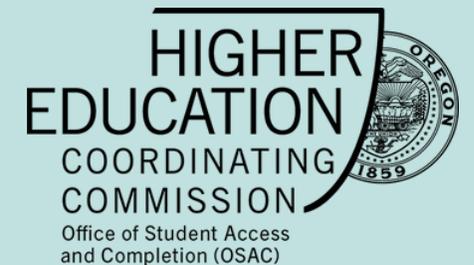


OSAC Scholarships 101 (and beyond)

Presenter: Amy Holland (she/her)
Scholarship Portfolio Coordinator

Date: November 14, 2024

OSAC: Office of Student Access & Completion



Topics

- Timeline & Program Overview
- Scholarship Catalog: Tips
- Student Portal & Scholarship Application
- Selecting Scholarships (Section 2)
- Special Situations & Making Corrections
- Partner Portal – Uploading Transcripts
- *Your Questions*

Mark Your Calendars

OSAC Scholarship Timeline



Nov 1, 2024

OSAC Scholarship Opens

Students can start the OSAC Scholarship application



Feb 18, 2025

Early Bird Deadline

Submit error-free application and be entered into a drawing for a \$1,000 scholarship



December 2024

FAFSA/ORSAA Opens

Students and families can start the FAFSA or ORSAA

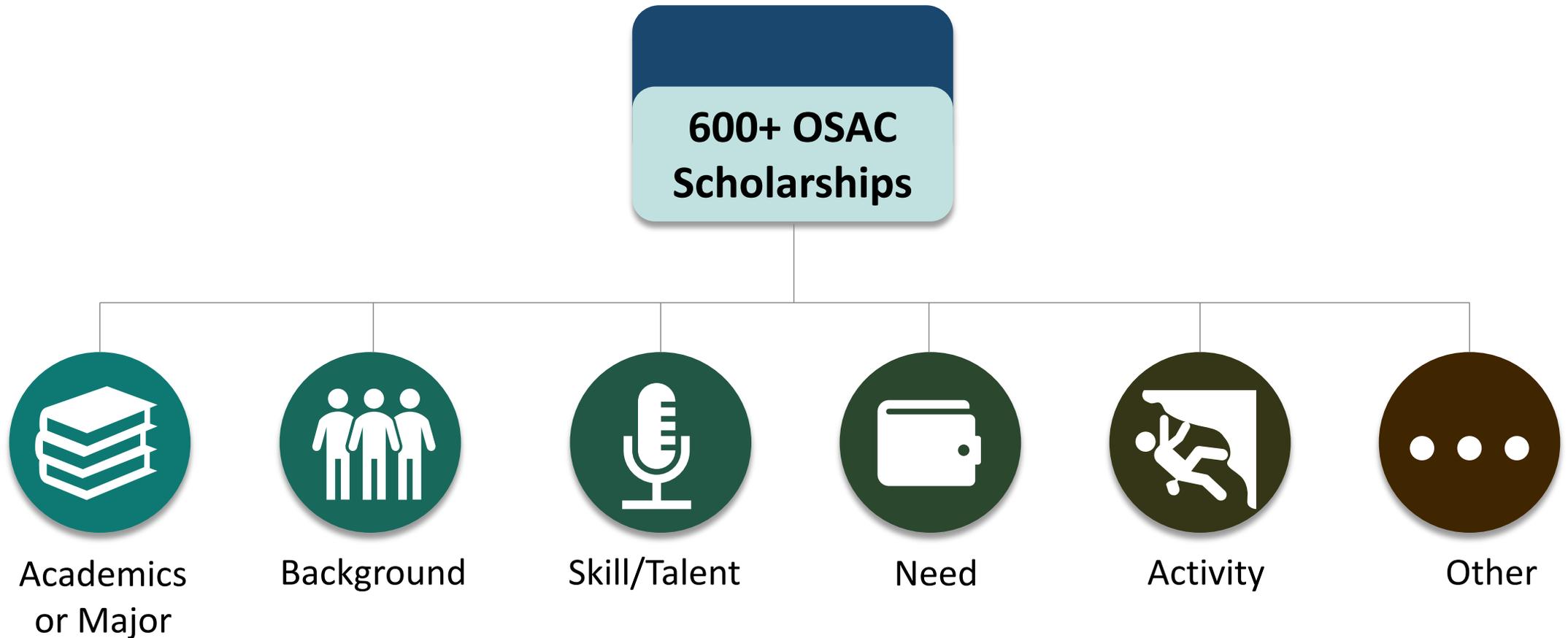


March 3, 2025

Final Deadline

Application and all required documents due by March 3rd at 11:59pm

Learning More About The Different Scholarship Criteria



Most scholarships use a *combination* of the above criteria to select students

Scholarship **Catalog**

Use the [OSAC Scholarship Catalog](#) to search for scholarships & review additional requirements (essays, etc.)



Select “Full PDF Version” to view the full Catalog

PDF Catalog



- Download the OSAC Catalog and browse through the scholarship listings. Highlight scholarships of interest.
- Use CTRL + F (find text) to search for specific words.

Scholarship **Catalog**

Keyword Search



- Use CTRL + F in the **PDF catalog** to do a keyword search.
 - *Example: Use “Sports” to find scholarships related to athletics*
 - *Example: Use “Marion” to find scholarships open to residents of Marion County*

Membership or Employer- Based Funds



- Select the “Memberships/Employers” button at top of online catalog
- Think about affiliations with your parents/caregivers/family members or yourself
 - *Example: A union your parent/caregiver belongs to*

Scholarship **Catalog**

Interpreting Scholarship Details & Criteria



- If a scholarship is only for US citizens, then it will state that explicitly in the Catalog. (If it does *not* list this restriction, then undocumented/DACA students are welcome to apply.)
- You will see “preference” listed for some criteria such as major, college choice, demographics, etc. *Encourage your students to apply, even if they don’t meet the preference!*

Scholarship **Catalog**

Apply Type



1. “One-time award” = Only available for 1 year
2. “Apply-compete annually” = Student may receive funds for multiple years. They must complete a full OSAC application each year. They “compete” among other applicants and are not guaranteed an award each year.
3. “Automatically renewable” = Student may receive funds for multiple years. They must complete the annual renewal application* They will continue to receive the award if they meet all eligibility criteria.

*They may need to submit the FAFSA/ORSAA as well.

Scholarship **Catalog**

Brand New Scholarship Funds



- The new funds this year use codes *938 – 952*.
- Search these codes to learn about the eligibility criteria and requirements.

***Search Example:* Trade/Vocational Studies**



- Students must be attending a *Title IV eligible school* in the US.
- Not all OSAC Scholarship funds permit usage at private, for-profit institutions. Look at the eligibility criteria in Catalog.
- Search the PDF catalog for keywords such as: “trade” / “vocational” / “career and technical education”

The OSAC Student Portal



Create a Student Account

- Applications and Awards:
 - Oregon Promise Grant
 - Chafee Grant
 - Child Care Grant
 - Oregon Tribal Student Grant
 - OR National Guard State Tuition Assistance
 - Oregon Teacher Scholars Program Grant
 - OSAC Scholarships

OregonStudentAid.Gov

Create An

OSAC Student Portal Account

Tips for Students

1. Use your legal name. Use the same name on your FAFSA/ORSAA
2. Password must be 12 characters
3. *Recommended: Use a personal email address (not school)*

<https://app.oregonstudentaid.gov/>

HS & ASPIRE Staff/Volunteers

Create your own “test account”:

1. Create an [OSAC Student Portal account](#).
2. In the Profile "About Me" section, select “This is a test application” under Applicant Type.
3. Complete your Profile using “test” data. You may complete test applications for OSAC Scholarships in addition to Oregon Promise, Oregon Tribal Student Grant, and other OSAC Grant programs.

(Note: Test applications will not be reviewed by OSAC.)

OSAC Scholarship App

Profile & Educational Info:

Contact info, high school, college history & plans, etc.

Transcripts:

List of classes and grades, can be uploaded to the portal

Personal Statements:

Three required essays and one optional essay that helps you tell your story



Activities Chart:

A breakdown of your school, volunteer/community and work activities

Select Scholarships:

Search for scholarships & select ones that are a good match.

One application...up to 600 different scholarships!

Select Scholarships



- Many students will see scholarships that are *automatically added* for them when they arrive to this section, based on their high school. They cannot remove these scholarships.
- **All applicants are encouraged to search & add multiple scholarships in Section 2** (even if there are automatically added ones there to start).
- **Students will ONLY be considered for scholarships that are selected on their list in Section 2.**
- It can be time-consuming and challenging to search and save scholarships in this section – *this is a great area for you to support your students through this process!*

Tip

- *You can submit your app and go back in to select more scholarships up until the final deadline.*

Select Scholarships

Select “Add/Remove Scholarships”

Section 2

Select Scholarship(s)



ADD/REMOVE SCHOLARSHIPS

 You will ONLY be considered for the scholarships in your "My Selected Scholarships" section. You must complete any additional requirements that are listed. *(You may see additional scholarships that have been automatically added to your application, based on your high school.)*

Select Scholarships

Select “All” tab and enter a fund # in Search bar

Section 2 ✓

Scholarships

CLOSE

MY SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS RECOMMENDED MEMBERSHIPS/EMPLOYERS **ALL**

Search...

1 2 3 4 5 ... 60

Select Scholarships

Select “View/Apply”

Scholarships CLOSE

MY SELECTED SCHOLARSHIPS RECOMMENDED MEMBERSHIPS/EMPLOYERS **ALL**

1

#01120 **Michael Mooser Scholarship**

 No Additional Documents Required

 VIEW/APPLY

Select Scholarships

Review criteria & select “Save”

Enrollment

Full-time, undergraduate study

FAFSA/ORSAA

Required - based on financial need

Automatically renewable for one additional year if renewal criteria met

RETURN TO LIST



SAVE

CANCEL

Select Scholarships

Select “Return to List”

Enrollment

Full-time, undergraduate study

FAFSA/ORSAA

Required - based on financial need

Automatically renewable for one additional year if renewal criteria met



RETURN TO LIST

SAVE

REMOVE

CANCEL

Saved Successfully



Select Scholarships

Applicant will return to the beginning of Section 2

Section 2

Select Scholarship(s)

ADD/REMOVE SCHOLARSHIPS

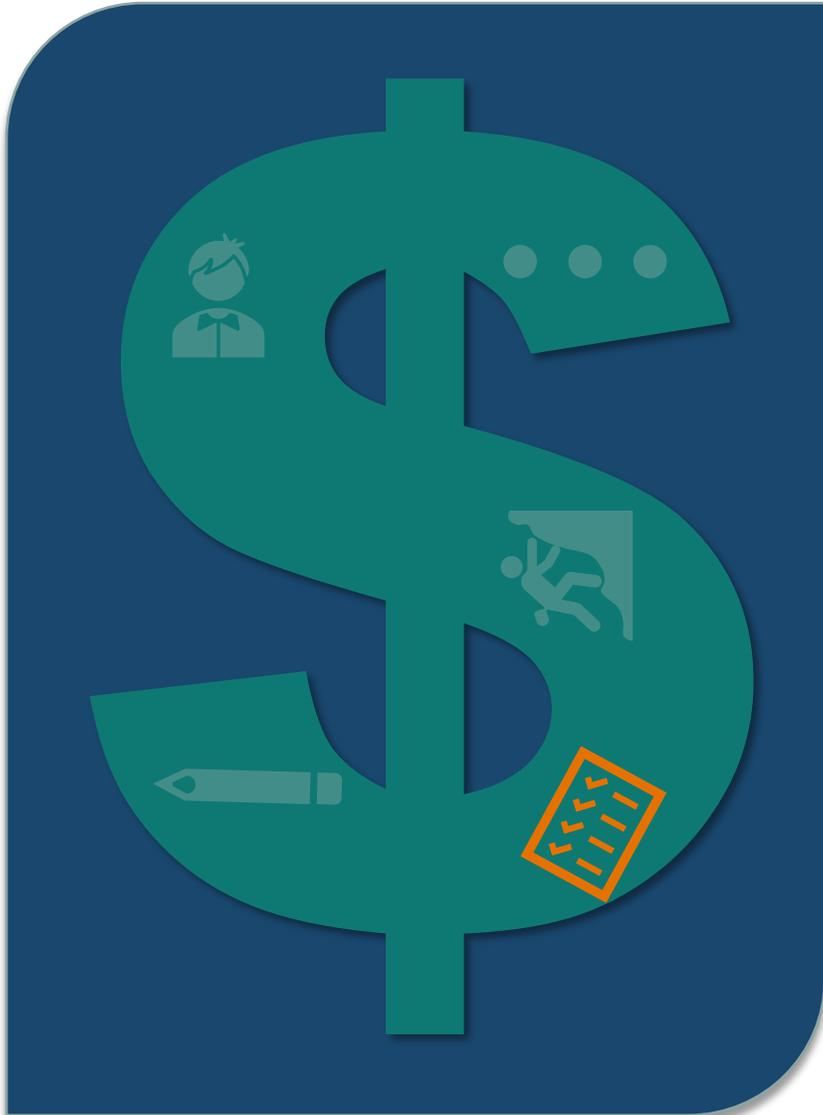
 You will ONLY be considered for the scholarships in your "My Selected Scholarships" section. You must complete any additional requirements that are listed. *(You may see additional scholarships that have been automatically added to your application, based on your high school.)*

We encourage you to browse the [OSAC Scholarship Catalog](#), where you can search by high school, major, or other keywords. (include link - to open in a new window)

Selected Scholarships:

- Michael Mooser Scholarship

Transcripts



- After you submit the app, a transcript error or missing transcript is the only reason your OSAC scholarship app will be rejected
- You may upload your transcript; mail a physical copy; or **request your high school to upload the transcript**
- Wait to provide your transcript until your *Fall term grades* are available (typically in January)

Tips

- *Transcripts sent via email will not be accepted.*
- *Make sure your full name is on the transcript.*
- *Be sure to include ALL college transcripts, especially if you have transferred.*

Activities Chart



How do you spend your time outside of class?



Details

- You can submit up to 20 activities
- Include:
 - Dates
 - Hours logged
 - Responsibilities/tasks for each activity
- **3 Categories:**
 - School/Extracurricular Activities
 - Volunteering / Community
 - Paid work history

Tip!

- *Try to include a mix of different activities*

Personal Statements



- 3 required essays + 1 optional essay
- 1,900 character limit per essay (~350 words)

Use your Personal Statements to tell your story. Selection committee members are looking for reasons why they should choose you for their scholarship award. Focus on your passions - what motivates, excites, or inspires you. Share authentically and to your own comfort level.

Tips!

- *You may be able to repurpose these statements for other scholarship applications*
- *Try not to repeat basic info like GPA, etc.*

Personal Statements



1. What are your specific educational plans and career goals and why? What motivates you to achieve them?



2. What have you done for your family, school or community, that you care about the most and why?



3. Describe a personal accomplishment, impactful change, or experience that has occurred in your life. What skills and strengths were needed to respond and what did you learn about yourself?



4. **OPTIONAL:** Is there any additional information you would like the selection committee members to know? This could include financial situations not reflected on the FAFSA/ORSAA or other information not covered in the application.

Keep Your Readers in Mind



Former Teachers

Essay Writing Tips:

Be descriptive, specific, and clear

Avoid slang, abbreviations, and (too much) humor

Write your essays in another doc & copy in the final version

Proofread your application and get feedback!

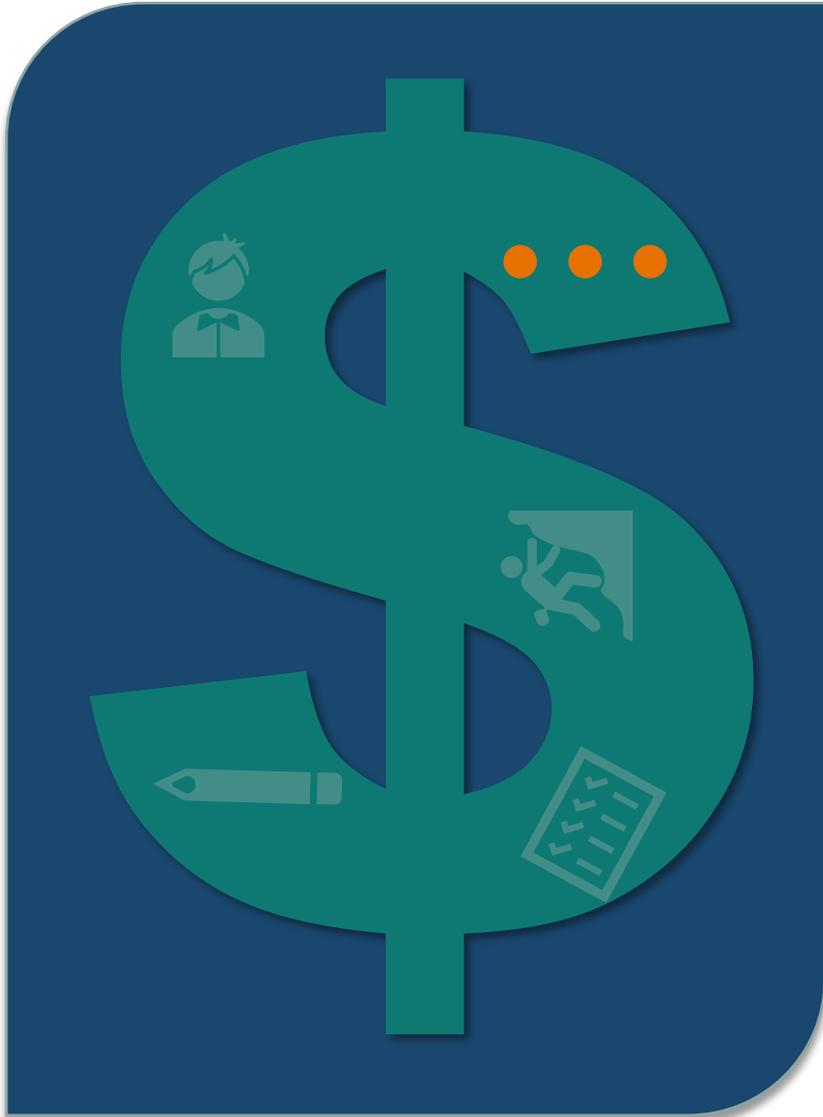


Volunteers



Donors

Additional Requirements



- Any additional pieces required for specific scholarships that you select
- You may need to answer short questions (especially for employer/membership scholarships)
- You may need to write **additional essays**
- You may need to upload an additional document, letter of recommendation, etc.

Tips!

- *You can submit your app and still work on additional requirements up until the final deadline.*
- *All required documents and essays are due by the final deadline (March 3)*

Stay on Track

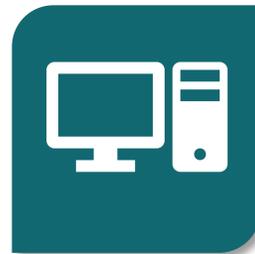
After You Submit



Provide an updated **Transcript** (if necessary).



Check your email & Portal Account regularly for updates & required actions.



Update your email, contact info, major, or college choice (if necessary).



OSAC will email you (April – August) if you are awarded specific scholarships.

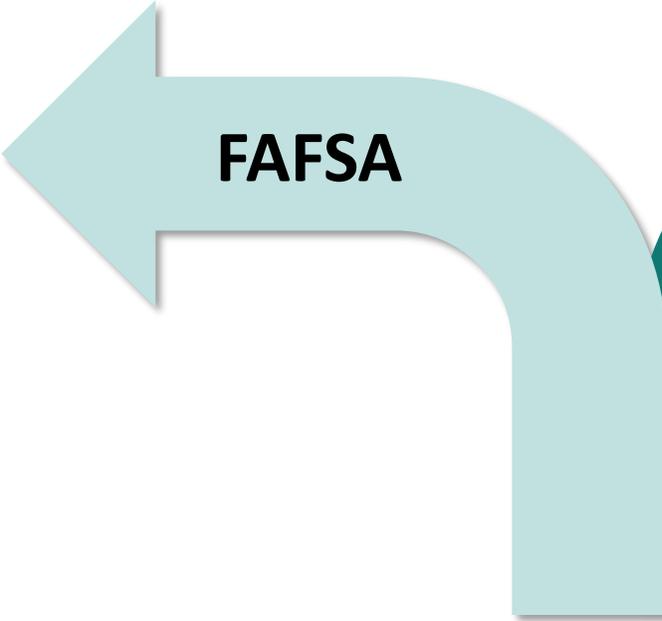
You must log into the to Portal to accept your award(s).

FAFSA/ORSAA

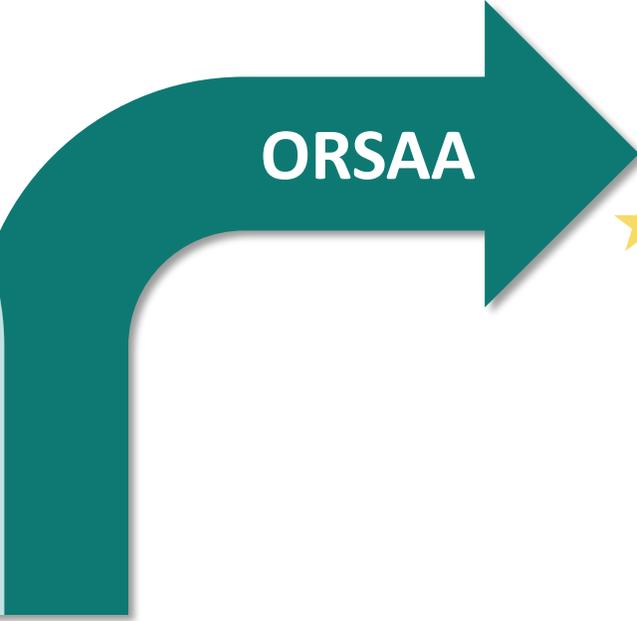
If you are unsure which form to complete, use the OSAC FAFSA/ORSAA filter tool

FAFSA:

- ★ Opens December 1st for all students*
- U.S. Citizens or eligible non-citizens
- Used to access Federal and State financial aid, and many scholarships



FAFSA



ORSAA

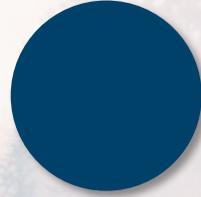
ORSAA:

- ★ Est. to open in December 2024
- Oregon students who are undocumented, or have DACA/TPS status
- Used to access state financial aid, and many scholarships

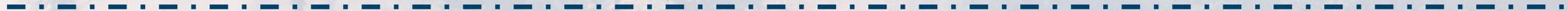
* Some students may be able to start a FAFSA as early as Oct 1 during the U.S. Department of Education beta testing

Special Situations

Early Graduates

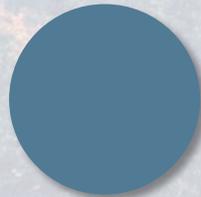


If a transcript says the wrong class year or Grade 11, then OSAC will flag and/or reject the app during review. OSAC will seek confirmation from HS staff that the student is on track to graduate early. *(Tip: HS staff can proactively email OSAC with a list of confirmed early graduates.)*



Student Names

(Prior Names, Preferred Names, Multiple Last Names, etc.)

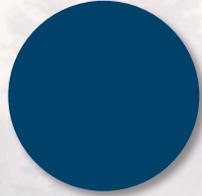


Students should use their *full legal name* on the application. They can enter additional names at any time (in Profile) which will help OSAC confirm & match to their transcript.

The app will likely be rejected if the HS (or college) transcript shows a student first/last name that does NOT match *any* names listed in their Profile. *Options: Student can add revise or add names in their Profile, or HS can provide an updated transcript to match their legal name.*

Special Situations

High School Students with College Coursework



- High school seniors are encouraged (but not required) to include this info in their College History section (school name, start and end date, etc.).
- The college transcript(s) is optional for these students.

International Students



- International students are not eligible to apply for OSAC Scholarships or Grants.
- This includes students who are in the US with a valid visa or immigration status, such as: *A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P, Q, R, S, TN, TD, U, V, TROV, or NATO.*

Mark Your Calendars

OSAC Scholarship - March Timeline



March 10, 2025

Deadline for Appeal Requests

For students who encountered a significant barrier to submitting by the March 3 deadline



March 14, 2025

High School Staff - Transcript Upload

HS staff are encouraged to upload transcripts by this date on behalf of students in OSAC Partner Portal



March 31, 2025

Corrections Deadline

Final date for students with a rejected app to submit corrections (*transcripts*).

NOTE: FAFSA/ORSAA timeline & the OSAC Scholarship process

Rejected Apps: Corrections

- Student will receive an email notice if their application is rejected. (They may receive reminder email(s) from OSAC about the rejected status of their app.)
- *Make corrections early!* An application may be rejected multiple times. When a student makes timely corrections, this gives OSAC time to review the app again and notify the student of any further required corrections. When the student makes corrections, they will be in a “*pending*” status so that OSAC can review the app again. This may take a few weeks or longer, depending on timing.
- When students (or HS staff) delay and provide updated transcripts *after March 3*, they risk not being considered for certain scholarships during the selection process.
- *Help your students:* If they are confused about their status and/or required corrections, help them *read the instructions carefully* in the OSAC Student Portal. Applicants can always contact OSAC for clarification.

Goal = VALID application

Partner Portal - Uploading Transcripts

This task is generally for high school registrars or other staff who have direct access to student transcripts.

**To request an account for yourself or another staff member
– or if you need login or account reactivation help:**

Contact PartnerPortalSupport@hecc.oregon.gov

Partner Portal - Uploading Transcripts

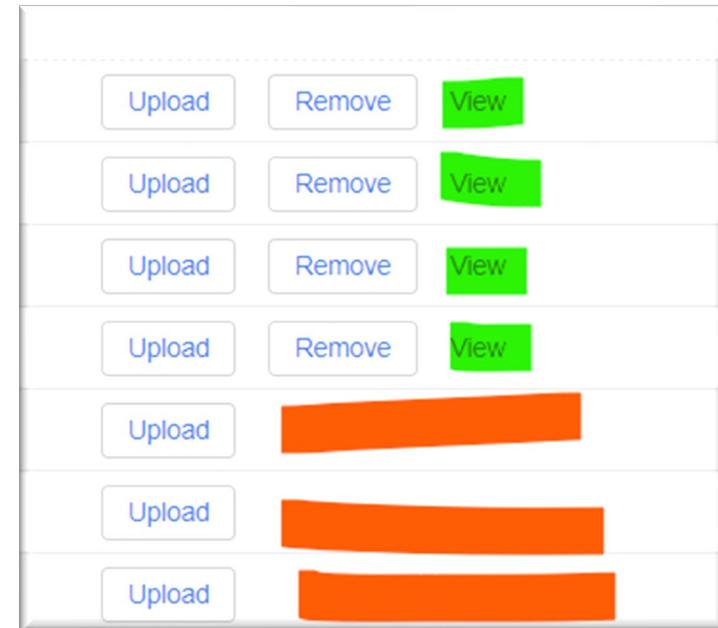
Review Status in Partner Portal	Meaning	Suggested Action(s) for HS Registrar
App Not Submitted	<i>Student has started the application</i>	Upload transcript for the student (if you have not done so already)
App Submitted – Awaiting Review	<i>Student has submitted app. OSAC has not reviewed it yet.</i>	Upload transcript for the student (if you have not done so already)
Review: Transcript(s) Rejected	<i>OSAC has rejected the app based on one or more issues. The app may be in a “pending” re-review status.</i>	Upload transcript for the student and wait. If status remains rejected for more than 2-3 weeks and/or close to the corrections deadline, talk with the student. The student can view more details in their Student Portal account.
Transcript(s) Valid	<i>Application is complete; all transcripts have been accepted</i>	No action necessary

Partner Portal - Uploading Transcripts

How can you tell whether you have already uploaded the transcript for an applicant?

UPLOAD Button only » You have not uploaded a transcript for this student. (Unless review status is already VALID, you should upload a transcript for the student.)

REMOVE / VIEW Buttons » You have already uploaded a transcript. (If app is rejected, you can upload a new transcript.)



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OregonStudentAid



@OSAC

Contact the Scholarship Team:

HECC_OSACAwardInfo@hecc.oregon.gov

(541) 687-7400, Option #1

More information at: OregonStudentAid.Gov



Quick
Survey

Complete a brief survey:

(Presentation Name: Scholarships 101)



More information at: OregonStudentAid.Gov