START @ OSU

Welcome to Oregon State University! You got in, so what is next? The following are some next steps to follow to ensure your transition to college life is a smooth one.

Receiving Financial Aid

Submit a FAFSA. Submit your FAFSA application each year as early as Oct 1st at fafsa.gov. When it comes to filing your FAFSA earlier is better! The OSU School code is 003210.

Accept your award. You can accept all or part of your award through MyOSU, the online self-service portal. Log in to access financial aid, direct deposit, billing information, view requirements, and more.

Register for classes. Financial Aid cannot be released unless you are registered & have been assessed tuition & fees. All students are awarded aid at full-time, be sure to tell us if you are taking less than full time credits. Your aid will not apply to your student billing account if your actual enrollment does not match the expected enrollment.

Student Loan Requirements. If this is your first time borrowing Direct Loans, you will need to complete Entrance Counseling and a Master Promissory Note (MPN) before your loans can disburse. MPN’s are good for 10 years. Visit studentloans.gov to complete both of these steps.

Parent Loan Requirements. Parent PLUS loans require a PLUS request (Credit Check) and Master Promissory Note (MPN). Parent’s may visit studentloans.gov to complete both.

Degree Partnership Program (DPP). If you are in the Degree Partnership Program you will need to declare your HOME school (the school you want financial aid from) for financial aid purposes. Once you are registered for classes you can complete the online declaration. If you receive OSU Scholarships or certain other institutional aid you are required to be enrolled full-time and take a minimum of 6 credits at OSU each term to receive those funds.

Work Study. Federal Work Study is awarded as part of your financial aid package based on available funding. Work Study opportunities are posted on http://hr.oregonstate.edu/student-employment under the Student Employee link. Once you apply for and are hired as a work study employee you receive a paycheck monthly for the hours worked during the prior pay period. You can earn up to the total amount of your yearly work study award.

Manage your Financial Aid

MyOSU is the online portal to access your student information. Financial aid and Student Account information is located under the Paying for College heading. Use MyOSU to accept or decline your financial aid, view changes, review requirements, sign up for direct deposit, read messages from Financial Aid, and more! Also be sure to check your ONID email account regularly.

Outside Scholarships

If you receive outside scholarships or assistance at any time during the award year, you must report them to our office through MyOSU. Outside scholarship checks from an organization or donor can be mailed to: OSU Student Accounts, PO Box 1086, Corvallis, OR 97339-1086. Funds are applied to your student billing account by the Student Accounts Office at the start of each term.
Using Financial Aid to Pay Your Bill

Student Accounts assesses your tuition, fees, room and board (if applicable) to your student billing account prior to the start of the term. The financial aid you have accepted is then credited to your student billing account. If your financial aid is greater than the amount you owe you will receive a refund. If it is not, then you will have a balance due to OSU. Federal financial aid can only be applied to eligible institutional charges. Items such as parking permits, printing charges etc. cannot be paid directly by federal financial aid funds. Even if a student receives a financial aid refund they could still owe a balance on their student account. It is important to be aware of your student billing account status!

Direct Deposit

Financial Aid and Scholarship funds are paid to your student billing account on the first day of classes. If you anticipate receiving a refund, you can arrange a direct deposit to your own bank account by enrolling through MyOSU. If you do not enroll in Direct Deposit, a paper check will be mailed to your current mailing address on the first day of the term. For an online tutorial on setting up Direct Deposit visit the Student Accounts webpage.

Regular Student Employment

If you were not awarded Federal Work Study funds there are still many opportunities for employment on campus and in the community. Opportunities are posted through the Human Resources website. Visit hr.oregonstate.edu/student-employment to create and employment profile and search available positions!

Enrollment Requirements

Be sure you know the enrollment requirements specific to your aid offer. Some types of aid may be paid for less than full time enrollment while others may not. Federal parent and student Direct loans require a minimum of halftime enrollment (6-8 credits for an undergrad) each term. The Office of Financial Aid has a Census Date each term when your enrollment level is locked for aid purposes. Remember to submit an Enrollment Revision Form early to let the Office of Financial Aid know if you will be less than full time.

Know Before You Owe

Student loans are a valuable resource for funding your education, but it is important that you understand your obligations. As a new student you are no doubt feeling overwhelmed with information. We encourage you to visit our Loan Repayment website (financialaid.oregonstate.edu) and keep tabs on your borrowing through the National Student Loan Data System at nslds.ed.gov. Understanding your responsibilities now will help you avoid later surprises!

Contact Information and Important Websites

Our office is located on the 2nd floor of the Kerr Administration Building and is open Monday through Friday. Advisors are available on a walk-in basis. Checkout the Financial Aid web page for further details.

Financial Aid Main Page: financialaid.oregonstate.edu
MyOSU: main.oregonstate.edu
OSU Scholarship Search by Department: scholarships.oregonstate.edu/
Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): fafsa.gov
National Student Loan Data System (NSLDS): nslds.ed.gov
US Department of Education: studentaid.ed.gov
Direct Loans: studentloans.gov or 1-800-848-0979
Oregon Office of Student Access and Completion: oregonstudentaid.gov
Financial Literacy: financialaid.oregonstate.edu
Smart Student Guide to Financial Aid: finaid.org

WHAT IS FERPA?

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA) is a federal law designed to protect the privacy of a student’s educational records. FERPA also applies to the student’s financial aid records.

In accordance with the FERPA regulation, OSU Financial Aid is required to have the student’s written permission in order to release account information.

If a parent/guardian/spouse/etc. contacts our offices with questions regarding a student’s account, details of the account cannot be released without a valid written FERPA release on file.

Other OSU offices may also require FERPA releases, and each office has unique forms and guidelines under which they operate.

A Consent for Release of Confidential Information form is available online at:
financialaid.oregonstate.edu/forms

More information can be found at:
financialaid.oregonstate.edu

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