

2027-28 Mixed Status Family ORSAA Eligibility Update: Frequently Asked Questions and Resources

*This FAQ document is intended to support students completing the [Oregon Student Aid Application](#) (ORSAA). Starting with the 2027-28 award year, the **ORSAA will be expanding use to include students who identify as being in a mixed status family**. In other words, students who are eligible to file a FAFSA, but have a **partner, spouse, or parent** (also known as a contributor) who does not have a Social Security Number will now be able to submit the ORSAA to be considered for state-administered and some institutional financial aid.*

Why is this change happening now?

Communities we serve have reported that some students from mixed status families have decided not to file the FAFSA out of concerns related to data privacy, and as a result they are not able to access state financial aid. HECC would like to provide an avenue for these individuals to access state and institutional aid that can be obtained by filing an ORSAA. It is critically important that we remove barriers that prevent Oregonians from being able to access the transformational opportunities that postsecondary education can provide.

May I complete the ORSAA if I am a U.S. Citizen, but my contributor(s) is not?

Yes, you have the choice to complete the FAFSA or ORSAA. If you are from a mixed status family, meaning you're a U.S. citizen (or eligible non-citizen) and your contributor(s) is undocumented, you can choose to complete the FAFSA or ORSAA starting in the 2027-28 award year.

What are the differences between filing a FAFSA or ORSAA?

The FAFSA application provides students with the greatest access to financial aid at the federal, state, institutional and local levels. However, should students choose to complete the ORSAA instead, they will only be considered for certain state and institutional aid and will not be considered for federal financial aid. **Please note, students who are eligible to complete the FAFSA and choose to complete the ORSAA will not be eligible for the Oregon Promise Grant.**

<i>Types of FAFSA Aid</i>	<i>Types of ORSAA Aid</i>
• <i>Federal Pell Grant</i> • <i>Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)</i> • <i>Federal Work Study</i> • <i>Federal Student Loans</i> • <i>State financial aid (all types)</i> • <i>Institutional financial aid funds</i> • <i>Private scholarships</i>	<i>Oregon state aid:</i> • <i>Oregon Opportunity Grant</i> • <i>Oregon Promise Grant*</i> • <i>Oregon Tribal Student Grant</i> • <i>OSAC Scholarships</i> <i>Other:</i> • <i>Private scholarships</i> • <i>Oregon institutional aid – eligibility is determined by the institution</i>

FAFSA Data Sharing	ORSAA Data Sharing
FAFSA data may be shared with federal agencies, state, and scholarship or educational institutions. <i>NOTE: At this time, there is no definitive answer to the question of whether mixed-status students who submit or have submitted a FAFSA put their undocumented contributors at risk of immigration enforcement.</i>	ORSAA is a confidential internal application that is used solely by the HECC to qualify students for state financial aid in Oregon. It is not used for federal financial aid purposes. Information that is shared with the HECC via the ORSAA is used only by the HECC state agency and our partnering colleges, universities, and foundations for administering state grants and scholarships.
<i>* The Oregon Promise Grant and some institutional aid require students to complete the FAFSA if eligible to receive this type of aid. Students who are eligible to complete the FAFSA and choose to complete the ORSAA will not be eligible for these programs. Please contact your institution for more information on eligibility requirements.</i>	

Can I complete both the FAFSA and the ORSAA?

No. You should **complete only one application per award year**. OregonStudentAid.gov provides a filter tool to help you determine which one to file. Applying for both can cause discrepancies when determining eligibility for state financial aid funds.

If I am eligible to file the FAFSA and I decide to complete the ORSAA application instead, will I be eligible for the Oregon Promise Grant?

No. Currently, Oregon law states that students eligible to complete the FAFSA must complete and submit the FAFSA for each academic year to receive the Oregon Promise Grant. Students choosing to complete the ORSAA instead of the FAFSA will still be eligible for the Oregon Opportunity Grant, Oregon Tribal Student Grant, and many OSAC Scholarships in addition to other private scholarships and Oregon institutional aid (determined by institution).

If student or contributor's immigration status changes, do I switch applications?

- Scenario 1:** If a student files an ORSAA as an undocumented, DACA, TPS, or U-Visa holder but later becomes eligible to file a FAFSA while their contributor remains undocumented, the student may choose which application to complete. This choice should be guided by their comfort level with disclosing family information.
- Scenario 2:** If a student is using the mixed-status pathway because they are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen and their contributor(s) is not, but the contributor's status later changes and they become a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen, then the student can file the FAFSA.

- **Scenario 3:** If the student has chosen or selected to file an ORSAA as an eligible noncitizen but their immigration status changes to undocumented, DACA, TPS, or a U-Visa, then No. This student has already completed the correct application.

I have completed the FAFSA in the past. Is filing the ORSAA now beneficial?

If you are eligible for FAFSA, continuing to file the FAFSA is still the avenue that will provide individuals with the greatest access to financial aid at the federal, state, institutional and local levels. Students who do not complete the FAFSA will not be eligible for federal financial aid programs such as the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), work study, and federal loans. Completing the ORSAA does not remove the data that was previously provided to the federal government through the FAFSA application process.

My contributor(s) filed taxes, should I complete the FAFSA or the ORSAA?

It depends on your **immigration status and comfort with sharing family data**. Completing the ORSAA does not remove the data that was provided to the federal government through filing taxes or completing any other federal forms such as Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) applications.

If a student is eligible for the FAFSA, filing that federal application is the best avenue that provides students with the greatest access to financial aid at the federal, state, institutional and local levels. **Students who do not complete the FAFSA will not be eligible for federal financial aid programs such as the Pell Grant, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), work study, and federal loans.** Additionally, students who are eligible to complete the FAFSA, but choose to complete the ORSAA will not be eligible for the Oregon Promise Grant.

Are there resources to help me complete the ORSAA Application?

If you choose to complete the ORSAA, our website at oregonstudentaid.gov/fafsa-orsaa/ provides helpful resources to assist you.

For more information, visit OregonStudentAid.gov or contact ORSAAHelp@hecc.oregon.gov with questions.