

HB 3025 adjusts the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) funding formula to reduce barriers to eligibility and increase the program's flexibility to meet students' financial and enrollment needs.

Background and Goals

Since its inception, the Oregon Opportunity Grant (OOG) has improved college affordability for Oregonians from low-income backgrounds. However, as the cost of college steadily increases and learners of all ages pursue postsecondary education and training in greater numbers, some aspects of the OOG's funding formula have become antiquated and no longer adequately support Oregonians from low- and modest-income backgrounds. To better align the OOG with its core purpose, and to strengthen Oregon's workforce training continuum, HB 3025 seeks the following statutory adjustments:

- ✓ Replace the Shared Responsibility Model with the ability for HECC to determine an equitable funding mechanism through rulemaking.
- ✓ Remove the tuition equity requirement, which currently excludes some Oregon Student Aid Application (ORSAA) recipients from receiving the OOG.
- ✓ Expand OOG eligibility to students who are enrolled at $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ time to better support students with alternate enrollment arrangements (primarily adult learners enrolled at community colleges).
- ✓ Expand OOG eligibility to students enrolled in certain approved certificate programs.

HB 3025 has no fiscal impact.

Replacing the Shared Responsibility Model (SRM)

The SRM, adopted in 2007, relies on outdated assumptions about college costs. The SRM has never been fully funded.

HB 3025 allows HECC to replace the SRM with an equitable funding mechanism **determined through rulemaking**.

Funding will prioritize students with the **highest financial need** (consistent with how the program currently operates).

Reducing Barriers to Eligibility via the Tuition Equity Requirement

Currently, long-time noncitizen Oregonians may be eligible for all financial aid *except* the OOG due to an unintended barrier created by the Tuition Equity requirement.

HB 3025 **eliminates this barrier** by removing statutory language from OOG about tuition equity.

Expanding Enrollment Level Eligibility for Learners

HB 3025 expands eligibility for the OOG to **students enrolled at ¼ and ¾ time**.

Expanded flexibility for part-time enrollment will allow the OOG to support more **adult and returning learners**, who disproportionately represent students from low-income backgrounds, student-parents, veterans, and other populations of focus for state support.

Expanding OOG to Learners Enrolled in Certain Certificate Programs

HB 3025 expands eligibility for the OOG to **students enrolled in certificate programs at OOG-eligible institutions**, including Oregon's public universities, community colleges, and Oregon-based private nonprofit institutions. Many certificate programs are also on the Eligible Training and Provider List (ETPL).

This expansion improves affordability for students pursuing valuable workforce credentials, whether as a first step in their career or to upskill.