A Testimonial of the OSAC Scholarship App Experience – Podcast Transcript

Introduction

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

Today I am going to talk to you about my experience with the OSAC scholarship application, also known as the eApp.

Body

I found out about the OSAC eApp when I started working at OSAC. You can imagine how excited I was when I discovered that I could apply for up to 20 out of over 400 scholarships with just one application.

Right away I went to work creating an e-student profile and perusing the online scholarship catalog. It was late November and I wanted to get my application in by the early bird deadline.

As I entered information about my educational background, I was required to provide transcripts. The great news was that they did not have to be official copies and that I could upload them myself. All I had to do was scan and save a copy of my transcript as a PDF file. I selected the option to upload my transcript and browsed my computer files to find and select the PDF version of my transcript. Once I selected the PDF it uploaded and I could view it in my eApp.

The personal statement portion of the eApp gave me a chance to tell my story to the selection committees that decide who to award the scholarships to. Writing the personal essays helped me to highlight my personal strengths and stand out in my uniqueness.

After filling out all of my personal and educational background information it was time to decide which scholarships to apply for. The search filters worked great! I entered search criteria based on my personal situation and the list it generated had some great scholarships to apply for. I did have to sort and sift through the available scholarships, but in the end I feel that the scholarships I applied for are the ones I have the best chance of receiving.

When it came time to submit my application I knew that it was complete because all of the red warnings about missing documents or references were gone. Just to be safe, I printed out a paper copy of my application to make sure that my personal statements and essays were complete, and not cut short due to character or word limitations. I triple checked that I had the correct transcripts and that they were all legible. After that I finally submitted my eApp with plenty of time before the deadline. Complete eApps submitted by the Early Bird deadline are eligible for a \$500 scholarship drawing, but the best part is the early review, which gave me an extra 10 days to fix any problems with my transcripts!

Conclusion

I have been checking my eApp online to see if I have been awarded any scholarships, but I have not found out whether or not I have been awarded any yet. If I am awarded any, I intend to write the donors and thank them. If I am not awarded any scholarships this year I will still apply next year because it is a great opportunity to receive financial aid for college, and since I've created an eApp, it's much easier and faster to refresh it every year, as long as I'm in school.

Closing

Thank you for taking the time to learn about this important topic. For more podcast topics, please visit our website at www.OregonStudentAid.gov. From all of us here at the Oregon Student Assistance Commission, this is Kristin Vreeland. We look forward to helping you again soon.