Supports, and Continuous Improvement and Accountability. Following the workgroup phase, the Task Force will again convene at the end of 2022 to determine final recommendations and approve a report, which will likely become the basis for proposed legislation in 2023. The HECC has included in its 2023-25 agency request budget a \$100 million equity investment to support and align with these future recommendations.

Other Affordability and Financial Aid News

The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) continues to encourage Oregonians to pursue grants and scholarships at [OregonStudentAid.gov](#).

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](#).

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. OSAC representatives would be pleased to help any Tribal staff. Please contact Kristin.Vreeland@state.or.us).

Supporting Pathways and Student Success

Transfer Council Focused on Streamlining Transfer Pathways: The [Transfer Council](#)—convened in October 2021, and comprised of representatives from Oregon public universities, community colleges, and high schools—made considerable progress on implementation of the goals set forth by Senate Bill 233 (2021) to streamline 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).

Oregon Apprenticeship Website: To learn more about apprenticeship or explore apprenticeship opportunities please visit 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.

The Workforce & Talent Development Board's (WTDB) website: The redesigned WTDB website at <https://www.oregon.gov/workforceboard/pages/index.aspx> is focused on the vision of the WTDB to foster equitable prosperity for all Oregonians, and offers resources for workers, employers, students, [educators](#) and trainers and more.

Academic Program Approvals Include the First Applied Baccalaureate Programs to be Offered at Oregon Community Colleges: In 2019, Senate Bill 3 authorized "Applied Baccalaureate"(AB) programs to be offered at Oregon's 17 Community Colleges. Applied Baccalaureates are workforce-oriented bachelor's degrees that prepare Oregonians for high-value careers with Oregon's most active employers and industries. On June 9, 2022 the Commission approved the first two Bachelor of Applied Science Degrees to be offered at Oregon community colleges. Specifically, the Commission approved a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree in Applied Leadership and Management at Chemeketa Community College and a BAS degree in Cybersecurity at Mt. Hood Community College.

Academic Program Approvals: At its June and August, the Commission also approved the following new academic programs. Oregon Community Colleges: Blue Mountain Community College: Business Administration AAS; Chemeketa Community College: Phase Three: Applied Leadership and Management BAS; Clackamas Community College: Industrial Maintenance AAS; Lane Community College: Phase One: Business BAS; Mt. Hood Community College: Phase Three: Cybersecurity BAS. Public Universities: Portland State University, P.M.S. in Applied Geoscience; Southern Oregon University, B.A./B.S. in Music Industry & Production Studies.

Economic and Community Impact

Newly-launched Oregon Conservation Corps and Oregon Youth Employment Programs: The HECC has awarded roughly \$14 million in grant funding to support the implementation of two new youth workforce development programs, the Oregon Conservation Corps (OCC) and Oregon Youth Employment

Program (OYEP), thanks to the Legislature's 2021 investments through HB 2092 and SB 762. These investments are expected to support more than 1,000 youth through June 30, 2023. Both programs focus on reaching youth from underserved and underrepresented populations, finding skill gaps, and increasing opportunities for career success through essential employability skills training.

Other Updates

Dedication and Celebration of HECC's New Location: HECC employees, commissioners, and invited guests gathered on May 31, 2022 for a dedication and celebration of the agency's new building in Salem, Oregon at 3225 25th Street SE. In May, 2022, HECC employees started fully utilizing the building and welcoming members of the public, after two years of primarily remote work during the pandemic. We thank Angela Fasana, education department manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, who joined in the dedication of this space, focusing staff attention on Oregon's past, current, and future indigenous people, and expressing appreciation for the state's consultation and partnership. Executive Director Cannon spoke to the exciting chapter in HECC history that this new building opens up, bringing all eight agency offices under one roof to advance our vision for expanding equitable education to Oregon learners.

Registration is Now Open for Adult Basic Skills Conference 2022 "Going the Extra Mile," October 24-25: Registration is open [tickets are on sale now](#) for the [2022 Adult Basic Skills Conference: Going the Extra Mile](#). The two-day conference to be held on October 24-25 in Salem will focus on the lengths we go to administer exceptional programs and deliver high-quality instruction. The conference's goal is to provide effective strategies, techniques, latest trends, and best practices in the field of adult basic skills and high school equivalency education.

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.

HECC Commissioner Updates: Please join us in welcoming three new commissioners: Natalie Arnot, Fernando Rojas-Galván, and Emily Simnitt who were nominated by Governor Brown and confirmed by the Oregon Senate on June 1, 2022. Their service on the Higher Education Coordinating Commission will officially begin July 1, 2022.

HECC Leadership Updates: We are pleased to announce several leadership hires at HECC. Jennifer Purcell, Workforce Policy Advisor for Governor Brown, has been hired to lead HECC's work on Future Ready Oregon. Julia Steinberger has been hired as the permanent director of the HECC Office of Workforce Investments (OWI), after serving in this role on an interim basis. Erin Rau has been hired as deputy director of the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC).