



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Higher Education Coordinating Commission

Office of the Executive Director

3225 25th Street SE

Salem, Oregon 97302

www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

February 23, 2024

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 **February 19, 2024** Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) presentation on the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) to the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education.

Senator Dembrow asked about the effect of receiving an Opportunity Grant on student success on an income disaggregated basis. For the current reporting year, this question is difficult to answer as eligibility for the OOG and eligibility for the Pell grant are at nearly the same level. In prior years, when Pell served students with consistently higher expected family contributions than the OOG, HECC reported that students that received both OOG and Pell graduated or transferred at higher rates than those that did not receive OOG.

In the current report, we compare OOG recipients to their higher-income peers whose EFC was above the OOG eligibility threshold. We also compared the 2021-22 OOG recipients to earlier cohorts of Pell recipients and OOG recipients. To assess academic success, we looked at single-year outcomes: year-to-year retention, term-to-term retention, and number of credits earned that year. Across the measures, OOG recipients in 2021-22 had academic outcomes that were similar, and in some cases were better than the different comparison groups.

Senator Dembrow asked about the effect of recent federal financial aid policy changes on Oregon students who do not complete the FAFSA, but instead complete the state equivalent financial aid application (ORSAA). Formula changes and changes in the questions prospective students must complete have already been programmed into and reflected in the current 2024-25 ORSAA application. The ORSAA launched prior to the recent federal inflation adjustments, so ORSAA applications will need to be re-processed once Federal Student Aid publishes those changes. OSAC is anticipating that ORSAA students will experience a similar reduction of their SAI values as FAFSA students, and that a larger portion of ORSAA filers will be in the lower SAI ranges. These students do not receive Federal Pell Grants and so may be more sensitive to any changes made to Oregon Opportunity Grant awards made for the upcoming academic year.

Representative McIntire asked for OOG award amounts for students with expected family contributions at or above \$2,000. Below is the full OOG award table for the current academic year (2023-2024):

Expected Family Contribution (EFC)	Community College Award Amount	Community College BAS Program Award Amount	4- Year Institutions Award Amount
0	\$3,900	\$5,904	\$7,524
1-2,000	\$3,600	\$5,508	\$7,008
2,001-4,000	\$3,192	\$4,884	\$6,204
4,001-6,000	\$2,904	\$4,410	\$5,496
6,001-8,000	\$1,602	\$2,442	\$3,000

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