OREGON · STATE AID REFERENCE

Oregon State Aid Cheat Sheet (2027–2028)

A two-page reference for counselors and families. Free to copy, print, and share.

Oregon aid runs through two front doors: the **FAFSA or ORSAA** (Oregon's form for students who cannot file the FAFSA, including DACA and undocumented students) and the **OSAC Student Portal** at app.oregonstudentaid.gov. There is no state merit scholarship and no test score requirement anywhere. What changed: the Opportunity Grant maximum reached $8,352 for 2026-27 and now pays per credit (HB 3025); the Promise had an SAI cutoff of 27,000 for the Class of 2026; and starting 2027-28, a FAFSA-eligible student who files the ORSAA loses Promise eligibility. 2027-28 means the school year starting fall 2027. Verified against OSAC, October 2026.

The Programs at a Glance

Program	What it pays and who qualifies
Oregon Opportunity Grant (need-based)	2026-27 full-time: $1,800 to $8,352 at four-year colleges, $1,224 to $4,320 at community colleges, by Student Aid Index (SAI). SAI limit 8,000 for 2026-27. No separate application: an error-free FAFSA or ORSAA listing an Oregon college. First-come until funds run out. Up to four years; not summer.
Oregon Promise (community college)	$2,280 to $4,716 full-time in 2026-27, last-dollar after Pell and the Opportunity Grant, up to 12 credits a term. Recent Oregon HS or GED grads, 2.0 GPA or 145 on every GED test, 12 months' residency (parents too, if dependent), 90 or fewer college credits. Apply in the OSAC portal plus FAFSA/ORSAA by graduation-date deadline. One chance only.
OSAC Scholarships (600+ private awards)	One application, opens Nov 1. Need, merit, major, county, employer, and more. Oregon residents, DACA and undocumented students included. Many are portable out of state. Most expect full-time enrollment.
Oregon Tribal Student Grant	Average cost of attendance at 15 credits, minus federal and state grants and scholarships (own-tribe scholarships excluded). Enrolled members of Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes at Oregon colleges only. Needs tribal enrollment verification.
Chafee Education and Training Grant	Up to $5,000 a year (2025-26 figure). Current and former foster youth meeting the age-13 rules; apply by age 25.
Student Child Care Grant	Up to $10,000 a year toward child care for Oregon undergraduates with a child 12 or under. Opens mid-January, closes end of May. Not with ERDC.
National Guard STA	Tuition after federal TA at the in-state rate, plus up to $1,000 for books. Drilling Oregon Guard members without a bachelor's degree. Term deadlines.
Also worth knowing	Public Safety Officer Grant: up to $13,000 a year for children of Oregon officers killed or totally disabled. Teacher Scholars Program: final two years of an Oregon licensure program. Barber and Hairdresser Grant. Portland State Tuition-Free Degree and UO PathwayOregon cover tuition for Pell-eligible Oregonians who meet their terms.

Deadlines to Post on Your Wall

Program	Deadline	Where it's submitted
Opportunity Grant	No fixed deadline. First 2026-27 awards went to filers by Mar 15, 2026; final cutoff May 15, 2026. File in the fall.	FAFSA or ORSAA only
OSAC Scholarships	Opens Nov 1. Early bird Feb 15 (holiday in 2027: moves to next business day). Final Mar 1, 11:59 p.m. PT.	OSAC portal + FAFSA/ORSAA
Oregon Promise	HS grads Mar 1 to Jun 30: June 1 (start fall). Jul 1 to Nov 30: Nov 1 (Nov 16 for 2026 grads). GED Mar to Jun: July 10.	OSAC portal + FAFSA/ORSAA
Promise renewal	FAFSA or ORSAA by June 1 every year	FAFSA/ORSAA
Tribal Student Grant	Priority Sept 30 (2026-27 cycle); application opened Dec 1	OSAC portal + verification
Child Care / Chafee	Child Care: mid-Jan to end of May. Chafee: Aug 1, Nov 1, Feb 1, May 1 by term.	OSAC portal + FAFSA

Say this out loud to every senior: the Opportunity Grant has no deadline, it runs out. University of Oregon admission (PathwayOregon) closes Jan 15, Oregon State's automatic scholarships Feb 1, and the PathwayOregon and Portland State Tuition-Free Degree FAFSA dates are Mar 1.

The Rules That Trip Families Up

- **Pell is not the Opportunity Grant.** The OOG stopped at an SAI of 8,000 for 2026-27. Pell reaches much higher SAIs. A Pell award says nothing about state money.
- **The Promise is a one-shot, senior-year application.** The deadline usually falls before graduation. A senior who decides on community college in July is too late.
- **Every college credit counts toward the Promise's 90.** Dual credit, AP and IB credit, summer, and failed or dropped courses all count. Attempted, not passed.
- **Promise renewal is strict.** FAFSA by June 1, half time (6+ credits) every fall, winter, and spring, attend each fall, and accept all state and federal grants offered.
- **Only error-free FAFSAs get the Opportunity Grant.** Fix errors immediately and answer verification requests the same week. Professional judgment records were not accepted for 2026-27.

Opportunity Grant and Oregon Promise: Check These Things Early

1. Which form? FAFSA for most students. ORSAA for students who cannot file the FAFSA. Use OSAC's FAFSA/ORSAA Filter Tool. A FAFSA-eligible student in a mixed-status family who files the ORSAA loses the Promise from 2027-28.

2. When did you file, and what is the SAI? The Opportunity Grant goes to the lowest SAIs who file first. Find the SAI on the FAFSA Submission Summary (or the last page of the ORSAA PDF). First-time recipients in 2026-27 got a guaranteed second year by filing the next FAFSA by May 1 and attending every term.

3. What is the student's graduation date? That sets the Promise deadline. List an Oregon community college on the FAFSA or ORSAA; the portal cannot fix that. The Class of 2027 SAI limit (if any) is announced in spring 2027. Apply regardless.

Oregon Opportunity Grant, 2026-27 (full-time, full-year maximums)

Student Aid Index	Community college	CC BAS program	Four-year college
-1,500 to 0	$4,320	$7,092	$8,352
1 to 1,000	$4,032	$6,552	$7,704
1,001 to 2,000	$3,528	$5,760	$6,768
2,001 to 3,000	$3,240	$5,256	$6,120
3,001 to 4,000	$2,763	$4,320	$5,040
4,001 to 5,000	$2,268	$3,492	$4,032
5,001 to 6,000	$1,620	$2,412	$2,664
6,001 to 7,000	$1,332	$1,836	$2,088
7,001 to 8,000	$1,224	$1,656	$1,800

Prorated below 12 credits a term. OSAC sets the 2027-28 table, SAI limit, and cutoff each year based on funding.

Counselor Calendar: What to Tell Students When

When	What has to happen
Sophomore and junior year	Plan dual credit against the Promise's 90-credit limit. Count credits that will be on the transcript, and choose ones that apply to a degree.
Senior fall (Oct to Nov)	FSA IDs for student and parent. File the 2027-28 FAFSA or ORSAA, listing an Oregon community college plus every Oregon college on the list. Create the OSAC portal account with a personal email. Submit the Oregon Promise application.
Nov 1 to Feb 15	OSAC Scholarship Application: activities chart, three personal statements (1,900 characters each), transcript via Request High School Upload. Aim for the early bird.
January to March 1	UO admission Jan 15 (PathwayOregon), OSU automatic scholarships Feb 1, OSAC final deadline Mar 1.
Spring	Watch email for OOG awards (typically April to May), the Class of 2027 Promise SAI announcement, and OSAC scholarship offers from late April. Accept awards online.
By June 1	Promise deadline for March to June high school graduates. Promise renewal FAFSA due for current recipients.
Fall 2027	Start community college in the required term to keep the Promise. Know each college's census date.

Three Mistakes That Cost Oregon Students Money

- **Treating March 1 as the FAFSA deadline.** March 1 is the OSAC scholarship deadline. The Opportunity Grant is gone by whatever date the money runs out.
- **Skipping the Promise because the plan is a university.** Plans change in July. The application keeps the option; it cannot be filed late.
- **An OSAC application without a transcript.** Missing or incomplete transcripts get the whole application rejected. Check the dashboard says Valid.

The 90-credit clock

The Promise does not last two years. It lasts until 90 attempted credits, counting everything since high school. A student who arrives with 30 dual credit hours has two-thirds of the grant left. Dual credit is still a good deal; just make those credits count toward the degree.

Free Resources: No Account, No Cost, No Data Collection

All OSAC grants, scholarships, and rules	oregonstudentaid.gov
Which form: FAFSA or ORSAA	oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/fafsaorsaa-filter-tool
Oregon Promise deadline by graduation date	osacapps.hecc.oregon.gov/oregon-promise-cohort-tool.aspx
Our Oregon state aid guide	collegereadyparent.org/oregon
Scholarships at 400+ colleges, all 50 states	collegereadyparent.org/college-scholarships

Produced by CollegeReadyParent.org, an independent, parent-built resource. No paywall, no accounts, no lead forms, no student data collection. Counselors and educators: you may freely copy, print, and distribute this sheet. Questions or corrections: leo@collegereadyparent.org. Verified against the Oregon Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) in October 2026. Amounts shown are 2026-27 figures unless noted; OSAC sets amounts, SAI limits, and cutoffs each year. Always confirm current details at oregonstudentaid.gov and with the college's financial aid office. Not affiliated with OSAC or any college.