21st Century Scholars Certificate

This is to certify that

FirstName LastName

is a 21st Century Scholar participating in the Oregon GEAR UP program.

As a 21st Century Scholar you will receive services such as tutoring, mentoring, guidance and academic support to help you prepare for college. You will also learn how financial aid can help you and your family pay for your college education. You will be responsible for working hard in school, taking challenging courses, doing your homework, engaging in your school’s GEAR UP activities, and planning for your future with your family, teachers and other supportive adults.

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Oregon Opportunity Grant

The Oregon Opportunity Grant program provides funds to qualifying Oregon students who are enrolled at least half-time at an accredited community college or 4-year college or university that is located in Oregon. To apply for an Oregon Opportunity Grant, you’ll need to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA). The personal and financial information you provide on the financial aid application form will determine your eligibility not only for federal student loans and grants but also for the Opportunity Grant. Award amounts vary based on students’ financial need and the type of institution the student attends. For 2025-26 maximum awards are up to **$4,272** at an Oregon community college and up to **$7,800** at an Oregon public university or an Oregon-based private nonprofit 4-year college or university. Learn more at **oregonstudentaid.gov**.

Oregon Promise Grant

The Oregon Promise is a state grant that helps cover tuition costs at any Oregon community college for recent high school graduates and GED® test graduates. Students must apply during their senior year or immediately after GED® test completion. Awards for 2025-26 range from **$2,202** to **$4,584** for full-time, full-year students. Learn more at **oregonstudentaid.gov**.

Federal Financial Aid

The United States Department of Education offers several **grants** (which do not have to be paid back) and **loans** (which do have to be paid back) that you can use to help pay for college. The amount of federal financial aid that you can receive or borrow depends on your family’s income. In general, the less your family can pay for your college education, the more federal aid you are eligible to receive. Here are some of the different grants and loans available with amounts for 2025-26:

Federal Pell Grant up to **$7,395** per year

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant up to **$4,000** per year

Federal Direct Loans from **$5,500 to $12,500** per year

Federal Work-Study (part-time jobs) varies depending on the job and the college you attend

This certificate is intended to provide information only; it is not a guarantee of state, federal or other funding. For more information about federal financial aid, see your school counselor, call 1-800-4FED-AID, or visit **studentaid.gov**.