The OSAC App Process & Interview – Podcast Transcript

Opening:

Hi, I'm Merinda Pulver, for the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, also called OSAC for short.

Today, I am going to talk about the OSAC Scholarship application process using the OSAC electronic application, commonly called the eApp, and talk with Kristin Vreeland who recently completed her OSAC eApp.

Body:

Before we get started with the interview, here are some important facts to know.
- There are over 400 scholarships that you can apply for online using the OSAC eApp!
- The OSAC scholarship application process starts in early September, with the distribution of materials to schools and public libraries.
- eApps are filed online through www.GetCollegeFunds.org, however if you cannot access the internet at your home or school, there is a paper option that can be mailed in.
- There are five major parts to the eApp:
  the personal information section, the school information section, an activities chart, four personal statements, and the transcripts section.
  - ➢ If you are a high school student, your transcript needs to have grades for all coursework – all years; from freshman year until the end of your first semester, trimester, or first two quarters of senior year. Providing an incomplete transcript is the number one mistake made by applicants, and can result in the rejection of your application.
  - ➢ If you are a college student, your transcript must include all college coursework with grades and credits through the most recent or current fall term. Transfer credits must be itemized for any classes taken after high school.
- You can stay in touch on the progress of your scholarship application by tracking it on line. You'll learn how to do this when you complete the application. OSAC will not follow up with you other than updating your online portal. *You* are responsible for tracking your eApp status online and making any necessary corrections by the final deadline.
- You can compete for as many as twenty scholarships using the eApp.
- If you apply with a complete and error-free eApp by the Early Bird Deadline in mid-February, you are automatically eligible for the $500 scholarship drawing!
- After submitting your eApp, track the status by logging onto your e-Student Profile at www.OregonStudentAid.gov . If the status says "Valid eApp Accepted" then you are complete, but if it reads "eApp Problem", correct the problem and submit by the deadline in the message.
  - ➢ You should check often until your status is valid because you will be able to correct errors through the final deadline

- Once your eApp is submitted, you have the ability to logon and change your personal contact info, college choice, and major. You cannot add or subtract the scholarships you applied for or make changes to your Activities Chart or Personal Statements.

With us today is Kristin Vreeland, who recently completed the eApp. We're glad to have you with us today Kristin. *(Kristin replies)*

- How did you feel going through the application process?
  (Kristin replies)
  I felt well organized. Based on how I answered questions, the eApp indicated the documents I needed. As I added scholarships, there were bright red reminders about the additional essays and references required. The eApp helped me figure out which documents were required and reminded me so I did not forget anything.

- Did you apply for only scholarships you felt you had a chance at getting or did you apply for as many as you qualified for?
  (Kristin replies)
  I am a busy mother who works full time, so I chose to apply for one scholarship that required an additional essay and all others I qualified for that did not require anything extra. I know that fewer applicants apply if there is an additional essay required.

- Did you use the eApp scholarship filters to find scholarships easier?
  (Kristin replies)
  Yes! Since I am a GED student it helped me weed out a lot of the scholarships that I was not eligible for. I also used the control F feature to search for key words.

- How did you find out about the OSAC scholarship opportunities?
  (Kristin replies)
  I found out about the eApp when I attended College Goal Oregon. My younger brother found out about the eApp through the ASPIRE program at his high school. OSAC also increases awareness through face book and twitter.

- Are you happy that you had the opportunity to use one application for many scholarships?
  (Kristin replies)
  Of course I am happy. I would not have had the time to fill out 7 different applications and with the new Snapp feature I can save my information as an SDS file and use it to apply for other scholarships.

- Will you apply in future years?
  (Kristin replies)
  Yes, I intend to apply every year I go to college. And since I can start next year's application now, I will apply for more scholarships that require additional essays.

- Do you have any advice for future applicants?
  (Kristin replies)
  Yes, start early and submit by the early bird deadline. Apply for scholarships that require additional essays and upload your transcripts if you can.

Conclusion:

Thank you Kristin for sharing your experience filing the OSAC eApp with us.

Here are some final ideas to keep thinking about:

- Applications are created and refreshed each year online.

- You are responsible for making sure materials are received and errors are corrected by the deadlines.

- Make sure transcripts are correct, many people run into errors because their transcript does not have the correct information needed.

- The only changes that can be made after submitting are changes to your personal contact info, college choice, and major.

- Apply for any scholarships you qualify for, even if you feel like you do not have a chance, you will never know unless you try!

Closing:

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important topic. If you would like more information, please log on www.OregonStudentAid.gov . From all of us here at the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, this is Merinda Pulver. We look forward to helping you again soon.