

Scholarship Resources Handout

STEP 1: Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Financial Student Aid) if eligible: Most scholarships require a completed FAFSA to determine financial need. You need to renew your FAFSA each starting 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 255 scholarships (\$2.20 million a year) for PCC students. *Average award is \$1800, but varies from \$700 to \$5000 a year. The online scholarship application opens November 1st. [Applications](#) are due **February 1** at **11:59pm**. www.pcc.edu/scholarships

Oregon Student Access & Completion (OSAC) Scholarship Application

Administers over 600+ private Oregon scholarships (\$10 million annually)! Online application available on November 1. Early Bird Deadline is February 15. Final Deadline is **March 1** at **5pm**.

www.oregonstudentaid.gov

➤ Oregon Student Child Care Grant is also available through OSAC

Ford Family Foundation Scholarship (nearly a full-ride scholarship covering the majority of your college costs)

Apply for Oregon's largest private scholarship, which pays up to 90% of unmet financial need with a limit of \$40,000 per year (renewable each year). There are three: Ford Opportunity (parents of any age **OR** adult learners 25 years or older), Ford Transfer (rural HS grad **OR** current rural community college student), & Ford Scholar (HS or GED student). Opens Nov 1. Deadline is **March 1** at **5pm**. www.tfff.org

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**.

Phi Theta Kappa Scholarships (PCC's Honor Society)

Scholarships are the #1 reason students join PTK. To qualify, students must have achieved a 3.5 cumulative GPA or higher and at least 12 credits completed in college level coursework. PTK offers nearly \$1 million in scholarships to help complete an associate degree or prepare for transfer to a four-year college. Fall deadline is **December 1, 2021**, and Spring deadline is TBA. There is a one lifetime membership fee of \$100. Memberships are awarded on a first-come-first serve basis each term. Learn more about PTK scholarships via this [webinar](#) and further [details here](#).

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](#)

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 and Scholarship Essay Writing(4 credits). Learn to search scholarships, prepare applications, and write well-crafted scholarship essays. See an academic advisor about how it fits in your academic plan.

Attend a Scholarship Workshop

These sessions are offered by a variety of departments such as the PCC Foundation and the Career 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 ask for additional essays to be considered)

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. What is your greatest strength or characteristic and how will this help you to be successful at PCC?

Ford Family Foundation Essays (150 words each)

1. What have you done for your family or community that you care about the most and why? Provide specific examples.
2. Describe a topic, idea or concept you find so engaging it makes you lose track of time. Why does it interest you and what do you do when you want to learn more?
-or-
Describe a skill or ability you have developed that you are proud of. How did you develop it and why is it important to you?
3. What are you known for among people who know you well? What would you like to be known for and how will college help you achieve that?
-or-
Think of the place(s) you grew up or consider home. What lessons have you learned living there and how have they shaped who you are today?

OSAC Essays: 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?

PCC Foundation, OSAC and Ford Family Foundation Comparison Chart

PCC Foundation	OSAC	Ford Family Foundation
Application Opens: November 1	Application Opens: November 1	Application Opens: November 1
Deadline is February 1 @ 11:59pm	Deadline is March 1 @ 5:00pm	Deadline is March 1 @ 5:00pm
Students notified: Early June	Students notified: April-August https://oregonstudentaid.gov/	Students notified: Finalist interviews notified by May 1. Awardees are notified by June 1st.
PCC Awards more than \$2.25 million in scholarships annually. PCC administers over 250 types of scholarships.	OSAC Awards more than \$10 million in scholarships annually to Oregon Residents. OSAC administers more than 600 scholarship programs	Ford Awards approximately \$12 million annually across five programs
Award Amount: Varies, depending on scholarship. Can range from \$700-\$5000. Average Award is \$1,800	Award Amount: Varies, depending on the scholarship program. Can range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 or more	Award Amount: Need-based award of up to 90% of the recipient's unmet financial need with a limit of \$40,000 per year. (Minimum of \$1,000/Maximum of \$40,000)
Scholarships can be applied to: Summer 2022-Spring 2023 terms. Student must be 6 or more credits once they get the scholarship (not when they apply).	Scholarships can be applied to: Fall 2022-Spring 2023 terms	Scholarships can be applied to: Fall 2022-Spring 2023 terms
On average 30-40% of those who fully complete a PCC Foundation Scholarship get a scholarship?	Can compete/apply for up to 40 scholarships. Program will match you with your major and FAFSA/ORSA information.	~1400 eligible applications were submitted for 231 awards across 4 scholarship programs in 2021
Eligibility: Recommended 2.0 GPA or above, but not required. International and undocumented students are eligible to apply.	Eligibility: Must be an Oregon resident. In general international students are not eligible to apply for OSAC (check website eligibility). Undocumented students can apply.	Eligibility: Recommended 3.0 GPA or above, but not required. Oregon Resident. In general, international students are not eligible. Undocumented students can apply to the Ford but there are certain stipulations (check website eligibility)

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. <https://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. https://nsldsfa.ed.gov/nslds_FAP/.

IBR Info

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

Student Loan Forgiveness Programs

Learn about loan forgiveness options for the future. [Student Loan Forgiveness](#)

Other Helpful Links and Resources for Scholarships:

- [Opportunities Guide](#)
 - Financial aid: pg. 11
 - FAFSA information: pg. 14
 - Scholarships: pg. 21
- [Guía de Oportunidades](#)
 - Ayuda financiera: p. 11
 - FAFSA información: p. 14
 - Becas: p. 21

Scholarship Scams: How to recognize a scammer: Guarantees you will win an award, requires personal financial information such as social security numbers to hold a scholarship; Claims that for a small fee, they'll give you a list of scholarships.

Report suspected scams to the following organizations:

National Fraud Information Center (NFIC), 800-876-7060 / www.fraud.org

Federal Trade Commission (FTC), 877-FTC-HELP (877-382-4357), www.ftccomplaintassistant.gov

Better Business Bureau (BBB), 703-276-0100 / www.bbb.org

Oregon Attorney General, 877-877-9392, www.doj.state.or.us

Questions? Contact Portland Community College Career Services

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

Schedule an appointment with us at www.pcc.edu/careers

or email us for general questions at: careerservices@pcc.edu