2026-2027
PCC Foundation Scholarships

Portland Community College Foundation

PCC Foundation Scholarships

- scholarships@pcc.edu
- https://www.pcc.edu/scholarship-workshops
- http://www.pcc.edu/scholarship-guide

Covering today

- Other Scholarship Opportunities
- OSAC (Scholarships & Grants)
- PCC Foundation Scholarship
  - Overview of the application
  - How PCC Foundation scholarships and other Financial Aid work together
  - What are we looking for and what makes a competitive application (including essay questions)

Other Scholarship Opportunities

- National Level
  - Cappex.com, scholarships.com, fastweb.com
- College & State Level
  - OSAC
  - College Scholarships (PCC, PSU, etc.)
- Local Level
  - County
  - City
  - High School

Vetted Private Scholarships available to PCC students

- Private Scholarship List
  - Deadlines throughout the year
  - Specific categories
    - General
    - By Major
    - By Hobby
    - Multicultural Scholarships
    - DACA/DREAMer Scholarships
    - International Student Scholarships
    - Study Abroad Scholarships
    - Veteran Scholarships
    - LGBTQIA+ Scholarships
    - Women Scholarships
    - After Associates Degree Scholarships

OSAC (Office of Student Access and Completion) Other scholarship opportunities

- www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- Application opens November 1, 2025
- Priority deadline is February 17, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.
- Deadline is March 2, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

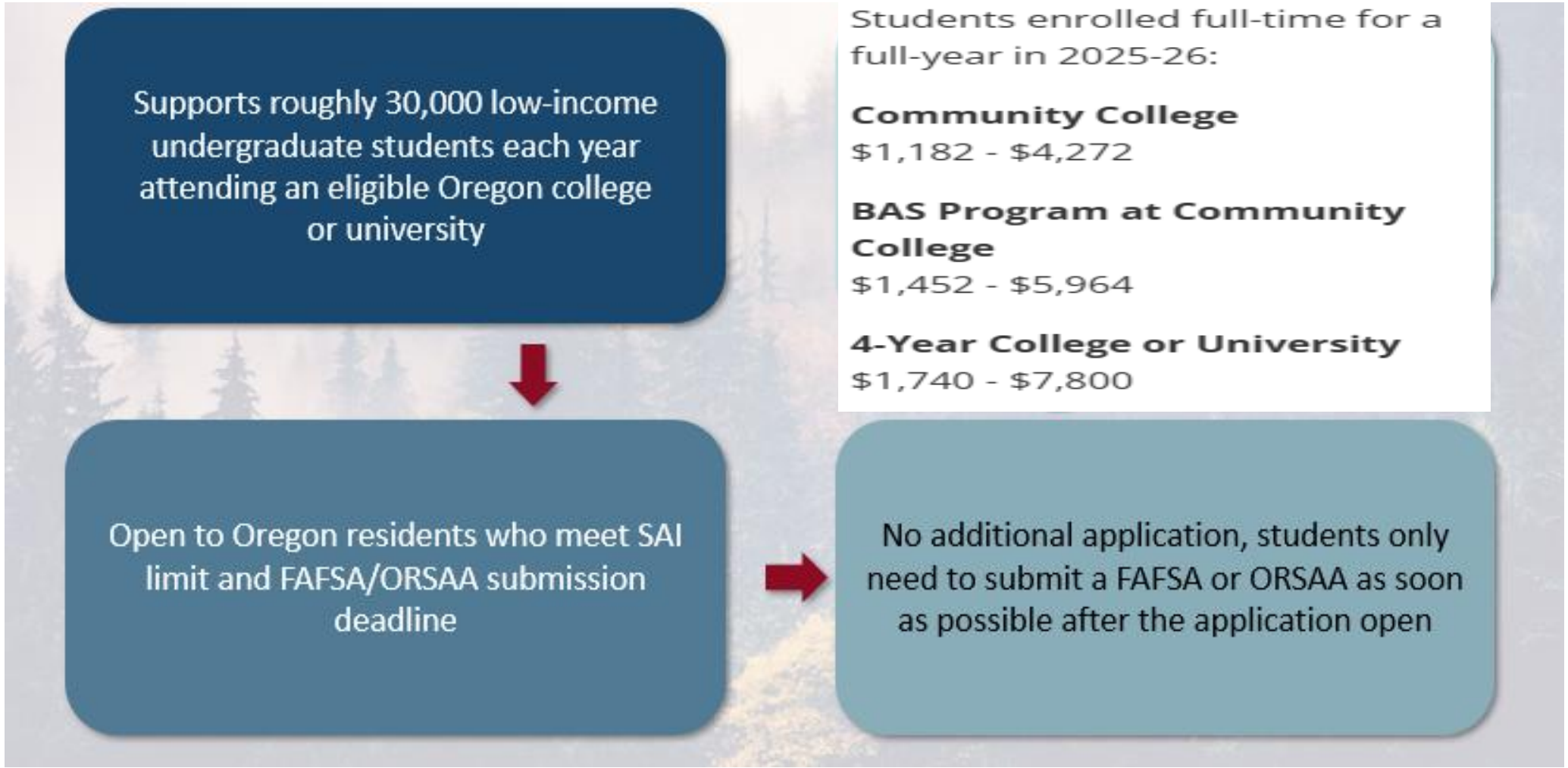
OSAC

- www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- Grants:
  - Oregon Opportunity Grant
  - Oregon Promise Grant
  - Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance
  - Oregon Tribal Student Grant
  - Several other categories, as well

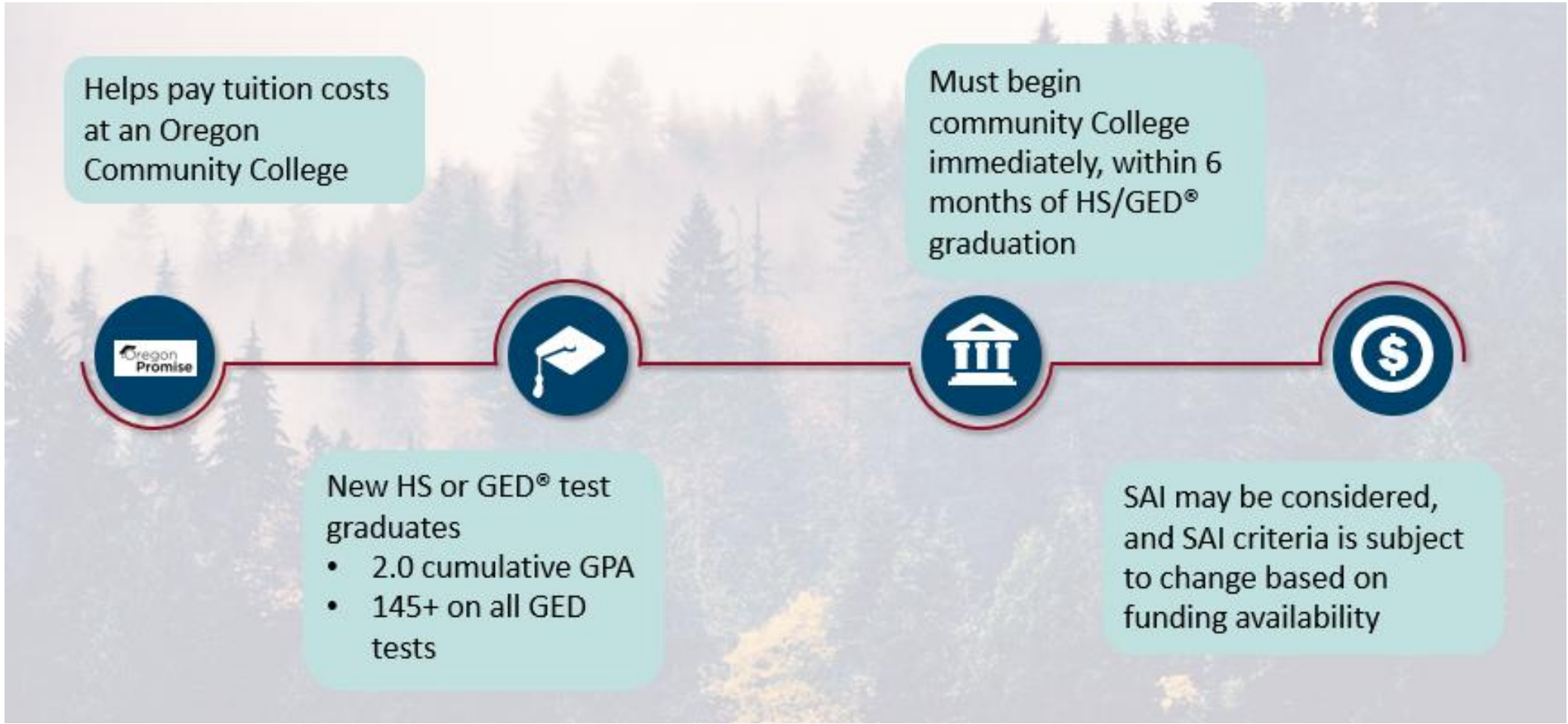
OSAC

- www.oregonstudentaid.gov
- Available for:
  - Current high school
  - Current college students
  - Foster youth
  - Students with disabilities
  - Oregon Promise Grant
  - Oregon National Guard State Tuition Assistance

Oregon Opportunity Grant



Oregon Promise Grant



Oregon Promise

Find Your Deadline:

Deadline is 11:59 pm (PST or PDT). If deadline falls on a weekend or holiday, it automatically extends to the following business day.

I am graduating from:	I am graduating during this time:	DEADLINE to complete both: Oregon Promise App. & FAFSA or ORSAA	You must start community college by this term:
High School or Home School	March 1 – June 30	**June 1**	Fall
	July 1 – Nov. 30	Nov. 1	Winter
	Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	Feb. 1	Spring
GED® Program	March 1 – June 30	**July 10**	Fall
	July 1 – Nov. 30	Dec. 10	Winter
	Oct. 1 – Feb. 29	March 10	Spring

Students enrolled full-time for a full-year in 2025-26:

Community College
$1,182 - $4,272

BAS Program at Community College
$1,452 - $5,964

4-Year College or University
$1,740 - $7,800

Submit the 2026-27 FAFSA or ORSAA starting in October 2025 to apply for 2026-27 OOG.

Oregon Promise Grant

* List at least one community college on the application
* Chart below is for the 2025-26 academic year

Student Aid Index (SAI)	Community College Award Amount	Community College BAS Program Award Amount	4- Year Institutions Award Amount
-1500 - 0	$4,272	$5,964	$7,800
1-1,000	$3,978	$5,538	$7,224
1,001-2,000	$3,510	$4,860	$6,312
2,001-3,000	$3,222	$4,434	$5,748
3,001-4,000	$2,700	$3,666	$4,716
4,001-5,000	$2,232	$2,982	$3,804
5,001-6,000	$1,590	$2,046	$2,544
6,001-7,000	$1,302	$1,620	$1,968
7,001-8,000	$1,182	$1,452	$1,740

Oregon Promise

- After all tuition and fees is paid, it can be partially refunded for other expenses
  - How that can work since it only covers 80%? (Scholarships! If you have a scholarship that pays part of your tuition/fees, it can free up some of your Oregon Promise grant)
- Up to 90 college credits
- Must renew for the second year
- Must be enrolled in at least 6 credits per term
- Cannot be used during summer term

PCC Foundation Scholarship Application

- One application = 250+ scholarships
- Over 1,779 recipients in 2025-2026
- $2.5 million dollars in
- Awards range from $500-$6,000 per year
- Average award is ~$1,800 ($600/term) (*$1779 actual average)

PCC Foundation Application Cycle

- PCC Foundation Scholarship Application opens 11/1/2025
- Deadline for *most* scholarships is 2/1/2026
- No preference for completing early
- Student notifications start early June through their PCC email

Making Scholarships More Equitable & Accessible

- Essay changes
  - Rephrased strength based question and refined this year
- Reference
  - We removed the reference for the **General Application** (some apply-to/recommended still have a reference requirement)
- Added Late Incoming High School Cycle
  - Late Incoming High School Cycle: May 1st-15th
  - This is only for one fund, students who submit by February 1, will be considered for all PCC Foundation scholarships

PCC Foundation Scholarships can pay for:

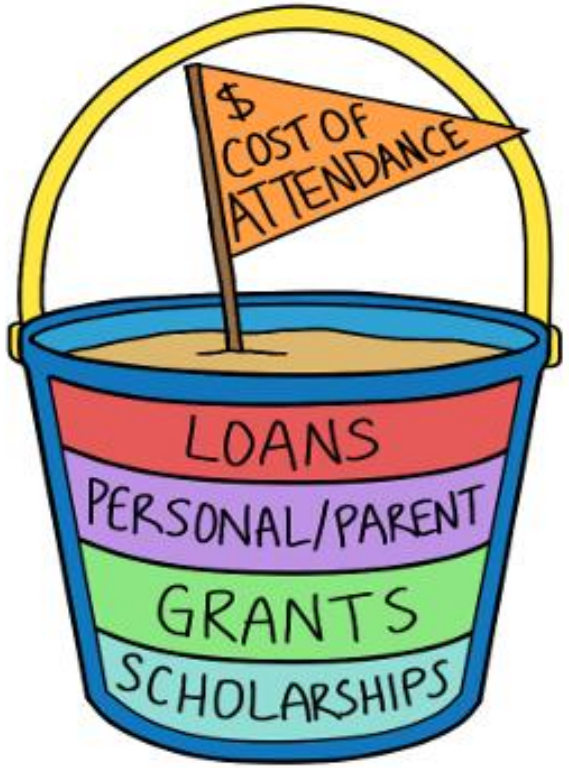
- PCC tuition
- PCC Fees
- Books through the PCC Bookstore
- Some other educational expenses/equipment

Eligibility for PCC Foundation Scholarships

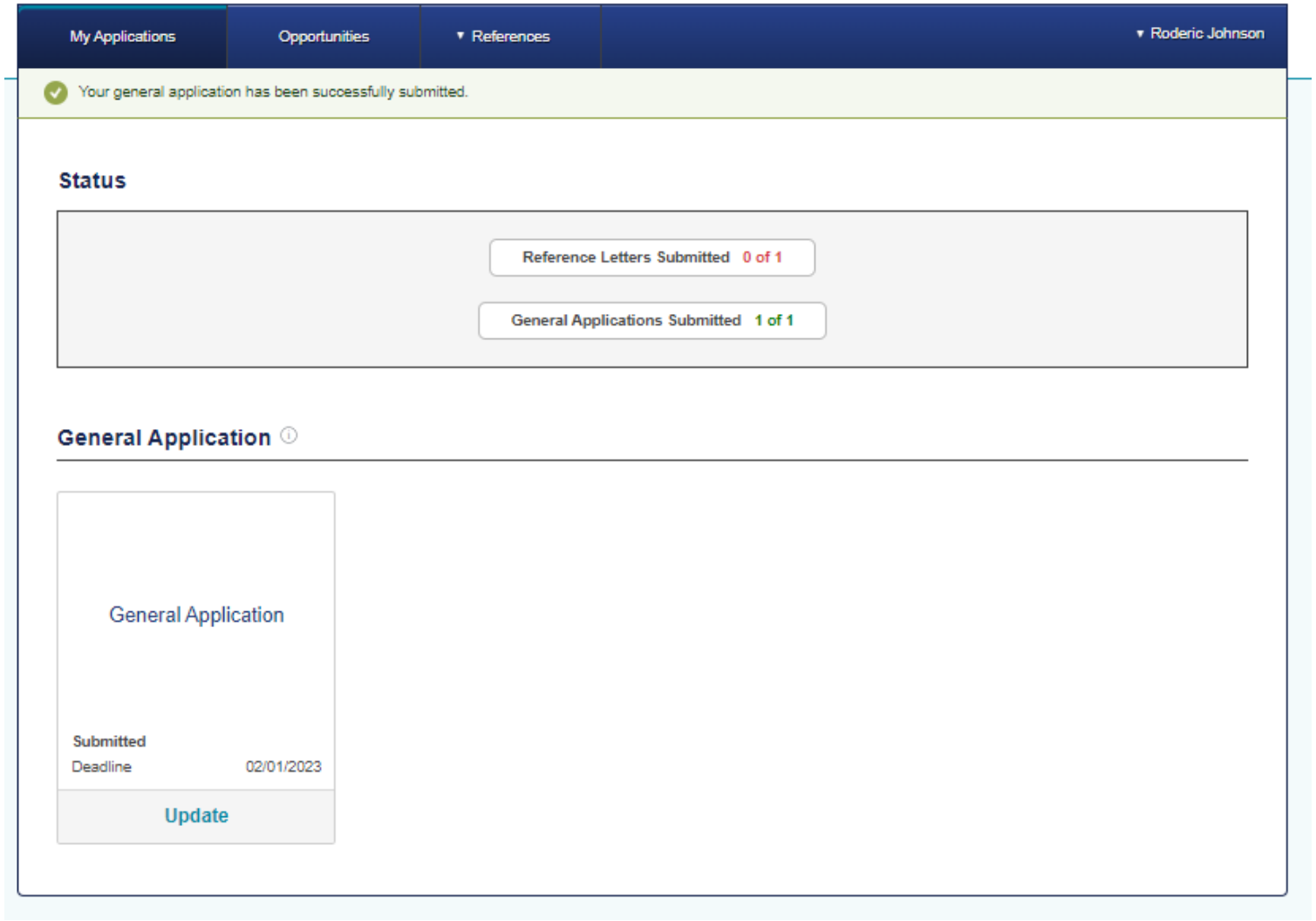
- Attending PCC between Summer 2026 – Spring 2027 academic year
- 2.0 minimum GPA
  - But even if your GPA is lower, you are encouraged to apply
- Most PCC Foundation scholarships require half-time enrollment while receiving a scholarship
  - Half-time is 6 credits per term
  - Some scholarships may require:
    - ¾ time enrollment per term (9 credits per term)
    - Full-time enrollment per term (12+ credits per term)

How do scholarships work with other types of Financial Aid?

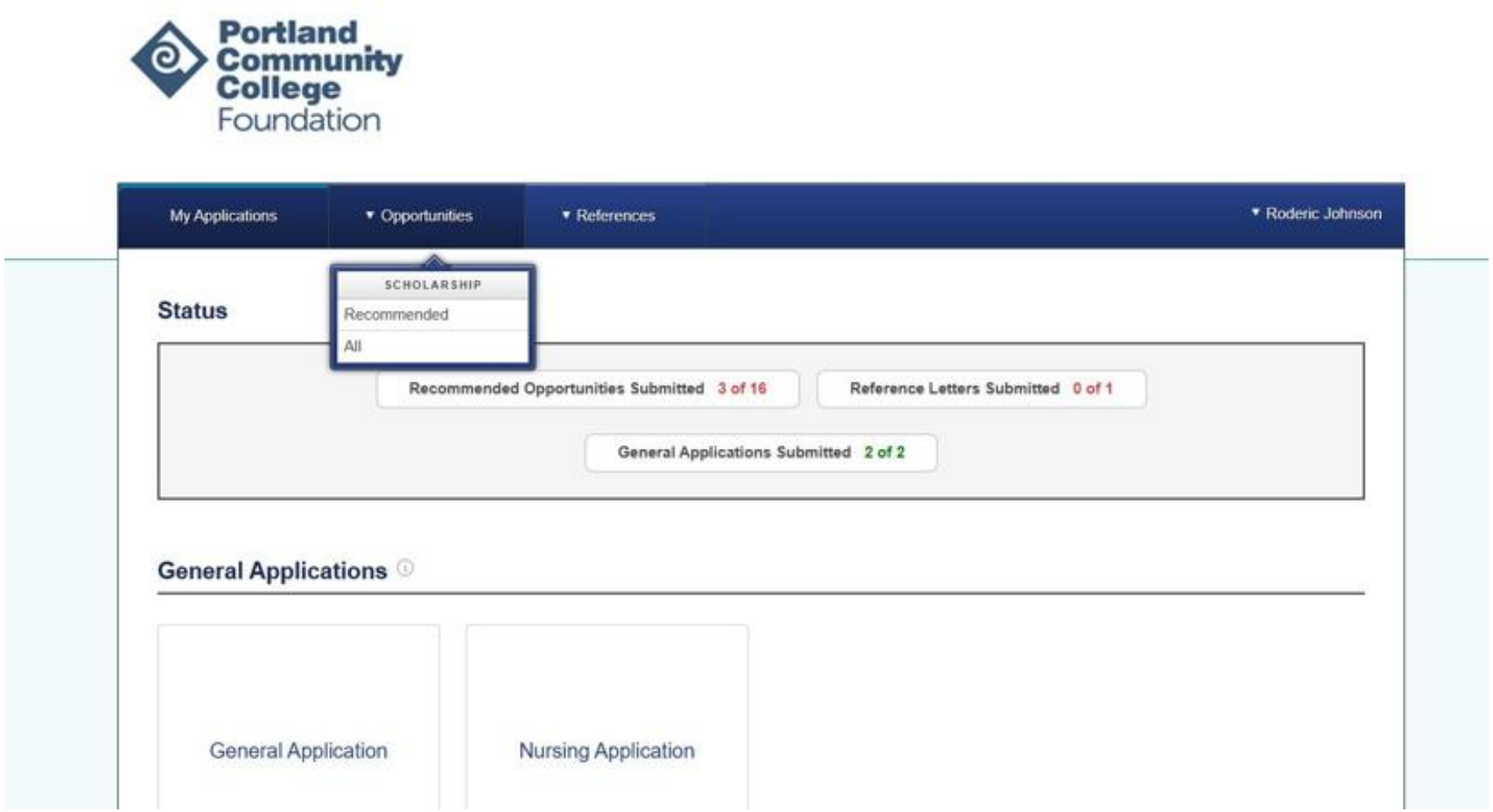
- Think of your tuition and costs as a bucket. Then you will it with free money first, then what you can pay and finally, loans. Understand loans before you take them (subsidized vs. unsubsidized) and repayment plans.



Your dashboard in the scholarship system



Your dashboard in the scholarship system



What are we looking for in your application?

- Scholarship reviewers are looking at the whole student
  - Career goal
  - Educational plan
  - Inspiration for your studies
  - Major
  - GPA
  - Relevant work or volunteer experience
  - NO reference required for general application
    - but some “apply-to/recommended” opportunities may require one

Scholarship application pieces

- PCC Admission and completion of online orientation
- Mostly check box and short answer questions
- Two personal Essays
- Financial documentation (if you want to be considered for scholarships with financial need as criteria:
  - FAFSA
  - ORSAA
  - Financial Worksheet (F-1 Visa, International students only)

You can work on these steps anytime during the application cycle, not necessarily in order. Remember to resubmit/update each time you finish working on your application!

Admission to PCC

- You must be admitted and completed the online orientation for PCC to apply for scholarships (G# required). If you are already taking classes, this step is already done.
- If not: www.pcc.edu/admissions
  - Admission is automatic but may take up-to 2 weeks to be processed before you can start your scholarship application.
- If you think you'll attend a different college next year then you will need to apply at that school for their scholarships, too.
- PCC Foundation Scholarships are ONLY for classes taken at PCC.

General Application Questions

- The PCC Foundation general application asks a lot of basic questions about you. Based on your answers to those questions, the system automatically matches you to the general scholarships that you qualify for, to save you time!

Financial Need Documentation

- FAFSA or ORSAA
- Complete as soon as you can:
  - FAFSA
  - ORSAA
- PCC Foundation will receive the results from your student record in Financial Aid

- Financial Worksheet
  (International students only)
- Financial Worksheet
- Fill it out
- Upload to your general scholarship application

Apply-to or Recommended opportunities

- After you have submitted your General Application, the system will process your answers and build a list of “apply-to” or “recommended” scholarships that have an additional piece of information required.
- We recommend you review this list for additional scholarship opportunities.
- These have smaller application pools so you have a greater chance to win!

Reviewing/Scoring your essays

- Both essays are read and scored by 2 trained employees that follow a rubic to apply points based on the strength of each essay. Those scores are averaged and that is how student get their initial placement in each of the scholarship pools.
- The PCC Scholarship Program Officer **reviews the entire application,** confirming eligibility in each pool by pulling information from the student information system.
- Some “apply-to” or “recommended” opportunities are narrowed to a finalist pool and reviewed by appointed committees

General Application Essay Questions

- PCC Foundation
  - 350 word limit
  - Save a copy of your essays
  - Get feedback on your essays
    - Writing Centers
    - Tutoring Centers
    - Advisor or Teachers
    - Peer Mentors
    - Scholarship workshops
    - Scholarship help sessions
    - Take CG105: Scholarships: $$ for College (2 credits)

College and career essay (no AI/ChatGPT)

Explain your career goals and your education plan to meet those goals. What inspired you to choose this field of study and career?

- Detailed career goal
- Clear educational plan
- Inspiration

Strength essay (no AI/ChatGPT)

- What is your greatest strength or characteristic and why? How has this strength benefitted you? How will this help you to succeed at PCC?
  - Focus on one strength
  - What about this quality or characteristic makes it a strength (provide examples)
  - How will this characteristic help you to succeed at PCC?

Final tips

- Make sure your PCC email is correct on the application
- Answer as many of the questions as you can on the general application, this is how the system suggests apply-to opportunities
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation
- Don’t talk about too many topics
- Be detailed
- No texting language
- Be personal
- Start early and submit ahead of the deadline!
- If an “apply-to” or “recommended” opportunity has a letter of reference requirement, it must also be submitted before the deadline

*We do not accept late materials or review incomplete applications

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- http://www.pcc.edu/scholarship-guide

Keep applying!

If you don’t get a scholarship, or even if you do, apply for scholarships each year.

It’s a skill that you will get better with each time!

Questions?