

You can't **get** a **scholarship...** if you don't apply. **So do it!**



► Tips for success

Always complete the OSAC application process. You never know when a donor might make a new award available, but you can't get an OSAC award if you're not in our database!

Take the SAT or ACT. Even if it's not required by your school, you should take the SAT or ACT because students without SAT or ACT scores are not as competitive when applying for many scholarships.

Include complete transcripts. High school transcripts must include SEVEN semesters or equivalent (including course work for fall semester of your senior year) for you to be considered for OSAC scholarships. If your school reports grades by four quarters, make sure that your transcripts reflect the first two quarters of your senior year.

Follow directions carefully! For example, if the application asks for a one-page essay and you write a longer essay, you may be less favorably reviewed because you didn't follow instructions. Details make all the difference.

Identify your application properly. Your name and last four digits of your social security number must appear at the top of every page in the application.

The postmark matters! If the application is postmarked by the U.S. Post Office before or on March 1, we accept it. If the postmark is after March 1, it is rejected. No exceptions! Warning: do not rely on mail services or other delivery mechanisms: make sure the application is postmarked before or on March 1 yourself!

Apply for scholarships every year you are in college. As long as you remain an Oregon resident, you are eligible to compete for many of OSAC's scholarships. Apply every year by March 1.

Keep a copy of everything you submit—for backup and a rough draft for next year!

Atención padres que hablan Español: Su estudiante puede calificar por una Oregon Opportunity Grant (Beca de Oportunidad de Oregon) o una beca privada de OSAC, pero es necesario que haga lo siguiente: Llenar una *Solicitud Gratuita de Ayuda Federal para Estudiantes (FAFSA)* que es un requisito para la Beca de Oportunidad de Oregon, y Llenar una solicitud de becas de OSAC (un requisito para las becas privadas).

Para mas información, pongase en contacto con la oficina de ayuda financiero o con su universidad o colegio, o visita los sitios en el red de internet www.fafsa.ed.gov (para una versión de la *FAFSA* en Español) y www.GetCollegeFunds.org (para becas privadas de OSAC).

The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) administers the **Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG)** and more than 320 **private scholarship programs**. For 2005 through 2007, the OOG offers almost \$75 million in awards for Oregon residents with financial need and OSAC private scholarships will offer more than \$22 million. Want your shot at free money? You have to apply!

► Follow these FOUR easy steps:

- Complete the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)* as soon after January 1 as possible. (You may use your previous year's tax returns to get an early start, but be sure to make corrections from this year's returns by March 1.) The *FAFSA* is the doorway to all federal financial aid, including loans, grants, and work-study opportunities. Almost all financial aid depends on this important form for calculating a family's ability to pay for college.

For example, all you have to do to apply for the **Oregon Opportunity Grant** is complete your *FAFSA* and make sure its results are sent to the college you will be attending. Most OSAC scholarship programs will require the need information from the *FAFSA* as well.

- Complete the OSAC Scholarship Application. Both the paper and the online format are available each December. We recommend you use the online application, available at www.GetCollegeFunds.org. The deadline for submitting completed applications and materials is always March 1.

- Consult the financial aid offices at the colleges you are interested in attending to learn about "campus-based" aid available at specific institutions.

- Use the Internet and other kinds of scholarship search mechanisms. OSAC's website www.GetCollegeFunds.org has links to many other important scholarships and financial aid sites. Parents and counselors as well as students should also check out OSAC's ASPIRE website www.aspireoregon.org where information and many links are provided for all aspects of postsecondary financial aid.

APPLY, APPLY, APPLY!