



OREGON
COLLEGE
SAVINGS

PLANNER

SPRING 2017



Spring Time is Tax Season

It's officially Spring Time, and with warming temperatures and budding spring flowers also comes the time to pay state and federal income taxes. The good news is that the IRS provides several ways for taxpayers to save money on their taxes. For example, as an Oregon College Savings Plan account owner, you already enjoy tax-free growth opportunity, tax-free withdrawals for qualified higher education expenses, and an annual state income tax deduction.

But there may be other tax savings available to you. Homeowners, for example, can save on taxes since mortgage interest payments are tax deductible, as are real estate taxes and any mortgage insurance premiums that may be payable. In addition, the federal government encourages homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient by offering tax credits for a variety of home improvements, including the installation of qualifying insulation, windows, doors and skylights, qualified roofing materials and the installation of certain heating and cooling systems. Alternative energy sources, like solar panels, may also be eligible for tax credits. Your tax advisor can confirm which tax savings are applicable to your situation.

Finally, did you know that contributions to your Oregon College Savings Plan account may help reduce the taxable value of your estate?

Contributions for your beneficiary, together with all other gifts for that beneficiary, may qualify for an annual federal gift tax exclusion of up to \$14,000 (\$28,000 for married contributors). And, if your account contributions exceed \$14,000 (\$28,000 for married contributors) in a single year, you may elect to treat up to \$70,000 of the contributions (\$140,000 for joint filers) as having been made over a period of up to five years for the purposes of receiving the federal gift tax exclusion.

Of course, every taxpayer's situation is unique, so be sure to consult with your tax advisor about all the tax savings that may be available to you. You may also visit [irs.gov](https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions) for more details about federal tax credits and deductions. Source: <https://www.irs.gov/credits-deductions>

Oregon College Savings Planner Tips

If you are expecting a tax refund this year, remember that it can go so much further if you invest it in education. So, before you are tempted to make a short-term impulse buy, consider investing your tax refund into your Oregon College Savings Plan account and get an educational bang for your buck. Your Oregon state tax return includes a convenient way to direct your refund into your Oregon College Savings Plan account. Just complete Schedule OR-529 when you file your tax return.

Also, if your child will be having a graduation this Spring, remember to take advantage of eGift. It provides a fast, secure and easy way to invite family and friends to make a contribution to your account. Simply log in online at OregonCollegeSavings.com and click on eGift under the Transactions tab at the top of the page. Other ways to help grow your account include activating an automatic contribution plan using the Transactions tab on the site or through your bank's bill pay feature. For more information about investing in the Oregon College Savings Plan, please call 866-772-8464.

Neither TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., nor its affiliates, are responsible for the content found on the external website referenced herein. Taxpayers should seek advice from an independent tax advisor based on their own particular circumstances.

TIAA-CREF Tuition Financing, Inc., Plan Manager. TIAA-CREF Individual & Institutional Services, LLC, member FINRA, distributor and underwriter for the Oregon College Savings Plan.

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This letter must be preceded or accompanied by a Disclosure Booklet for the Oregon College Savings Plan. Investments in the Plan are neither insured nor guaranteed and there is the risk of investment loss. Before investing in a 529 plan, consider whether the state in which you or your Beneficiary reside has a 529 plan that offers favorable state tax benefits that are available if you invest in that state's 529 plan.

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