Scholarship Resources 2025-26 for the 2026-27 Academic Year

STEP 1: Complete a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Financial Student Aid) or **ORSAA** (Oregon Student Aid Application): Most scholarships require a completed FAFSA or ORSAA to determine financial need. You need to renew your FAFSA each academic year: **October 1** FAFSA® Application | Federal Student Aid . Apply early each year to get the most free money (Oregon Opportunity Grant, Work Study, etc)!

STEP 2: APPLY FOR… (refer to comparison chart on page 3)

❑ **PCC Foundation Scholarship Application**

Offers over 250 scholarships ($2.5 million a year) for PCC students. *Average award is $1800, but varies from $500 to $6000 a year. The online scholarship application opens November 1. 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 Nov. 1. Early Bird Deadline is February 16. Final Deadline is **March 1** at **11:59pm.**
www.oregonstudentaid.gov

- ➢ OSAC Scholarship Catalog
- ➢ 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 (community college students under the age of 25), & Ford Scholar (HS or GED student). Opens December 1st. Deadline is **March 2** at **5pm**. www.tfff.org

- Not sure which scholarship to apply for? Use this helpful guide
- Check the calendar for any upcoming virtual information sessions: Scholarship Calendar | The Ford Family Foundation

❑ **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 for competitive scholarships is December 2, 2025, and Need-based scholarships is December 31, 2025, and Spring deadline is TBA. There is a one time membership fee of $100.

- Membership fee waiver assistance is very limited. Email pcc-ptk-group@pcc.edu to state interest in PTK and to request assistance based on financial need.

Learn more about PTK scholarships details here.

STEP 3: FIND MORE SCHOLARSHIPS…

☐ **Scholarship 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**

A list of scholarships by category provided by PCC Career Services: Scholarship Database Google Site.

☐ **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 (rotary club), 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
4. Oregon Goes to College - Scholarships

STEP 4: USE PCC's RESOURCES!

☐ **PCC Scholarship Class**

CG 105 & WR 105 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 Tutoring Center | Reading & Writing Center** to get help with **scholarship essays**:

You can schedule an appointment 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. Explain your career goals and your educational plan to meet these goals. What inspired you to choose this field of study and career?
2. What is your greatest strength or characteristic and why? How has this strength benefitted you? How will this strength help you succeed at PCC?

OSAC Essays: (250 words each).

1. What are your specific educational plans and career goals and why? What motivates you to achieve them?
2. What have you done for your family, school, or community that you care about the most and why?
3. Describe a personal accomplishment, impactful change or experience that has occurred in your life. What skills and strengths were needed to respond, and what did you learn about yourself?
4. Is there any additional information you would like the selection committee members to know? This could include financial situations not reflected on the FAFSA or ORSAA or other information not covered in the application. This statement is not required and will not have any negative effect on the application if left blank.

Ford Family Foundation Essays (150 words each)

1. Describe a time when you had a challenging experience or didn't know what to do. How did you approach the situation and what did you learn about yourself?
2. What have you done for your family or community that you care about the most and why? Provide a specific example.
3. 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?

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:** December 1
Deadline is February 1 @ 11:59pm	**Deadline** is March 1 @ 11:59pm Early bird deadline: February 16	**Deadline** is March 2 @ 5:00pm
Students notified: Starting in 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 $2.5 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 four programs
Award Amount: Varies, depending on scholarship. Can range from $500-$6000. 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 2026-Spring 2027 terms. Students must be enrolled in 6 or more credits once they get the scholarship (not when they apply).	**Scholarships can be applied to:** Fall 2026-Spring 2027 terms	**Scholarships can be applied to:** Fall 2026-Spring 2027 terms and student needs to be enrolled full-time once awarded
On average 35-40% of those who fully complete a PCC Foundation Scholarship get a scholarship. Students who attend PCC Foundation Workshops & Help sessions learn what makes an application more competitive, please take advantage of these resources!	**Can compete/apply** for up to 40 scholarships. Program will match you with your major and FAFSA/ORSAA information.	~1400 eligible applications were submitted for 250 awards across 4 scholarship programs in 2024
Eligibility: 2.0 GPA or above, maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Students taking credit bearing courses are eligible to apply. Some non-credit ESOL courses also qualify.	**Eligibility:** Most require Oregon residency. 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 Outside Resources

☐ **Student Savings Account (matches your savings 1 to 5)**

Each $1 saved is matched by $5 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. Oregon IDA Initiative

ECMC (Education Credit Management Corporation) A nonprofit organization https://www.ecmc.org/who-we-are

Opportunities Workbook

- Financial aid: pg. 11 |FAFSA information: pg. 14 |Scholarships: pg. 20

Guía de Oportunidades (2025-26 Spanish version)

- Ayuda financiera: p. 11 | FAFSA información: p. 14 | Becas: p. 20

☐ **National Student Loan Data System**

How much loan debt do you have overall and how do you manage it? This tool is helpful. https://fsapartners.ed.gov/financial-aid-delivery/nslds

☐ **Loan Repayment**

Need help learning about student loan repayment options? https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/plans

☐ **Student Loan Forgiveness Programs**

Learn about loan forgiveness options for the future. Student Loan Forgiveness

Note on using AI for scholarships: Be mindful of how you use AI in your applications. Many scholarship committees are watching for AI use and may screen out applicants if they suspect it. It's best to not copy and paste from AI. Instead, use it for inspiration and proofreading while keeping your own voice front and center.

Scholarship Scams: A few tips on 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), https://reportfraud.ftc.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