



Higher Education Coordinating Commission

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May Agency Update:

May 2022 | Our partners can find previous quarterly Government to Government updates as well as other information on work and initiatives in the [Coordination with Tribes](#) section of our website.

Strategic Roadmap: Oregon's [Strategic Roadmap for Postsecondary Education and Training](#) finalized in 2021 sets an ambitious path forward by describing how postsecondary systems, policies, and practices need to change in order to achieve Oregon's [goals for educational attainment and equity](#). The HECC is now in the process of seeking input from partners on potential funding and policy proposals for 2023-25 aimed to advance the Strategic Roadmap.

2023-25 Budget Development: We continue to welcome and encourage community input as we work on developing and submitting to Oregon's Governor a comprehensive and integrated postsecondary education Agency Request Budget (ARB) for 2023-25. The Commission is considering key budget components over the course of [numerous public meetings through August](#), and welcomes public comment. This year's process is anchored in the priorities for strategic action articulated in the [Strategic Roadmap for Postsecondary Education](#). The HECC is broadening and deepening engagement with communities of color and other underrepresented populations as we develop potential proposals. In early May, tribal education representatives provided the HECC Office of Student Access and Completion consultative guidance on the development of access and affordability policy option packages and legislative concepts. We

Our Commission

OUR VISION:

The State of Oregon's Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC) envisions a future in which all Oregonians—and especially those whom our systems have underserved and marginalized—benefit from the transformational power of high-quality postsecondary education and training. [Learn more about our vision and Strategic Plan here.](#)

[Sign up for HECC newsletters and updates here:](#) you can customize your subscriptions according to your interests. We just added numerous new options for update topics.

The HECC is the State of Oregon's Commission and agency working to improve equitable access to and success in higher education and workforce training for Oregonians statewide. Established in 2011, and vested with most of its current authorities in 2013, HECC is a volunteer commission responsible for advising the Oregon Legislature and the Governor on higher education policy. The Commission is supported by an executive director who oversees eight offices of the agency. To learn more about the HECC go to: www.oregon.gov/highered/about/Pages/hecc.aspx

Upcoming Meetings:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission,
June 9, 2022 (tentative)
HECC Funding and Achievement Subcommittee: June 8, 2022 (tentative)

For other [upcoming public meetings of the HECC, see our website here](#). For [Affiliated Boards \(WTDB, others, see here\)](#). For email notices of upcoming public Commission meetings, or to sign up for our newsletter, go to www.oregon.gov/HigherEd

Grant and Contracting Opportunities:
Explore all HECC [Grants and Contracting Opportunities here](#).

greatly appreciate the feedback, questions and recommendations. The Commission will consider more detail on emerging proposals at the June meeting, and will consider the full ARB for approval in August. [Read more in our recent newsletter here.](#) [Learn more about the typical budget timeline here.](#)

Oregon Provides Historic Investment in Financial Aid for Tribal Students: We are delighted to announce that the application is now open for the Oregon Tribal Student Grant for 2022-23, a new state financial aid program supported by the Oregon Legislature's 2022 historic investment in equitable college access and success for tribal students. [Learn more in the press release here.](#) The priority application deadline is August 1, 2022. **Current and prospective students can learn more and apply here: <https://oregonstudentaid.gov/oregon-tribal-student.aspx>.** **The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is expected to pay for most or all public college-related expenses—including tuition, housing, books, and other costs not covered by other grants—for eligible students who are enrolled members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes.** It can be applied toward undergraduate or graduate study at Oregon public colleges and universities as well as eligible private non-profit institutions, where award amounts can go up to the public institution maximum level, in the upcoming 2022-23 school year.

The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) will administer the grant, and encourages tribal students to apply by the priority application deadline of August 1, 2022. As of May 20, 2022, students (or prospective students) have started 286 applications with OSAC, and our early estimates showed that 700 or more tribal students could be served by the program this year. Governor Kate Brown proposed this program in the 2022 Legislative Session, in consultation with Oregon Tribal government leadership, and working closely with HECC, to address longstanding educational equity gaps by removing financial barriers to college for Oregon tribal students. With the Oregon Legislature's approval of program funding for the 2022-23 academic year, the grant is now available to enrolled members of Oregon's nine federally recognized Tribes. Tribal partners, schools, universities, communities, and families are encouraged to learn more and help share news on the grant with potential applicants, by viewing and sharing website and informational documents. [A communication toolkit is available on our website here.](#) Direct links include the : [Oregon Tribal Student Grant brochure](#) and [Oregon Student Tribal Grant Flyer.](#)

Students must submit the Oregon Tribal Student Grant application and either a 2022-23 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). The grant will apply to the estimated average total cost of attendance which is calculated by each institution, including tuition and fees, living expenses, books, supplies, transportation, and miscellaneous expenses. Grant amounts vary based on each student's college choice and enrollment level, with private institution awards capped at the average Oregon public university cost of attendance. The Oregon Tribal Student Grant is currently only funded for the 2022-23 academic school year, and renewal of the grant for following years is dependent upon reauthorization and permanent funding which will need to be considered by the Oregon Legislature in 2023. The HECC is currently developing its recommendations for the next budget cycle on sustaining this and other financial aid investments.

Other 2022 Legislative Successes:

- [Future Ready Oregon: Addressing Oregon's Workforce Needs with an Equity Lens:](#) Future Ready Oregon, a comprehensive \$200 million package of strategic and targeted investments, supports the education and training Oregonians need for family-wage careers. Future Ready Oregon originated in the Racial Justice Council's (RJC) Workforce Workgroup, and the package was led by Governor Brown and championed by many partners before the Oregon Legislature's approval in the 2022 Legislative Session. This package invests in existing successful programs and in innovative equity-focused solutions to bolster recruitment, retention, and career advancement opportunities for priority populations. Many of these funds are being administered through the HECC, as we work with local workforce development boards, community-based and culturally-specific organizations, education & training providers, employers, and communities. [See our most recent update on elements of the package administered by the HECC here.](#) Stay informed on these funding packages and future grant opportunities by signing up for [email updates here](#), or by visiting our [Future Ready Oregon web page here](#). For information on grant and contracting opportunities with the HECC please visit [Grants and Contracting Opportunities here](#). Components of the investment include:
 - "Prosperity 10,000" Grants: \$35 million total investment
 - Workforce Ready Grants: \$95 million total investment
 - Postsecondary Career Pathway Training Program: \$14.9 million total investment

- Credit for Prior Learning Grants: \$10 million total investment
- Benefits Navigators: \$10 million total investment
- Industry Consortia: \$1 million total investment
- **Oregon Promise Grant Amount Doubles for Low-Income Recipients:** Thanks to the approval of Senate Bill 1522 by the Oregon Legislature and Governor Brown, low-income recipients of the Oregon Promise Grant pursuing community college will receive more funds to help with rising college costs, and eligibility for this financial aid program has been widened. [Read more here, and please help share this news](#) with potential applicants. The minimum award amount—which is the amount the lowest-income grantees receive due to the way the calculation is structured—will increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 starting in the 2022-23 academic year, and this amount will be indexed in the future to increase at the same rate as the maximum grant. The \$50 per term co-pay which was previously deducted from all awards will be eliminated. Class of 2022 seniors who graduate between March 1 and June 30 who have a 2.0 cumulative, unweighted grade point average (GPA) may now qualify, while previously a 2.5 GPA was needed. Continuing students receiving the grant this fall no longer have to complete the First-Year Experience requirement to remain eligible for the grant.

HECC Encourages Participation in the Legislature's Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education: The HECC encourages postsecondary students and community members to participate in public meetings of the Oregon Legislature's Joint Task Force on Student Success for Underrepresented Students in Higher Education (HB 2590, 2021), which has commenced a historic statewide public engagement process. In recognition of the deep disparities in access to and success in Oregon postsecondary education, Oregon established this task force, charged with visiting postsecondary institutions and meeting with students and other stakeholders to examine issues of access, retention, graduation, and entry into the workforce. [Find information on the Task Force public meetings and members, or subscribe to email updates here.](#)

HECC Hears Presentations on Native American Perspectives in Higher Education: In addition to the budget process, at each full public meeting the Commission now invites community testimony to inform our collective work on the transformations described in the Strategic Roadmap. In April, the Commission invited experts to speak on Native American Perspectives in Oregon Higher Education, and heard presentations from Angela Fasana, education department manager for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; Melissa Palanuk Mercier, education career coach for the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde; and Dr. Kelly Gonzales, citizen of the Cherokee Nation and professor in the OHSU-PSU School of Public Health. Dr. Gonzalez's presentation [Cultivating from Vibrance and Beauty](#), as well as other materials from this presentation are available in the April 14 meeting materials.

Other Affordability and Financial Aid News

The HECC Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) continues to encourage Oregonians to pursue grants and scholarships at OregonStudentAid.gov.

Financial Aid Applications for 2022-23 School Year: To be eligible for most types of financial aid, students must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or the Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). These applications compile financial information and other details about students and families, which the US Department of Education and the State of Oregon use to determine financial need and eligibility for various financial aid opportunities.

OSAC encourages Oregonians to [complete the FAFSA or ORSAA](#) and to apply for the Oregon Promise Grant, the Oregon Child Care Grant, the Oregon Tribal Student Grant, and other state grant programs. Find details and apply at OregonStudentAid.gov.

OSAC offers the FAFSA Plus+ program for schools, community-based organizations, and other sites that work with a specific student population. Becoming a FAFSA Plus+ site allows an organization to upload a roster of students and then be able to see the FAFSA filing status for those students. Learn more and [sign up to become a FAFSA Plus+ site](#) for free.

OSAC continues our outreach and presentations across the state. Go online to [request support](#) from OSAC at an upcoming event, in a classroom, or providing training to your students/communities. OSAC outreach is available to students, families, and career/college access staff across Oregon to provide support and guidance. [You can also sign up to receive our e-newsletters here.](#)

- [Oregon Tribal Student Grant brochure](#) | [Oregon Student Tribal Grant Flyer](#)

- [Free Publications and Posters](#): Order or download free posters and brochures here including the OSAC Poster, a quick reminder for students to apply for financial aid, including the FAFSA/ORSAA, grants, and scholarships. English and Spanish versions available.
- [Webinars](#): OSAC hosts a variety of webinars throughout the year for students, parents, and career/college practitioners. Our webinars are to provide update-to-date information about programs we serve.

[Tribal Access to Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver](#): HECC-OSAC continues to be available to ensure Tribal foster youth have access to the Oregon Foster Youth Tuition and Fee Waiver program, which waives tuition and fees for the equivalent of 4 years of undergraduate studies after other public grants and any school aid are applied. Learn more about eligibility at www.oregonstudentaid.gov. OSAC representatives would be pleased to help any Tribal staff. Please contact Kristin.Vreeland@state.or.us).

Supporting Pathways and Student Success

[Transfer Council Focused on Streamlining Transfer Pathways](#): The [Transfer Council](#)—convened in October 2021, and comprised of representatives from Oregon public universities, community colleges, and high schools—made considerable progress on implementation of the goals set forth by Senate Bill 233 (2021) to streamline the credit transfer process from two to four-year institutions to save students time and money. Since convening in October 2021, the Transfer Council and its subcommittees have convened over [30 public meetings](#) focused on developing a common course numbering system, advancing the work on Major Transfer Maps, and other credit transfer-related issues. The work to establish common course numbering is intended to help students know that if they take a course at one campus, it will be equivalent to any course with the same number on another campus, simplifying planning and credit transfer. The Transfer Council is also moving forward the [Oregon Transfer Compass](#) Maps that started with HB 2998 (2017).

[Oregon Apprenticeship Website](#): To learn more about apprenticeship or explore apprenticeship opportunities please visit www.oregonapprenticeship.org. Registered Apprenticeship provides individuals with a job, education, and an entry point into a lifelong career. Registered Apprenticeship helps employers develop and cultivate a skilled, certified, and engaged workforce.

[The Workforce & Talent Development Board's \(WTDB\) website](#): The redesigned WTDB website at www.oregon.gov/workforceboard is focused on the vision of the WTDB to foster equitable prosperity for all Oregonians, and offers resources for workers, employers, students, [educators](#) and trainers and more.

[Academic Program Approvals](#): At its April and May public meetings, the Commission approved the following new academic programs—

[Oregon Community Colleges \(CCs\) New Programs](#) - Central Oregon CC: Certificate of Completion, Outdoor Leadership; Certificate of Completion, Illustration; Certificate of Completion, Graphic Design. Chemeketa CC: Certificate of Completion in Healthcare Billing; Certificate of Completion in Healthcare Coding. Clackamas CC: Certificate of Completion, Computer-Aided Drafting; AAS in Computer-Aided Manufacturing; AAS in Machine Tool Technology; Certificate of Completion in Mechatronics; AAS in Renewable Energy Technology. Columbia Gorge CC: AAS, Paramedic. Lane CC: Certificate of Completion, Entry-Level Trades Worker; Certificate of Completion, Culinary and Baking. Portland CC: AAS, Microelectronics Technology. Southwestern Oregon CC: Certificate of Completion, Medical Assistant; AAS, Culinary Management; AAS, Baking and Pastry Arts; AAS, Baking Management; AAS, Culinary Arts; AAS in Fire Science. Umpqua CC: AAS, Paramedicine.

[Public Universities New Programs](#) - Eastern Oregon University: Master of Healthcare Administration. Southern Oregon University, B.A./B.S., Sustainable Tourism Management. Oregon State University: B.A./B.S., Applied Humanities; B.A./B.S., Theatre Arts; B.S., Oceanography; B.A./B.S., Economics. University of Oregon, M.S., Applied Behavior Analysis.

[University Program Approvals for a New Location](#) - Oregon State University: B.A./B.S., Political Science; Oregon Institute of Technology: B.S., Business; B.S., Health Care Management.

Economic and Community Impact

2021 HECC Public University Evaluations Highlight the Contributions of Technical and Regional Universities: The 2021 HECC evaluations of [public universities, summarized here](#) highlight the significant contributions Eastern Oregon University, Oregon Institute of Technology (Oregon Tech), Southern Oregon University, and Western Oregon University make to the State of Oregon and to their communities. The 2021 evaluations draw attention to recent trends in enrollment, completion, and diversity in relation to State objectives, and measure the four technical and regional universities' performance trends against a set of established financial metrics.

Oregon Talent Summit 2022: Videos now Available: We are pleased to announce that the presentations from the [2022 Oregon Talent Summit are now available by video here](#). The Summit, held on April 12, 2022 in Portland, brought hundreds of partners together to plan a successful launch of Future Ready Oregon, a package of investments that provides a transformational \$200 million investment to foster a diverse, skilled workforce.

Other Updates

HECC Commissioner Updates: We are delighted to welcome three new commissioners to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission: former State Senator Richard Devlin, Aislyn Matias, and Motutama Nogotau Sipelii. Their terms began on March 1, 2022. In addition, Governor Brown has nominated Emily Simnitt, Fernando Rojas-Galván, and Natalie Arnot to serve on the HECC. Their nominations will be considered for confirmation by the Oregon Senate. We will share more after the confirmation hearing, expected to occur in early June. If confirmed, their service will begin July 1, 2022. Read more in our [recent newsletters here](#).

HECC Leadership Updates: We are pleased announce that Tom Riel has been hired to serve as the new Director of the HECC Office of Operations. In this role, Tom will lead the office in charge of information technology, accounting, procurement, budget and payroll activities for the agency. In addition, Ramona Rodamaker has been appointed as full-time permanent Deputy Director of the agency with a focus on agency-wide strategy.