# ACRL Oregon Professional Development Scholarship FAQ

Apply for the scholarship here

**What makes an individual eligible for this scholarship?**

You need to be a member of ACRL-OR (the academic division of the Oregon Library Association, and the Oregon chapter of ACRL). See the matrix below for an overview of how the applications will be evaluated.

**I applied for this scholarship a few months back, but was not awarded it. I have a new opportunity to pursue some different professional development. Can I apply again for a different opportunity?**

Yes, definitely, assuming you maintained your ACRL-OR membership.

**If I was already awarded a scholarship from ACRL-OR this academic year, can I get a second?**

ACRL-OR will only award one scholarship per individual each fiscal year, which runs from September 1 - August 31. If you were already awarded a scholarship in this fiscal year, you will not be awarded a second.

**If I was awarded a scholarship from ACRL-OR for a conference/course I now cannot attend or have decided not to attend. Can I use the money for something else?**

Since ACRL-OR bases our awards on the specific conference/course and your stated reasons for attending/taking it, you can only apply funding to that conference. If you cannot attend it, please let us know as soon as possible so we may award the funds to another applicant. You are welcome to apply for funding for another conference or learning experience in the next round.

**Can I still apply if I do not currently work in an academic library or do not have a job? How should I respond to the questions about how this learning opportunity supports my institution?**

Yes, you can still apply. Instead of linking the answers to an institution, tell us how this opportunity would inform your work at a future place of employment. Include a statement on the value this learning would bring to a potential employer and/or state association.

**What kind of professional development will this scholarship potentially support?**

This scholarship is intended for ongoing professional development opportunities such as conferences, workshops, online courses, seminars, or other opportunities appropriate to the applicant. The priority is to fund registration and transportation costs for these opportunities. Note that the scholarship is not intended to support degree or certification programs.

**What if the event in which I want to participate is more than the maximum amount awarded?**

That's fine - but make sure that some other entity (i.e., the institution for which you work, or yourself) can pay the remainder.

**What if the event in which I want to participate is less than the maximum amount awarded (2019-2020 only)?**

That's great! You should still apply - we may be able to provide funds for more than one awardee per cycle, but we will not award more than $675 total per individual per cycle. Any funds not used in a given cycle will roll over to the next cycle. ACRL-OR works on a fiscal year calendar that ends on August 31. In most years, this means there might be more money available at the July deadline, but in some years, there might also be more money available in March as well.

**What if the event in which I want to participate is not directly related to my current job or the library profession? Should I even consider applying?**

It is still okay to apply. However, it will be critical that you align what you learn with either the organization for which you work and/or a state organization/affiliation that in some respect aligns with your job. Please feel free to be creative, but ultimately the professional development sponsored by ACRL-OR needs to align in some manner with academic libraries of Oregon.

**I heard that board members of ACRL-OR are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Is that correct? How does that work?**

It is correct that ACRL-OR board members are eligible to apply for this scholarship. The warrant for this is that ACRL-OR is a rather small constituency and to close it to board members would even further limit the applicant pool. The scholarship committee is a sub-committee of the ACRL-OR board. We will make certain that board members applying for a scholarship in the fiscal cycle are not involved in evaluating the applications. We feel that this enables us to be fair to, yet inclusive of, all ACRL-OR members.

**If I get professional development funding from the institution for which I work, will my application even be considered?**

The short answer is - yes. The long answer is there are five questions in the application and, while one of these relates to need, all five will be considered when awarding the scholarship. For example, say your institution grants you $750 in professional development funding, to be used at your discretion. You plan to use this to partially pay for your involvement at a national conference, and you would like to apply for this scholarship to assist in expenditures. It would be best to elaborate on this in the question related to funding in the application, but your application will not be dismissed simply because you have additional sources of funding. But do recognize that if someone else in the pool demonstrates more need, your application might not rank as high overall.

**What are the deadlines for this scholarship, and when can I expect to hear something back from ACRL-OR?**

ACRL-OR's professional development scholarship has three deadlines:

- November 29
- February 28
- July 31

The committee will review the applications within two weeks after the deadline. An applicant should expect to hear back from the ACRL-OR scholarship committee by December 13, April 17, August 14, depending on the term in which they placed the application.

**I applied for this scholarship in a previous cycle, but did not receive it. Do I need to reapply to be considered? Should I?**

ACRL-OR's scholarship committee will "clean the slate," per se, at the end of each cycle. In other words, if you were not awarded a scholarship in one cycle, but the event you would like to participate in is either ongoing or has not yet happened, you may re-apply. If you do, however, please make sure that your application aligns with the matrix.

**How will my application be evaluated?**

See the rubric below for details of the application evaluation process.

**Application Evaluation Rubrics:**

1. How does this learning opportunity support your professional needs and goals? (200 words max)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Goals/needs not clearly defined or related to opportunity | | | | Goals/needs clearly defined; connection to learning opportunity is clearly articulated |

2. How does this opportunity support broader initiatives at your institution or state organizations? (200 words max)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Institutional/organizational initiatives undefined; opportunity is not connected | | | | Institutional or state initiatives clearly articulated and opportunity is explicitly related |

3. How do you plan to share and/or apply what you learn through this opportunity? (200 words max)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No clear plans to share or apply learning articulated | | | | Clear plans to share and/or apply learning articulated; these may include plans to present, create a guide for colleagues, alter an institutional practice, etc. |

4. What other funding sources are you planning to apply for or use for this professional development opportunity? (100 words max)

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Other funding sources available. Financial need is low. | | | | No other funding sources available. Financial need is high. |

5. In awarding scholarships, preference is given to: 1. Applicants from diverse cultural/ethnic backgrounds and/or historically marginalized groups, 2. Applicants employed at institutions or in positions serving under-represented groups, 3. Applicants who have not previously been awarded an ACRL-OR scholarship, and/or 4. Applicants employed at community or technical colleges or applicants employed at smaller or rural institutions with limited funding. If you meet any of the criteria in our scholarship preference list, please describe it here. If not, leave this section blank.

| 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Applicant does not meet any of the preferential criteria | Applicant meets one of the preferential criteria | Applicant meets two of the preferential criteria | Applicant meets three of the preferential criteria | Applicant meets four of the preferential criteria |

**For more information:**

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