



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Office of the Executive Director

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Salem, Oregon 97302

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

April 11, 2023

Co-Chair, Senator Lew Frederick
Co-Chair, Representative Susan McLain
Joint Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Education

Dear Co-Chairs Frederick and McLain,

Thank you for the opportunity to answer questions that arose during the **April 6, 2023** Higher Education Coordinating Commission presentation to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

On slide 140, Representative McLain asked how HECC distributes grant and scholarship information to potential applicants. HECC has numerous ways of doing so though we note that outside of limited funding for the state ASPIRE program, there are no dedicated marketing funds for our activities. In particular, HECC staff continually make in-person presentations throughout the state, respond to information inquiries on the phone or via email, plan and provide webinars, revise and update OSAC videos, train college and university staff, provide technical guidance, and train high school and NGO college access partners. We respond directly to requests for outreach from universities, colleges, high schools, middle schools, and community-based organizations.

Where programs have targeted populations, such as the state Tribal Student Grant or National Guard State Tuition Assistance program, we work directly with those that have the most regular contact with target students to promote understanding and awareness of available funds.

In addition to these activities, HECC maintains Oregonstudentaid.gov, which hosts all available financial aid information, has presence on social media channels, and we produce 26 different financial aid publications that users can request.

Also on slide 140, Senator Dembrow asked what portion of OSAC-administered private scholarships are renewable. 70% of our undergraduate student scholarships are renewable, meaning that a student can receive the scholarship for more than one academic year. More than 58% of our renewable scholarships can be renewed for four or more academic years.

There are two different types of renewable scholarships: autorenewals and “apply and complete renewal scholarships.” Autorenewal scholarships are renewed by completing a short renewal application, providing a valid transcript, and continuing to meet eligibility requirements.

Scholarships with an “apply and complete renewal” requirement do require that a student to apply to the scholarship each year by completing an OSAC scholarship application. Renewal students in this type of renewal scholarship are competing with all eligible applicants and are not “guaranteed” to be awarded the scholarship. While OSAC facilitates the administration of the scholarship, the award criteria is determined by the funding entity.

On slide 168, Senator Dembrow asked how many students who pass the GED go immediately on to college or university. The Oregon Longitudinal Data Collaborative tracked GED students for the [Education Pathway Report](#). For the class of students who began high school in 2006-07 and went on to complete a GED, 38% enrolled in a college or university (anywhere nationwide) in the year after they completed their high school equivalency. An additional 20% enrolled in a college or university a year or more after completing their high school equivalency. This compares to 58% of the students who completed a high school diploma enrolling in college or university within a year, and an additional 10% enrolling a year or more after graduating from high school.

On slide 183, Senator Frederick asked for a list of participating community-based organizations for our FAFSA+ initiative. Appendix A shows a table of all non-school-based entities that work with our office. HECC partners with over 250 entities around the state, mostly schools and school districts.

If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Kyle Thomas, Director of Legislative and Policy Affairs, at kyle.thomas@state.or.us or at 503-480-9596.

Sincerely,



Ben Cannon
Executive Director

Appendix A: FAFSA+ Participating CBOs

Site Name	Location
Chemeketa Community College TRIO	Salem, OR
Clatsop Community College TRIO Pre College	Astoria, OR
College Possible Portland	Portland, OR
Future Connect	Portland, OR
Gear Up Oregon	Community Based Organization
Latino Network	Portland, OR
OSU Open Campus & Juntos	Corvallis, OR
St Andrew Nativity Graduate Support Program	Portland, OR
TRIO College First at Mt Hood CC	Gresham, OR
Boys & Girls Club of Salem	Salem, OR
ECMC	Bend, Or
I have a dream Oregon	Portland, OR
New Avenues for youth	Portland, OR
WOU TRIO/upward Bond	Monmouth, OR
Siletz Valley Early College Academy	Siletz, OR
PSU TRIO Pre College Program	Portland, OR
Southwestern Oregon CC TRIO program	Coos Bay, OR