

Scholarship Resources Handout

Our Career Services staff can answer general questions you have about the scholarship process, and will help you learn how to locate the following scholarship resources:

STEP 1: Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Financial Student Aid) if eligible: Most scholarships require a completed FAFSA to determine financial need. Next school year's FAFSA is available on **October 1st** – www.fafsa.ed.gov
Apply early each year to get the most free money (Oregon Opportunity Grant, Work Study, etc)!

STEP 2: APPLY FOR...

PCC Foundation Scholarship Application

Offers over 400 scholarships (\$1.5 million a year) for PCC students. *Average award is \$1500, but vary from \$500 to \$5000 a year. The online scholarship application opens December 1. Applications will be due **March 1** at 11:59pm. www.pcc.edu/scholarships

**If you applied last year and would like feedback on your application, please email scholarships@pcc.edu*

Oregon Student Access & Completion (OSAC) Scholarship Application

Administers over 600+ private Oregon scholarships (\$17 million annually)! Online application available on November 1. Early Bird Deadline is **February 18, 2020**. Final Deadline is **March 2, 2020** at 5pm.

www.oregonstudentaid.gov

- Includes Oregon's largest private scholarship (the Ford), which pays 90% of a student's unmet need: Ford Opportunity (single parent), Ford Restart (25 or older), and Ford Scholar (transfer).
- Oregon Student Child Care Grant

University Scholarships for Transfer Students

If you intend to transfer to a university, check out the scholarship page on the university website. There are many scholarships to look for such as scholarships for transfer students, scholarships for certain majors, diversity scholarships...and more. Many Oregon universities have a **February deadline** for the following academic year.

STEP 3: FIND MORE SCHOLARSHIPS...

Financial Aid Sort in MyPCC:

1. Log into your MyPCC Account 2. Select My Courses Tab 3. Select Oregon CIS program (on far right side of page) 4. Select Explore Resources 5. Select Education & Training 6. Select Scholarship Sort under Tools for Scholarships

Career Services Scholarship List & Reference Books

Available in the Career Services Library and on our Google Drive Page (see staff for help)

Additional Sources of Scholarships:

Find a professional Association based on your career goals and check for scholarships. (i.e: Society of Women Engineers); also search for corporate sponsors, employers, religious groups, unions, clubs, political parties, etc.

Scholarship Search Engines on the Internet:

These services ask users to fill out a profile, and then they match users with scholarships that match their skills, interests, and other characteristics.

1. www.fastweb.com Search for scholarships based on specific characteristics
2. www.collegeboard.org Click on students; click on Get Help Paying for College; click on Search for Scholarships
3. www.finaid.org Comprehensive site with dozens of useful financial aid-related calculators

STEP 4: USE PCC's RESOURCES!

□ PCC Scholarship Class

CG 105/WR105 Scholarships: Finding \$\$ for College. Learn to search scholarships, prepare applications, and write well-crafted scholarship essays. Offered on campus and online.

□ Attend a Scholarship Workshop

These sessions are offered by a variety of departments such as the PCC Foundation, the Career Center and the Women's Resource Center. *Ask about upcoming workshop dates.*

□ PCC Panther-Tracks Scholarship Guide

Review this website to learn about the scholarship process and the scholarship cycle.
<http://www.pcc.edu/resources/panther-tracks/your-scholarship-application-guide/>.

□ Visit the Writing Center (Student Learning Center) to get help with scholarship essays:

You can schedule an appointment online at www.pcc.edu/writing

You may also use our in-person or online tutoring service (writing) at: www.pcc.edu/tutoring

PCC Essays:

Each essay can be up to 350 words. (Some scholarships will ask for additional essays on the application.)

Essay

1. What is your career goal and educational plan to meet this goal? What inspired you to choose this field of study and career?
2. Describe a significant challenge or change that has occurred in your life in the last ten year. How did you respond and what did you learn about yourself?
3. What have you done for your family or community that you care about the most and why?

OSAC Essay Questions:

Must be 1,000 characters in length (about 225 words).

1. What are your specific educational plans and career goals and why? What inspires you to achieve them?
2. What have you done for your family or community that you care about the most and why?
3. Describe a personal accomplishment and the strengths and skills you used to achieve it.
4. Describe a significant change or experience that has occurred in your life. How did you respond and what did you learn about yourself?

Other Resources

□ Student Savings Account (matches your savings 1 to 3)

Each \$1 saved is matched by \$3 in matching funds. Savers can use their IDA funds to help pay for college tuition, start or expand a small business, buy a home, or purchase a car, computer, or training to help achieve employment goals. www.oregonidainitiative.org

□ National Student Loan Data System

How much loan debt do you have overall and how do you manage it? This tool is helpful.

www.nslds.ed.gov

□ IBR Info

Need help learning about student loan repayment options? www.ibrinfo.org

Questions? Contact Career Services at PCC SE Campus (971) 722-6036 or secareer@pcc.edu