Financial Aid for College? You bet!

One of the main considerations in attending college is how to pay for it. A community college education is often the most affordable way to access education beyond the high school level. Still, in order to afford going to college while making ends meet at home, the majority of students can use a little help. The good news is that almost all students qualify to receive some type of financial aid. There is money available. The key is to carefully research your options and follow through with timely applications. Aid comes in a variety of shapes and sizes including gift-aid that is free to you (e.g., grants, scholarships, tuition discounts) and self-help aid that you have to earn or pay back (e.g., student employment, loans). All financial aid awards are based on need, merit or a combination of both. If you experience financial barriers to accessing your education, let us help you investigate options.

College financial aid is designed to assist you in meeting your academic goals. We encourage you to carefully review college costs and policies in order to accurately anticipate payment obligations. Before making a commitment that will obligate you academically and financially, become informed about what you may receive. Apply for financial aid at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Use the “FAFSA on the Web Worksheet” to prepare your data. On-line application is recommended for accuracy and processing speed. If you submit a complete and accurate application to the Federal processors at least 3 months before you start school and then respond promptly to requests by RCC’s Financial Aid Office for more information, it’s very possible that you’ll receive an Award Letter in time for Bookstore charging and before you have to finalize your term’s enrollment plans. Your Award Letter will list the types and amounts of aid it is estimated you’ll receive. Some aid options require secondary applications such as loans, student employment and scholarships. Be sure to read consumer information to learn how and when to apply so you can take advantage of all options.

Once admitted, it’s important to define your academic goal(s) as early in your educational career as possible. If you need academic or career guidance, we encourage you to meet with an RCC counselor or academic advisor. Find out if your academic program is aid-eligible. Be sure to enroll in classes that help you progress toward your program goal and which meet the minimum completion and GPA requirements each term so you can maintain eligibility.

For information on the types of aid, possible value, eligibility criteria, how to apply and application deadlines, review the Financial Aid Programs - Quick Reference Guide insert.

When awarding financial aid, the Financial Aid Office builds an annual budgetary estimate of how much it will cost you to live and go to school (“cost of attendance” or COA). It’s usually made up of estimated institutional charges (see Tuition & Fees insert) including tuition, fees, books and supplies as well as allowances for living expenses, such as housing and food, transportation, personal and miscellaneous expenses, out-of-pocket childcare, dependant care, disability-related expenses and qualified professional licenses costs. The COA serves to inform students of anticipated average costs during the school year, to provide a means of determining financial need, and to identify the cap on need-based aid that can generally be awarded.

To determine your level of financial need, we take your COA and subtract your expected family contribution (EFC). Your EFC represents how much you and your family are expected to be able to contribute toward your cost of living and going to school for the academic year. This is determined by a federal formula and uses the data you provided on your FAFSA. If you have special circumstances that were not reflected on the FAFSA but which directly impact your ability to meet your EFC, such as a significant change in income, you may submit a Request for Professional Judgment, with documentation, to the Financial Aid Office for individual consideration. If approved (not a guarantee), your FAFSA data will be modified and your EFC will be re-calculated.

Getting your piece of the pie:

Did you know?...

- RCCs Financial Aid Office delivers approximately $14,000,000 in financial aid to RCC students each year.
- On an annual basis, the Rogue Community College Foundation awards approximately $400,000 to primarily new and returning students!
- The Oregon Student Assistance Commission (OSAC) awards over $12,000,000 each year to Oregon students!

Let us serve you your piece of the pie!