



Oregon State University Financial Aid

Finance and Administration Committee | Board of Trustees

Informational Briefing

Three Key Takeaways

1

Not all aid is equal

Grants and scholarships (gift aid) never have to be repaid and are what actually improve a student's odds of graduating. Loans make college accessible short-term but create repayment obligations. The ratio of gift aid to loans in a package matters as much as the total dollar amount.

2

Sticker price is not what most students pay

After grants, scholarships, and other aid, a typical Pell-eligible Oregon resident's gap is around \$16k (before work and loans) — not the published \$36,747. After student part-time work and loans, the gap is about \$6k. Students and families who stop at the sticker price often walk away from an affordable option. Communicating net price clearly is one of OSU's most important access tools.

3

Nonresident enrollment growth directly funds expanded access for Oregon students

Nonresident students pay more in net tuition than residents, even after receiving merit scholarships and need-based grants. That margin creates the budget capacity to expand need-based grants for Oregon families. Growing nonresident enrollment — through competitive WUE pricing and targeted merit aid — is OSU's primary lever for increasing institutional aid over time.

Understanding Financial Aid

How Need Is Calculated

Cost of Attendance (COA)

Tuition, fees, housing, food, books, transport, personal expenses

minus Student Aid Index (SAI)

A measure of a family's financial capacity, calculated from the FAFSA

equals Financial Need

OSU builds an aid offer designed to help close this gap

Types of Aid OSU Offers

Grants

Gift Aid

Need-based. Free — never repaid.

Scholarships

Gift Aid

Merit-based. Free — never repaid.

Work-Study

Self-Help

Part-time campus employment.

Loans

Self-Help

Must be repaid after graduation.

\$356M

in undergraduate aid awarded | FY25

27.4%

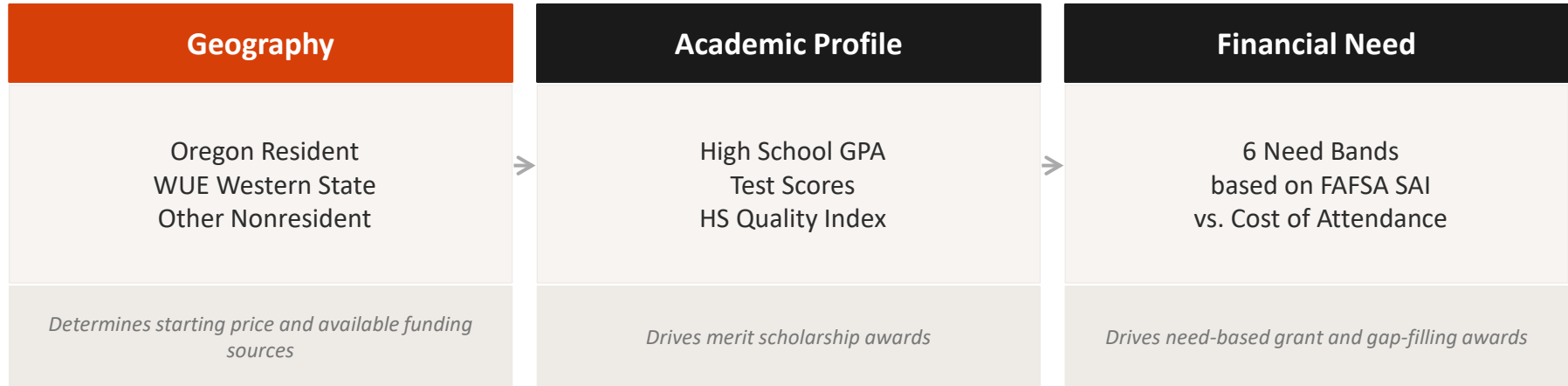
of new first-year residents are Pell-eligible

\$21,221

median student debt at graduation - \$225 payment

How OSU Builds a Financial Aid Offer

OSU uses a structured packaging model that matches each student's financial need with the right mix of aid resources



These three dimensions define a student's packaging group → determining the exact mix of aid in their financial aid offer

Targeting: Concentrate Gift Aid Where It Has Impact

Aid offers are built to meaningfully improve the likelihood a student enrolls — not simply to maximize the offer.

Sustainability: Manage the Discount Rate

OSU monitors its institutional tuition discount rate to ensure we do not erode the net tuition revenue needed to operate and invest in students.

Oregon Resident — Financial Aid Example | 2025–26

Cost of Attendance	
Tuition & Fees, Living Expenses, Books & Supplies, Personal, Transportation	\$36,747
Financial Aid Package	
Pell Grant	\$7,395
Oregon Opportunity Grant	\$7,800
Finley Scholarship	\$4,000
Institutional Need Grant	\$1,200
Total Gift Aid	<u>\$20,395</u>
Net Price after Gift Aid	<u>\$16,352</u>
Student Employment/Work study	\$4,500
Student Loans	\$5,500
Net Price After All Aid	\$6,352

The net price is \$16,352 after gift aid. The estimated gap after all aid is: \$6,352.

Nonresident Student — Financial Aid Example | 2025–26

Cost of Attendance	
Tuition & Fees, Living Expenses, Books & Supplies, Personal, Transportation	\$61,893
Financial Aid Package	
Pell Grant	\$7,395
WUE Award	\$18,000
Institutional Need Grant	\$3,000
Total Gift Aid	\$28,395
Net Price after Gift Aid	\$34,498
Student Loans	\$5,500
Net Price After All Aid	\$28,998

The net price is \$34,498 after gift aid. The estimated gap after all aid is: \$28,998.

Nonresident net tuition revenue funds expanded aid for students who need it most

1

Competitive Pricing for Western Students

The Western Undergraduate Exchange (WUE) sets tuition at 150% of in-state — a \$25,000+ discount from the standard nonresident rate. WUE is OSU's primary recruitment tool for the 16-state Western region.

2

Merit Aid to Win the Enrollment Decision

Merit scholarships are tiered by high school GPA. For nonresident students, awards are sized to make OSU price-competitive against in-state alternatives and peer institutions in the region.

3

Net Revenue Funds Resident Need-Based Aid

Nonresident students pay more in net tuition than residents, even after scholarships. That margin creates the institutional budget capacity to expand grants and need-based aid for Oregon students.

OSU's discount rate is **33.1%** — competitive enough to win enrollments, managed to protect long-term sustainability