

College & Career Pathways: Resources for Seniors & Families

Many seniors and their families have questions about how to proceed with college and career planning, especially in light of the uncertainties we are all facing. Rest assured that colleges are adjusting their expectations and deadlines along with the rest of the world. In addition, a few of you may be considering some new criteria as you work on finding an educational or career pathway that is going to be a good fit for you this coming fall. Your college/career coordinator is available to support you through your planning and decision-making process, so please reach out to them with your questions and concerns.

Financial Aid Awards

Seniors may have already received financial aid award letters from colleges or found their financial aid awards posted in their student portal on the college website. Sometimes these awards can be confusing to decipher. Remember, loans are considered a part of financial aid and may be included in your financial aid package. Your college/career coordinator is available to help you understand and evaluate your financial aid awards.

Colleges are aware that the financial situation of many families may be changing and different than what is reflected in the 2020-21 FAFSA/ORSAA students completed, which was based on 2018 tax information and family assets held when the application was filed. All colleges have a professional judgment process, where they can re-evaluate and adjust a student's financial aid award based on a family's current income and assets.

The following articles walk you through what to look for when evaluating your financial aid award(s) and also offers suggestions on how to write a financial aid appeal asking for professional judgement:

- College Essay Guy: [How to Understand Your Financial Aid Award Letter](#)
- Oregon Goes to College: [How to Compare Financial Aid Offers](#)

Community Colleges, Public Universities, and Private Colleges

Check out these pages for updates on college admissions and acceptance deadlines, online visits, links to virtual tours, and other helpful information:

- Oregon Goes to College: [Oregon College Admissions Coronavirus Updates](#)
- Higher Education Coordinating Commission: [Coronavirus Updates for all Oregon Colleges](#)

Oregon Promise Grant

If seniors applied for the Oregon Promise Grant and met the eligibility requirements (2.50 GPA and listed an Oregon community college on their submitted FAFSA or ORSAA), they should have received an email from OSAC updating them on their Oregon Promise Grant status and directing them to log into their OSAC account to see their Promise award.

For most seniors, the final deadline to apply for Oregon Promise is June 1. Seniors should apply as soon as possible and make sure to also add an Oregon community college to their FAFSA or ORSAA.

The Oregon Promise FAQ Page includes information on how to apply as well as awarding updates. There are updates related to the COVID situation and the spring awarding process. Visit the FAQ page to read about the tentative EFC limit of 34,000 for new applicants and how it may impact you. Regardless of your EFC, OSAC encourages you to complete an application.

The Oregon Promise: How Much Will I Get? video explains how OSAC calculates each student's Oregon Promise Grant, which currently range from \$1,000 to \$3,750.

Job Corps Update

Job Corps is still accepting applications. Job Corps is a no-cost Job Training and Education Program, where full-time dormitory and board accommodations are provided! To learn more about programs and eligibility requirements, visit the Job Corps website or contact:

- Southern Oregon Representative: Joshua Wells, wells.joshua@jobcorps.org
- Tongue Point Center Admissions: Katrina Gasser, gasser.katrina@jobcorps.org

FAFSA/ORSAA

If seniors have not already submitted their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) or ORSAA (Oregon Student Aid Application) now is the time to get it done! All financial aid revolves around these applications.

Financial aid funds are limited at the federal, state, and institutional level, so applying early means the best chance at receiving funds before they run out. Even if you think you or your family will not qualify for financial aid, it is important that you complete your FAFSA or ORSAA. Some schools will not give students merit aid unless they have ones of these two applications on record. Grants, such as Oregon Promise, also require the FAFSA or ORSAA.

- General FAFSA and ORSAA Information
- Not sure which one to file? Use the OSAC filter tool.

Special thanks to Jen Marsden of Ashland High School for her hard work compiling this information and sharing it with the ASPIRE team!



NCAA Eligibility Center COVID-19 Response FAQs

Given the unprecedented events during Spring/Summer 2020 due to COVID-19, the NCAA Eligibility Center has partnered with the NCAA membership to identify the following adjustments to the initial-eligibility certification process. These changes may not capture all unique scenarios; however, NCAA Customer Service is available to assist with questions Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Eastern time at 877-262-1492 (Domestic students and Canadian students outside of Quebec) and for international students including Quebec at ncaa.org/contactinternational. (*This version includes updates posted May 28 in yellow.*)

Standard of Evaluation

Q1: Given the unique circumstances and cancellations due to COVID-19, will there be any flexibility in the initial-eligibility standard for students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date (as determined by the start of year nine) who initially enroll full time at an NCAA member school in the 2020-21 academic year?

A1: Students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who initially enroll full time at an NCAA school in 2020-21 will be academically eligible to receive athletics scholarship, practice and compete in the first year of full-time enrollment if they meet the following criteria:

Division I*

- Meet the core-course progression requirement for NCAA-approved core courses (10 core units, seven of which must be in English, math or science) before start of the seventh semester; and
- Present a 2.300 or higher core-course GPA in such courses.

Division II*

- Complete 10 NCAA-approved core course units before start of the seventh semester; and
- Present a 2.200 or higher core-course GPA in such courses.

*Note: These criteria do not include ACT/SAT scores. The criteria also do not apply to students who are expected to graduate after Spring/Summer 2020.

Q1a: What if a student does not meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria?

A1a: If a student presents 10 core-course units prior to the start of the seventh semester and has at least a 2.0 GPA in those courses, they will receive a partially-approved waiver providing the benefits of Academic Redshirt (DI) and Partial Qualifier (DII) status at the time of final certification [initial application June 1]. If neither set of COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria is met, the student should continue to work toward meeting legislated Division I or II initial-eligibility requirements and submit all transcripts, test scores and proof of graduation to the Eligibility Center.

Q2: Will this standard apply to international students?

A2: For Divisions I and II, students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who present *solely international academic credentials* and initially enroll full time in 2020-21 will be academically eligible to receive athletics scholarship, practice and compete in their first year of full-time enrollment if they:

- Successfully complete at least 10 core-course units before starting the seventh semester, and
- Present a 2.300 (DI)/2.200 (DII) or higher core-course GPA in such courses.

Q3: Will this standard apply to homeschool students?

A3: Yes.

Q4: How will the student's final status appear in their Eligibility Center account?

A4: The student's account will show "Final Nonqualifier" with "COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved" in the Academic Status field, as shown in the example student account below:

DIVISION I Academic Status Final Nonqualifier (COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)	Amateur Status Pending Review	DIVISION II Academic Status Final Nonqualifier (COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved)	Amateur Status Pending Review
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DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS Final Nonqualifier COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid, practice and compete. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.	DIVISION II ACADEMIC STATUS Final Nonqualifier COVID-19 Automatic Waiver Approved You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid, practice and compete. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.
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This status indicates that although the NCAA-legislated initial-eligibility standard was not completely met, the student is academically eligible to receive an athletics scholarship, practice and compete in the first year of full-time enrollment at an NCAA member school.

For student-athletes who do not qualify for the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver, but qualify for a partially-approved waiver providing the benefits of Academic Redshirt (DI) and Partial Qualifier (DII) status, the student's Eligibility Center account will show "Final Nonqualifier" status with "Partial COVID-19 Waiver – Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term" for DI and "Partial COVID-19 Waiver – Athletics Aid and Practice" for DII in the Academic Status field, as shown in the example student account below:

DIVISION I		DIVISION II	
Academic Status	Amateur Status	Academic Status	Amateur Status
Final Nonqualifier	Preliminary Certified	Final Nonqualifier	Preliminary Certified
(Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term)		(Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Athletics Aid and Practice)	

DIVISION I ACADEMIC STATUS	DIVISION II ACADEMIC STATUS
Final Nonqualifier	Final Nonqualifier
Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Aid: 1st yr & Practice: 1st term	Partial COVID-19 Waiver - Athletics Aid and Practice
You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid in your first year and practice in your first term of full-time enrollment. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.	You are immediately eligible to receive athletics aid and practice in your first year of full-time enrollment. Contact your institution's Compliance Department for details.

Timing

Q5: When will student accounts be updated?

A5: This standard will be applied at any time the student's Eligibility Center account is evaluated, either preliminary or final certification. If students with an expected graduation date in Spring/Summer 2020 have already been evaluated, a retroactive application of these criteria will be applied once programming is complete. We anticipate the update will occur on or around May 1, 2020.

Submission of Academic Documents

Q6: Due to international mail disruptions and school closures, will there be any flexibility in requiring official academic documents?

A6: Yes. Official academic records are necessary to ensure accurate initial-eligibility certifications and should be submitted via an approved channel whenever possible. Given the unique circumstances, if only unofficial records are available for students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, please submit them to ec-processing@ncaa.org directly from *the email address associated with* the student's Eligibility Center account in the event they are needed for future evaluation.

Q7: Will students who meet the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver criteria be required to submit a final high school transcript with proof of graduation?

A7: Proof of graduation is not a requirement for the COVID-19 Automatic Waiver, which may be applied during a preliminary evaluation; however, students are encouraged to submit a final high school transcript (similar to early academic qualifiers) when it becomes available to complete their academic record for NCAA Research purposes.

Academic Evaluations

Q8: How will the Eligibility Center approach schools with NCAA-approved core courses that have moved to distance or e-learning environments in Spring/Summer 2020 due to school closures?

A8: The Eligibility Center will not require a separate review of distance or e-learning programs used for Spring/Summer 2020 in response to closures due to COVID-19. Students are encouraged to complete their NCAA-approved core courses through the channels of instruction provided or recommended by their school, district or state department of education.

Note: This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who complete distance or e-learning courses in Spring/Summer 2020.

Q9: For schools with NCAA-approved core courses, how will the Eligibility Center approach those schools that issue Pass/Fail grades in Spring/Summer 2020 due to school closures?

A9: For NCAA-approved core courses completed in Spring/Summer 2020 that have been issued a grade of "Pass," the Eligibility Center will apply the credit earned in these courses toward the core-course requirement in the student's certification. If the student's core-course GPA would increase by assigning a value of 2.300, this value will be assigned to the Passed courses. However, if the student's core-course GPA would decrease by including the 2.300 value for Passed courses, the student's core-course GPA will be calculated based only on courses with assigned letter grades from other available terms (credit from these courses will still be applied toward the student's core-course requirements).

Note: This policy will apply to students from all grade levels (e.g., freshmen, sophomores) who successfully complete NCAA-approved Pass/Fail courses in Spring/Summer 2020.

Q10: Will there be any flexibility in the Division I core-course time limitation for students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date (as determined by the start of year nine) who initially enroll full time in 2020-21?

A10: Yes. For students with an expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduation date who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, up to six core-course units completed after starting the seventh semester (and before full-time enrollment) will be used in the student's initial-eligibility certification, regardless of whether the student graduated on time or when the courses are completed (i.e., during the academic year or Summer term). This approach will allow students impacted by school closures to complete additional core courses toward their initial eligibility.

Note: For Division I, all core courses completed before full-time enrollment may be used in the academic-redshirt certification.

Q11: What if a student repeats an academic term or year due to cancellation/closure in Spring 2020?

A11: NCAA Division I initial-eligibility requirements must be completed in eight semesters following the start of grade nine. NCAA Division II initial-eligibility requirements allow for inclusion of all NCAA-approved core courses completed before full-time collegiate enrollment. Students requiring a repeated academic term or year will need to work closely with the athletics compliance office at their NCAA school to determine their eligibility status given these unique circumstances.

Q12: How will the Eligibility Center approach the cancellation of international leaving examinations in Spring/Summer 2020?

A12: The Eligibility Center encourages submission of official year-by-year transcripts for evaluation of international students. In terms of satisfying graduation requirements, for countries and/or examination boards issuing certificates/diplomas without final exams (based on other assessment methodologies), the Eligibility Center will accept the credential as acceptable proof of high school graduation provided it is listed as an acceptable proof of graduation in the NCAA International Guide. The Graduation Timeline Confirmation Form may also be submitted, as appropriate, to extend the graduation timeline.

Subsequent Classes

Q13: Will other classes (e.g., sophomores, juniors) receive any flexibility in the NCAA initial-eligibility standard as a result of the environment in Spring/Summer 2020?

A13: The approach to Pass/Fail and distance/e-learning courses will apply to all students, including subsequent classes, who complete NCAA-approved core courses in Spring/Summer 2020. At this time, we do not anticipate that application of the adjusted standard will extend beyond expected Spring/Summer 2020 graduates who initially enroll full time in 2020-21, but we will continue to monitor the situation as it evolves.