2027-2028
PCC Foundation Scholarships

Portland Community College Foundation

PCC Foundation Scholarships

- scholarships@pcc.edu
- https://www.pcc.edu/scholarship-workshops
- https://www.pcc.edu/enroll/paying-for-college/scholarships/

Covering today

- Other Scholarship Opportunities
- OSAC (Scholarships & Grants)
- PCC Foundation Scholarship
  - Overview of the application
  - How PCC Foundation scholarships and other Financial Aid work together
  - What are we looking for and what makes a competitive application (including essay questions)

Other Scholarship Opportunities

- National Level
  - Cappex.com, scholarships.com, fastweb.com
- College & State Level
  - OSAC
  - College Scholarships (PCC, PSU, etc.)
- Local Level
  - County
  - City
  - High School

Vetted Private Scholarships available to PCC students

- Private Scholarship List
  - Deadlines throughout the year
  - Specific categories
    - General
    - By Major
    - By Hobby
    - Multicultural Scholarships
    - DACA/DREAMer Scholarships
    - International Student Scholarships
    - Study Abroad Scholarships
    - Veteran Scholarships
    - LGBTQIA+ Scholarships
    - Women Scholarships
    - After Associates Degree Scholarships

OSAC (Office of Student Access and Completion) Other scholarship opportunities

- www.oregonstudentaid.gov



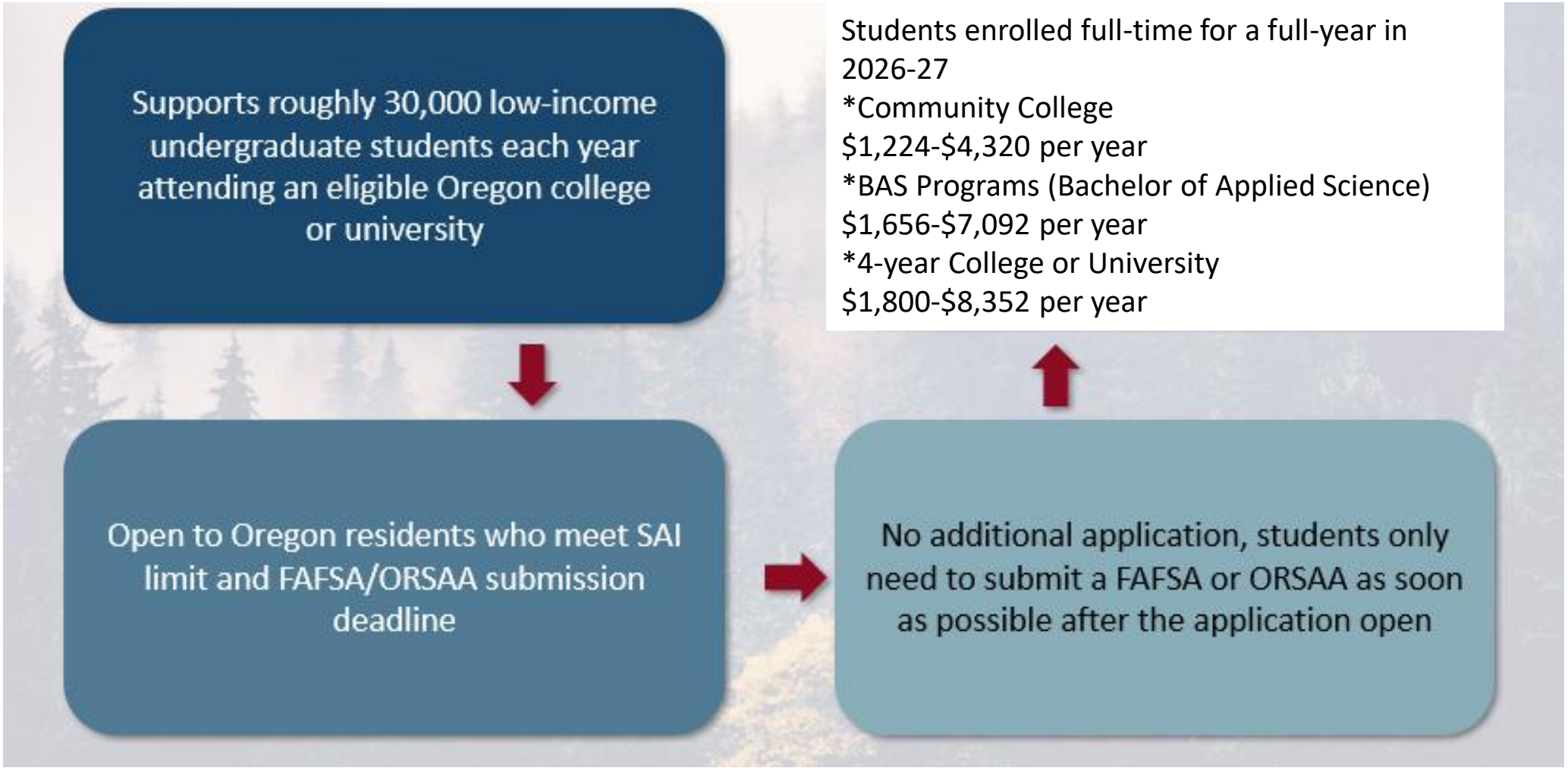
OSAC

- www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- Grants:
  - Oregon Opportunity Grant
  - Oregon Promise Grant
  - Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance
  - Oregon Tribal Student Grant
  - Several other categories, as well

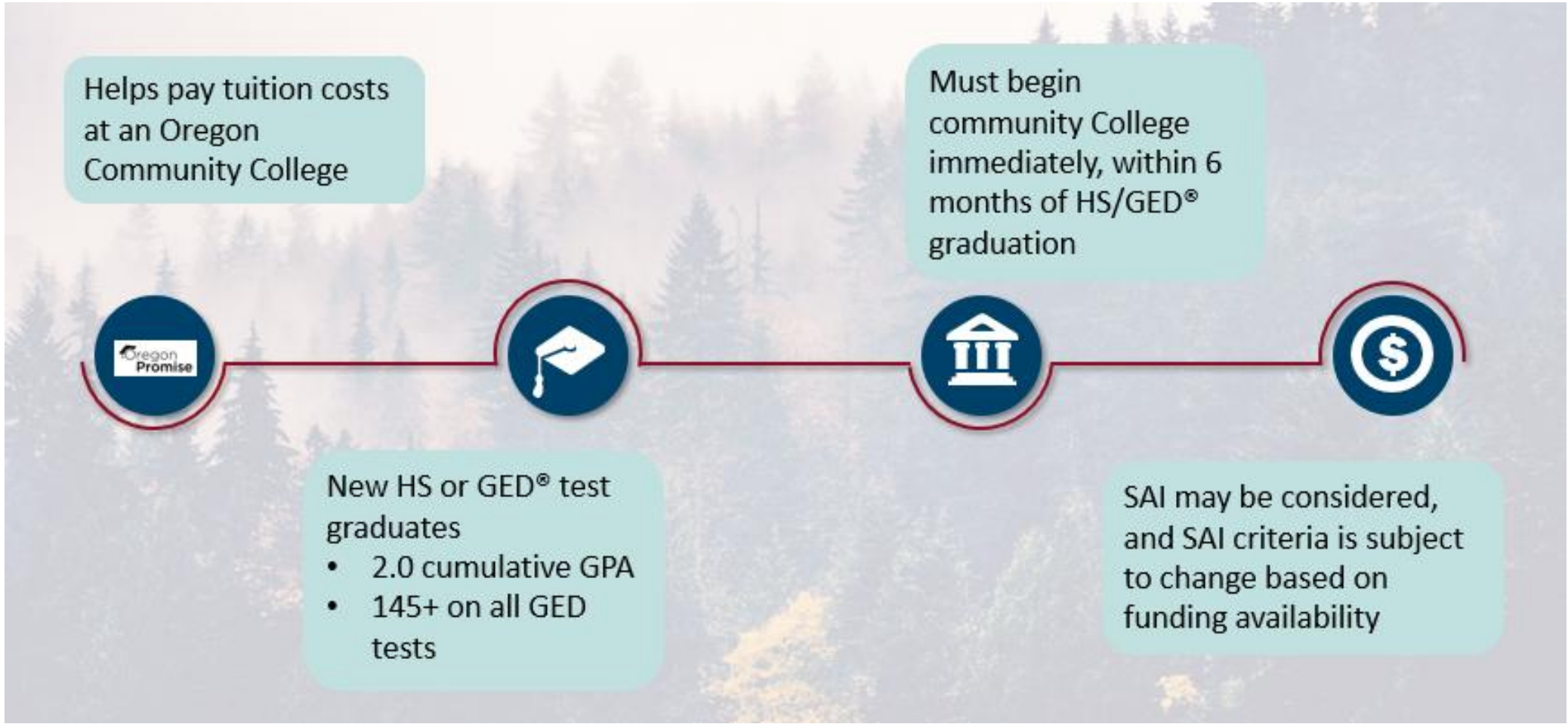
OSAC

- www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- Available for:
  - Current high school
  - Current college students
  - Foster youth
  - Students with disabilities
  - Oregon Promise Grant
  - Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance

Oregon Opportunity Grant



Oregon Promise Grant



Oregon Promise

Find Your Deadline:



Deadline is 11:59 pm (PST or PDT). If deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it automatically extends to the following business day.

I am graduating from:	I am graduating during this time:	DEADLINE to complete both: Oregon Promise App. & FAFSA or ORSAA	You must start community college by this term:
High School or Home School	March 1 – June 30	**June 1**	Fall
	July 1 – Nov. 30	Nov. 1	Winter
	Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	Feb. 1	Spring
GED® Program	March 1 – June 30	**July 10**	Fall
	July 1 – Nov. 30	Dec. 10	Winter
	Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	March 10	Spring

Oregon Promise Grant

* List at least one community college on the application
* Chart below is for the 2026-27 academic year

Student Aid Index (SAI)	Community College Award Amount	Community College BAS Program Award Amount	4- Year Institutions Award Amount
-1500 - 0	$4,320	$7,092	$8,352
1-1,000	$4,032	$6,552	$7,704
1,001-2,000	$3,528	$5,760	$6,768
2,001-3,000	$3,240	$5,256	$6,120
3,001-4,000	$2,763	$4,320	$5,040
4,001-5,000	$2,268	$3,492	$4,032
5,001-6,000	$1,620	$2,412	$2,664
6,001-7,000	$1,332	$1,836	$2,088
7,001-8,000	$1,224	$1,656	$1,800

Oregon Promise

- After all tuition and fees is paid, it can be partially refunded for other expenses
  - How that can work since it only covers 80%? (Scholarships! If you have a scholarship that pays part of your tuition/fees, it can free up some of your Oregon Promise grant)
- Up to 90 college credits
- Must renew for the second year
- Must be enrolled in at least 6 credits per term
- Cannot be used during summer term

PCC Foundation Scholarship Application

- One application = 250+ scholarships
- Over 1,950 recipients in 2026-2027
- Over $3 million dollars in 2026-2027
- Awards range from $500-$6,000 per year
- Average award is ~$1,800 ($600/term)

PCC Foundation Application Cycle

- PCC Foundation Scholarship Application opens 11/1/2026
- Deadline for *most* scholarships is 2/1/2026
- No preference for completing early
- Student notifications start early June through their PCC email
  (awards offered all summer, watch your email!)

Making Scholarships More Equitable & Accessible

- Essays; two (2) required on General Application
- Reference
  - No reference for the **General Application** (some apply-to/recommended still have a reference requirement)
- Late Incoming High School Cycle
  - Late Incoming High School Cycle: May 1st-15th
  - This is only for one fund, students who submit by February 1st, will be considered for all PCC Foundation scholarships

PCC Foundation Scholarships can pay for:

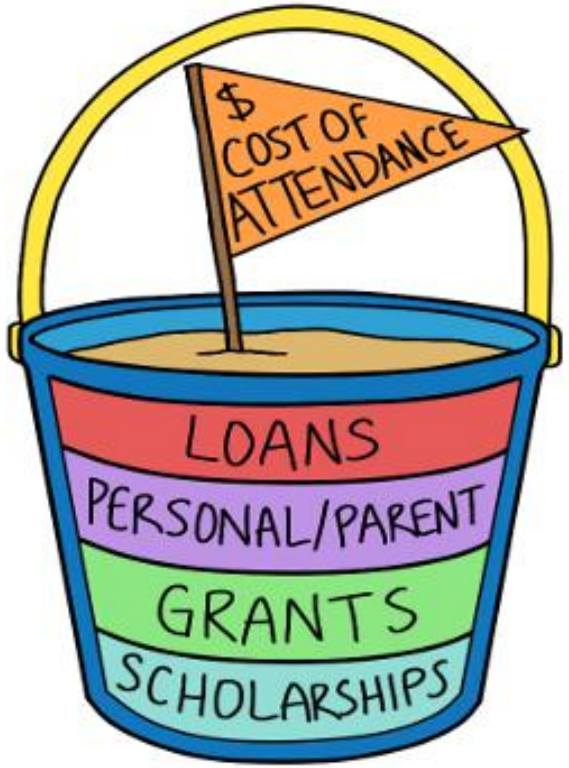
- PCC tuition
- PCC fees
- Books through the PCC Bookstore
- Some other educational expenses/equipment

Eligibility for PCC Foundation Scholarships

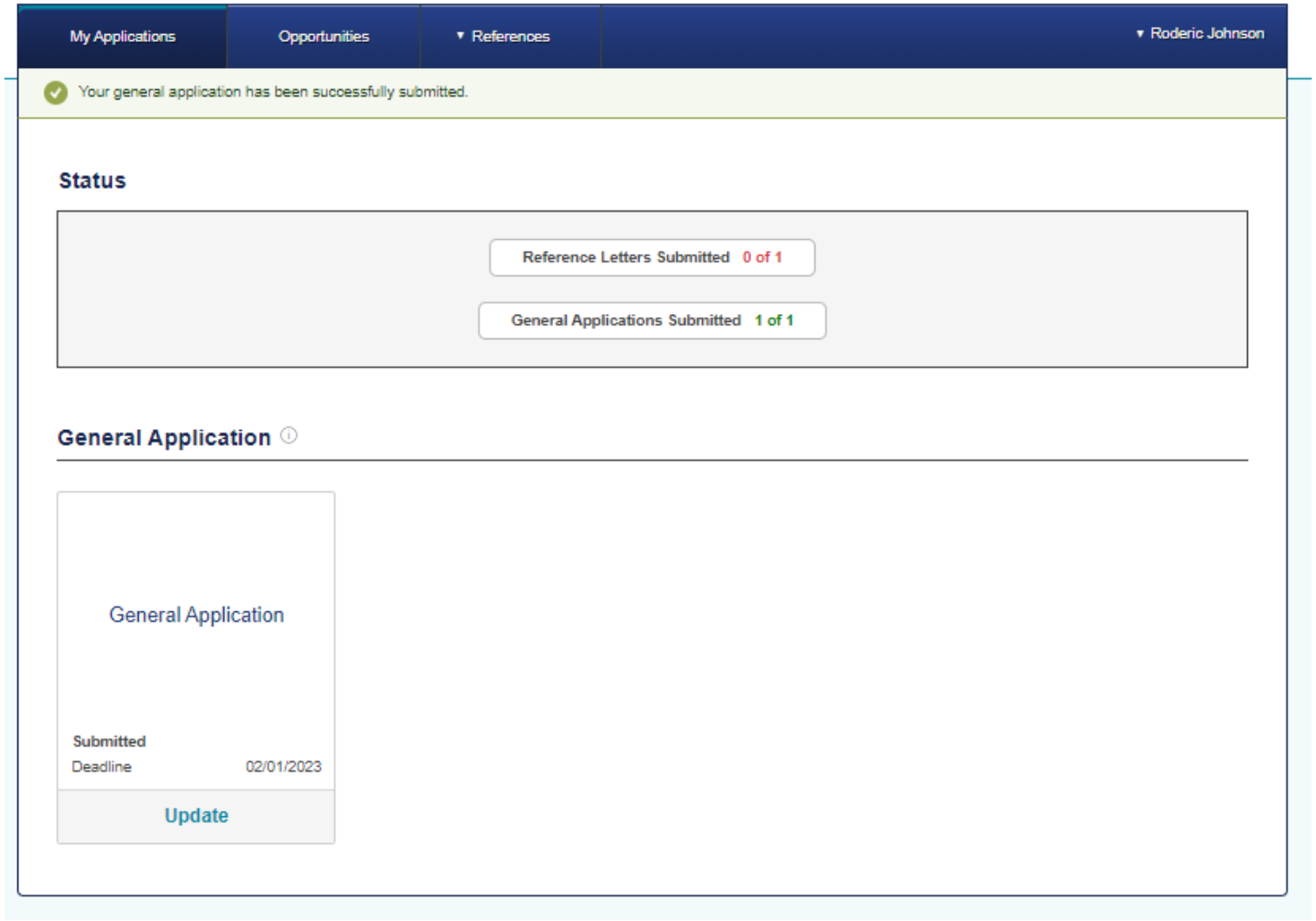
- Funding available for:
  - Summer 2027 – Spring 2028 academic year
- 2.0 minimum GPA
  - If GPA is lower, you are still encouraged to apply
- PCC Foundation scholarships may have enrollment requirements (list intended enrollment):
  - 6 credits is half-time per term
  - 9 credits is three-quarter per term
  - 12+ is full-time per term

How do scholarships work with other types of Financial Aid?

- Think of your tuition and costs as a bucket. Then you fill it with free money first, then what you can pay and finally, loans. Understand loans before you take them (subsidized vs. unsubsidized) and repayment plans.

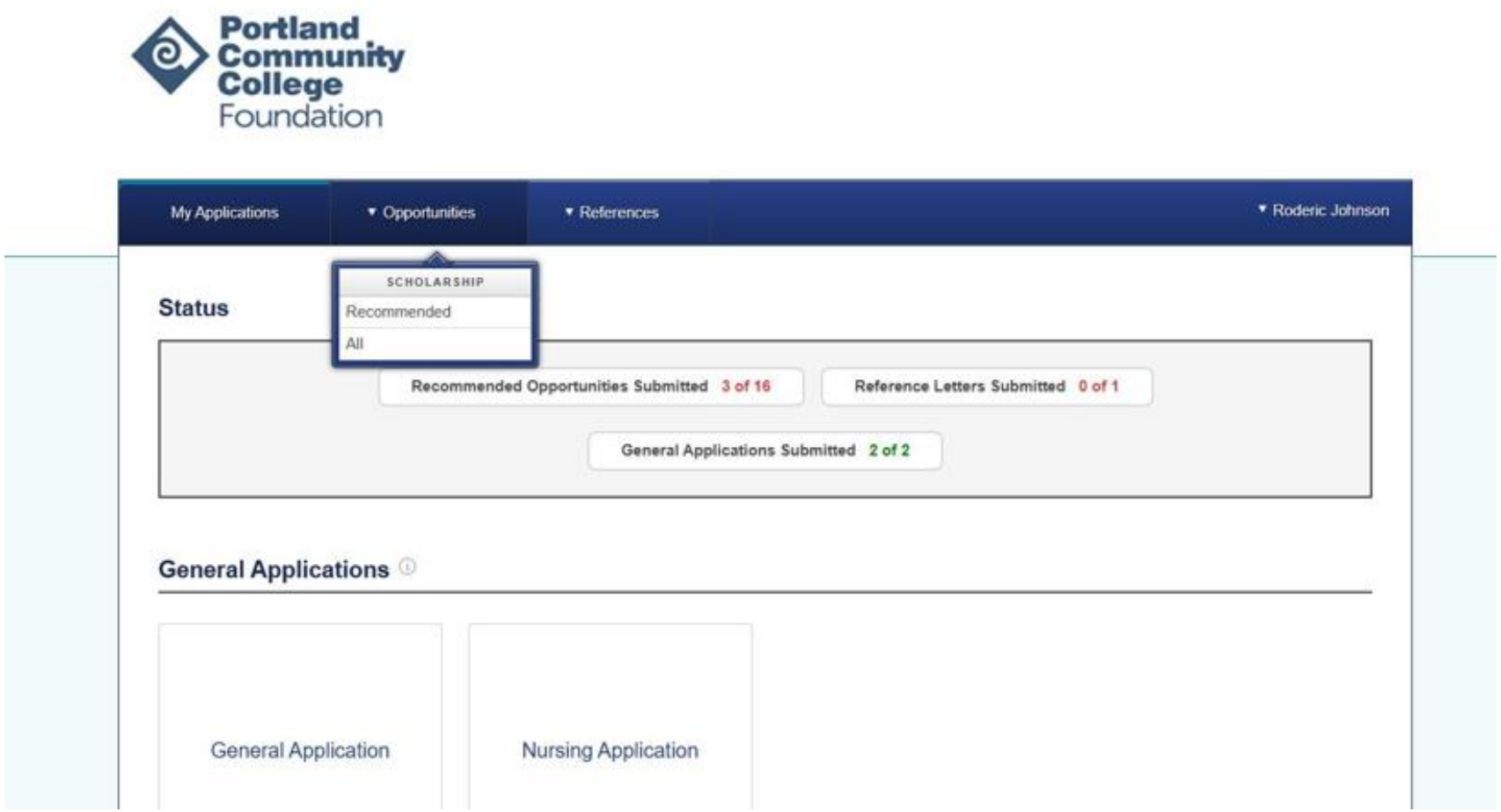


Your dashboard in the scholarship system



Your dashboard in the scholarship system

Recommended or apply-to scholarship opportunities



What are we looking for in your application?

- Scholarship reviewers are looking at the whole student
  - Career goal
  - Educational plan
  - Inspiration for your studies
  - Major
  - GPA
  - Relevant work or volunteer experience
  - No reference for general application
    - Some “apply-to/recommended” opportunities may require one

Scholarship application pieces

- PCC Admission
- Online orientation
- Mostly check box and short answer questions
- Two (2) Essays on General Application
- Financial documentation (if you want to be considered for scholarships with financial need as criteria:
  - FAFSA
  - ORSAA
  - Financial Worksheet (F-1 or J-1 Visa, International students only)

You can work on these steps anytime during the application cycle, not necessarily in order.

Remember to resubmit/update each time you finish working on your application!

Admission to PCC

- Must be admitted: www.pcc.edu/admissions
- Online orientation must be completed before PCC credentials fully activated (G# and email)
  - Admission and orientation can take up-to two (2) weeks for processing. Start the process early!
- PCC Foundation Scholarships
  - Can only pay for classes taken at PCC
- If considering other institutions, apply for their scholarship opportunities!

General Application Questions

- PCC Foundation General Application
  - **Auto-match (200+ individual funds)**
    - Short answer
    - Check boxes
    - Two (2) essays questions
  - **Recommended/Apply-to scholarships**
    (50+ individual funds with additional information required)
    - Recommended list generated based on your General Application answers
    - All recommended/apply-to scholarship list available
      - If you meet the criteria and provide the additional information required, you will be considered for those scholarships.

Financial Need Documentation

- FAFSA or ORSAA
- Complete as soon as you can:
  - FAFSA
  - ORSAA
- PCC Foundation will receive the results from your student record in Financial Aid

- Financial Worksheet **(International students only)**
- Financial Worksheet
- Fill it out
- Upload to your general scholarship application

Apply-to or Recommended opportunities

- **Recommended/Apply-to scholarships**
  (50+ individual funds with additional information required)
  - Recommended/Apply-to list generated based on your General Application answers when you submit
  - All recommended/apply-to scholarship list available
    - If you meet the criteria and provide the additional information required, you will be considered for those scholarships.
  - Smaller application pools mean less competition!

Reviewing/Scoring your essays

- Paid scholarship readers
- Trained to use rubric to score essays
- Each application is read by two (2) different readers
  - The 2 scores are averaged
  - Initial placement in scholarship pools
- PCC Foundation Scholarship Program Officer
  - Reviews the entire application
  - Confirms eligibility based on criteria
  - Confirms academic record & grad plan
    - Make sure to keep program/major up-to-date in student record
- Apply-to/Recommended scholarship pools
  - Some are narrowed to a finalist pool and reviewed by appointed committees

AI use is prohibited

- **Your essays are an opportunity to share your experiences and tell us more about yourself.**
- **The strongest essays are those that authentically reflect your own experiences and perspectives.**
- **Trained readers will evaluate your essays based on how thoughtfully and completely you answer each essay prompt, focusing on the content rather than your writing style.**
- **Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is prohibited. Because we want to hear directly from you, the PCC Foundation does not allow the use of AI tools for any part of your scholarship application, including all essays. AI tools include, but are not limited to, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Grammarly, and other advanced text-generation AI tools.**
- **The PCC Foundation will be using an AI detection tool to monitor all submissions. Please review the PCC Foundation AI Guideline before submitting your application.**
- **The guideline explains what happens if AI use is suspected in your application.**

General Application Essay Questions

- PCC Foundation
  - 350 word limit
  - Use Word/Google docs
  - Save essays to copy and paste into application
  - Get feedback on your essays!
    - Writing Centers
    - Tutoring Centers
    - Advisor or Teachers
    - Peer Mentors
    - Scholarship workshops
    - Scholarship help sessions
    - Take CG105: Scholarships: $$ for College (2 credits)

College and career essay (No AI)

Explain your career goals and your education plan to meet those goals. What inspired you to choose this field of study and career?

- Detailed career goal
- Clear educational plan
- Inspiration

Strength essay (No AI)

- What is your greatest strength or characteristic and why? How has this strength benefitted you? How will this strength help you to succeed at PCC?
  - Focus on one strength
  - What about this quality or characteristic makes it a strength (provide examples)
  - How will this characteristic help you to succeed at PCC?

Final tips

- Make sure your PCC email is typed correctly on the application
- Answer as many of the questions as you can on the general application, this is how the system builds apply-to/recommended list
- Be detailed
- No texting language
- Be personal
- Don’t talk about too many topics
- Start early and submit ahead of the deadline!
- If an apply-to/recommended opportunity has reference requirement, it must also be submitted before the deadline
- Use the PCC resources available for your essays

***We do not accept late materials or review incomplete applications**

PCC Foundation Scholarships

- scholarships@pcc.edu
- pcc.edu/scholarship-workshops
- http://www.pcc.edu/scholarship-guide

Keep applying!

- Apply each year
  - If you are going to be dual enrolled or planning to transfer, look for scholarships at the other institution
- Keep copy of essays
  - Instead of starting over, you can update or refresh for the next application cycle
- If you are not selected, try again!
  - Applying for scholarships is a skill that you can develop

Questions?