



Oregon Promise & Pandemic-Affected Cohorts

SB 1551 - Senate Committee on
Education

February 8, 2024

Oregon Promise Grant (OPG)

Helps cover the average cost of tuition at Oregon's community colleges for recent high school and GED® test graduates.

Oregon Promise is a last-dollar grant to the Federal Pell Grant and Oregon Opportunity Grant. Award can be used at any Oregon community college, up to 90 attempted college credits. Students must apply during their senior year or immediately after GED® test completion. If awarded, students must attend at least half-time the next college term available (excluding summer).

2023-24 Awarding (full-time)

- Maximum award: \$4,248
- Minimum award: \$2,058



GOAL:

To increase college enrollment, completion, and affordability for recent high school and GED® test graduates.

Oregon Promise Grant Today

A peek into current application and award trends.

Beginning with Class of 2023, the Oregon Promise Grant has seen increases to program participation and expenditures – close to pre-pandemic numbers (2019-20). If trend continues, OSAC likely will need to institute an SAI limit for new OPG students in 2024-25.

Year-to-Date Application Data (Jan 2)	# of Started Applications	# Submitted Applications
Class of 2024	7,263	6,657
Class of 2023	6,316	6,314
<i>Class of 2019</i>	<i>9,730</i>	<i>5,738</i>

Preliminary Disbursement Data (new and renewal)	# of Students Disbursed	\$ Disbursed to Students
Fall 2023	10,412	\$9,826,303
Fall 2019	11,335	\$8,041,278

Post-Pandemic Boom

- Class of 2024 application submit rate increase by 57% YTD compared to Class of 2021 and 16% to Class of 2019
- Fall 2023 disbursements higher than anticipated. Renewal student pick-up rate 80% (highest in program history)

Student-Centered Oregon Administrative Rules Implemented During Pandemic for Oregon Promise Grant

Spring 2020 High School Students

- Allowed high school registrars to manually calculate GPA for P/N term of spring 2020 for those who *mathematically* could have achieved a cumulative, unweighted 2.5 GPA had grading not been impacted by actions relative to local/state emergency orders.

Spring 2020 Current College Students

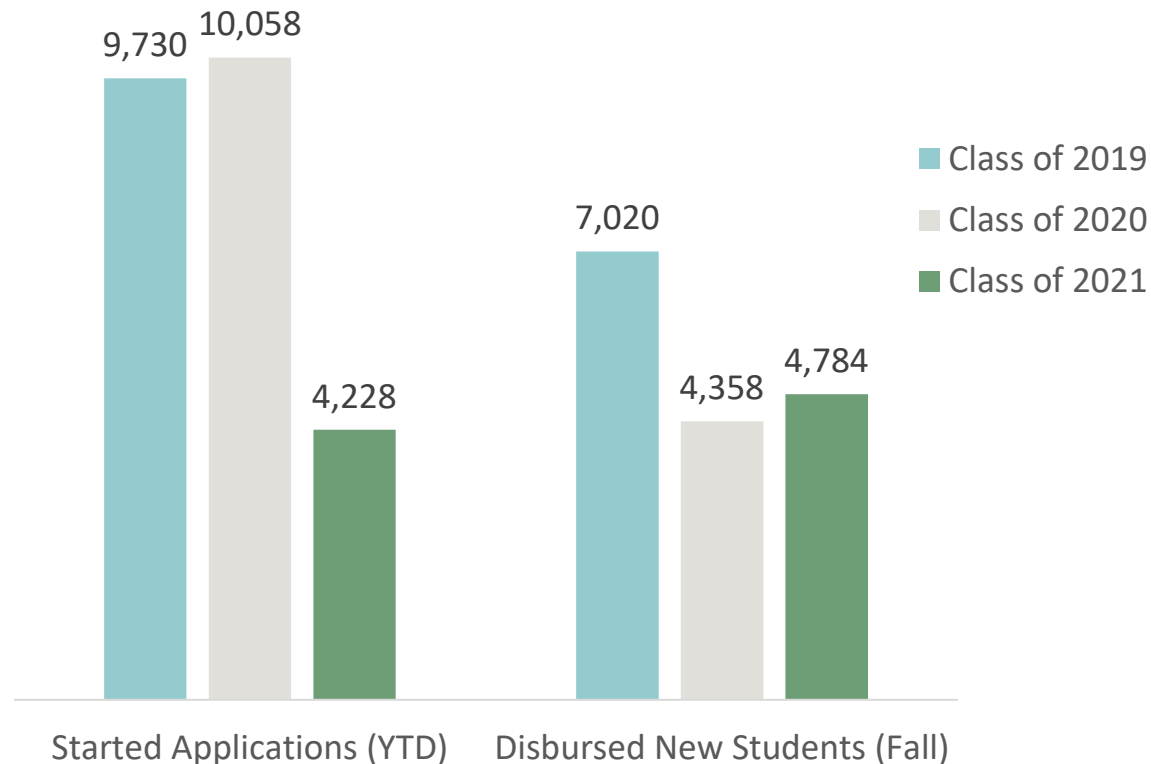
- Implemented automatic enrollment waivers for Spring 2020 for all authorized OPG students. Typically, students need to attend or continue attending college for OPG eligibility.
- Extension of the First-Year Experience (FYE) requirement by a term for any student still in the three-term window of FYE completion.

Program Adjustments

- Continued GPA flexibility for any student who had Spring 2020 P/N grades on their transcript. Still active today.
- Extended deadline appeal window for Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 to allow more students to apply for the grant (deadline is June 1 for traditional HS graduates).
- Allowed students more flexibility on enrollment waivers (6-month and renewal) while Executive Order No. 20-09 was active.

OPG: Class of 2020 and Class of 2021

How did the pandemic impact their college access?



- Since the application opened Sept. 2019, the number of applications and authorized students was on par with Class of 2019.
- Class of 2020 also experienced a \$3.6 million budget cut to the grant, thus creating an EFC limit (22,000).

- Class of 2020 had a low number of students picking up their award, which led to the lowest renewal participation for Fall 2021 (2,767).
- There were many reasons that likely contributed to the low OPG participation for Class of 2021:
 - Prior year having an EFC limit and budget cut
 - Continuing uncertainty and stressors from pandemic

Source: HECC Office of Student Access and Completion

Senate Bill 1551 – Pandemic Cohort Eligibility Restoration

- Allows individuals who completed high school, or equivalent, in Oregon between March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2022 to apply for the Oregon Promise Grant in 2024-25 or 2025-26 to utilize at one of Oregon's 17 community colleges, if they have attempted no more than one academic term (per expected amendments).
- Students must meet all other eligibility criteria for the grant:
 - Oregon residency (12+ months prior to college attendance, and 6+ months for parent if dependent student).
 - Graduated with 2.0 cumulative, unweighted GPA or passed all four GED® tests.
 - Have not attempted more than 90 college credits.
 - Once student starts/restarts OPG, they must remain continuously enrolled (fall, winter, spring), have good academic standing, submit FAFSA or ORSAA by June 1 each year, and meet all renewal criteria.



Oregon Promise: Pandemic Cohort Eligibility Restoration 2024 and 2025

Student Disbursement Projections	2024-25	2025-26
Est. Headcount Disbursed	3,200	8,500
Est. Average Award	\$2,919	\$3,021
Est. Cost	\$6.2 million	\$18.1 million
	\$24.4 million	

- There will be additional costs related to additional staffing through the duration of the program, IT programming, and marketing/communications.
- These projections carry a wide range of uncertainty in terms of budget and participation.
- Additional challenges related to 2024-25 FAFSA/ORSAA rollout and EFC to SAI transition.
- System challenges related to HECC Modernization Project.

Source: HECC Office of Student Access and Completion

Notes: Roughly 55,000 students completed high school, or its equivalent, in Oregon during 2020 and 2021 and either have not enrolled in college or only enrolled one term. There is limited data on how students would engage with Oregon Promise 4-5 years after graduation and who would have eligibility.