

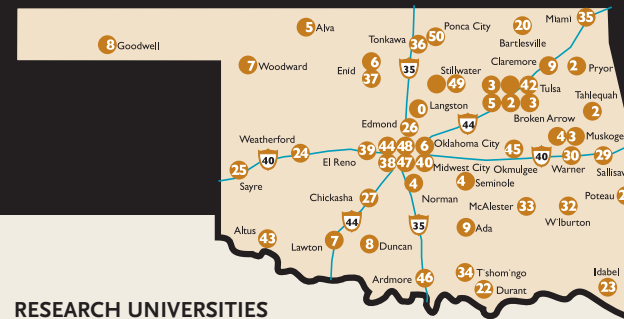
Photo courtesy Rose State College, Midwest City



Photo courtesy Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa



OKLAHOMA PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES



A COLLEGE DEGREE Why not you? Why not now?

A QUICK GUIDE FOR ADULT COLLEGE STUDENTS

YOU MAY HAVE MORE COLLEGE CREDIT THAN YOU THINK!

Institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education may offer college credit for learning that has been acquired outside of traditional educational settings. This includes learning from life and work experiences, independent reading and study, and participation in formal courses sponsored by associations, business, government, industry, the military and unions.

Each institution evaluates lifelong learning and awards college credit on a course-by-course basis. Contact the institution you plan to attend for an evaluation of your lifelong learning.

GED Testing

If you dropped out of high school and would still like to pursue a college degree, you have options.

Most colleges and universities in the U.S., including those in Oklahoma, consider the General Educational Development (GED) to be the equivalent to a high school diploma. To learn more about taking the GED exam, visit the Center for Adult Learning and Educational Credentials Web site at www.acenet.edu/calec/ged.

ADULT LEARNERS TO-DO LIST:

- Research schools in your area
- Decide what degree you want
- Fill out the FAFSA form at www.fafsa.gov
- Explore other financial aid opportunities
- Apply for admission

GOOD TERMS TO KNOW

Academic Service Fees: fees for receiving certain courses of instruction or certain academic services as designated by the institution. These services may include special instruction, testing and the provision of laboratory supplies and materials.

Associate Degree: degree given upon completion of two years of full-time study or the equivalent. Most associate degrees are awarded by community colleges, although some universities also offer them. Some associate degrees transfer to universities; others are for career preparation.

Bachelor's Degree: degree given upon completion of four years of full-time study or the equivalent.

Credit Hour: credit given for attending one lecture hour of class each week for 15 weeks or equivalent. Most college classes are three credit hours, meaning the total meeting time for a week is three hours. To calculate tuition, multiply the number of credit hours for each class by the cost of tuition per credit hour.

Mandatory Fees: fees used to support the mission of an institution and to support service facilities, such as student unions, health care infirmaries and recreational facilities, as well as other support services used for the purpose of enhancing student life, including scholarships, student travel and student organizations.

Prerequisite: course which a student must take before he or she can enroll in another (usually more challenging) course.

Tuition: payment that students make to cover costs of their classes at state and private colleges and universities. Other fees may be also required.

RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

1. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
2. OSU Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa
3. OSU-Tulsa
4. University of Oklahoma, Norman
5. OU - Tulsa
6. OU Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City

REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

7. Cameron University, Lawton
8. Cameron University, Duncan
9. East Central University, Ada
10. Langston University, Langston
11. Langston University, Tulsa
12. Northeastern State University, Tahlequah
13. Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow
14. Northeastern State University, Muskogee
15. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
16. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Enid
17. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward
18. Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell
19. Rogers State University, Claremore
20. Rogers State University, Bartlesville
21. Rogers State University, Pryor
22. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant
23. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Idabel
24. Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford
25. Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Sayre
26. University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
27. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

28. Carl Albert State College, Poteau
29. Carl Albert State College, Sallisaw
30. Connors State College, Warner
31. Connors State College, Muskogee
32. Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton
33. Eastern Oklahoma State College, McAlester
34. Murray State College, Tishomingo
35. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami
36. Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa
37. Northern Oklahoma College, Enid
38. Oklahoma City Community College
39. Redlands Community College, El Reno
40. Rose State College, Midwest City
41. Seminole State College, Seminole
42. Tulsa Community College
43. Western Oklahoma State College, Altus

TECHNICAL BRANCHES

44. Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City
45. Oklahoma State University Technical Branch - Okmulgee

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS/SITES

46. Ardmore Higher Education Center
47. Greater Oklahoma City Downtown College Consortium
48. Langston University, Oklahoma City
49. Northern Oklahoma College, Stillwater
50. University Center at Ponca City



Photo courtesy Western Oklahoma State College, Altus



Photo courtesy Oklahoma City Community College



For more information,
call 1.800.858.1840 (225.9239 in Oklahoma City)
or visit www.okhighered.org/student-center.

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OKLAHOMA'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Improving our future by degrees

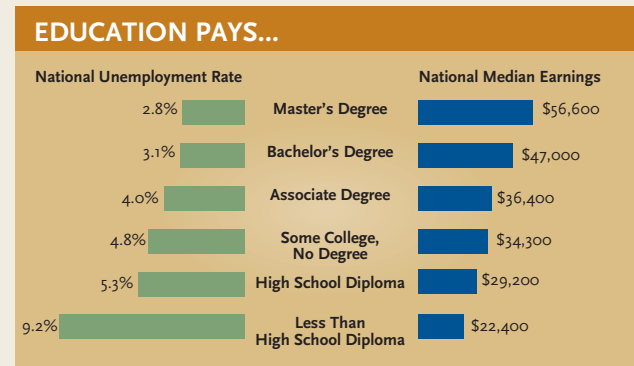


WHY GET A COLLEGE DEGREE?

If you walk around a college campus, you may be surprised to find that many students are older than the traditional 18-22 year old.

According to the Census Bureau and the National Center for Education Statistics, adults 25 and over made up about 40 percent of college students in 2002 and will grow to nearly 7.8 million by 2014. In fact, a recent report showed that nearly 68,000 adults 25 and over were enrolled in Oklahoma's public colleges and universities.

Many adults (sometimes referred to as non-traditional students) return to school because they are looking for a career change or to update their job skills. Others may have experienced some life-changing event, such as marriage, divorce or relocation. Whatever the reason, a college degree truly changes a person's life. In fact, college graduates make about \$1 million more than high school graduates during their lifetimes.



Source: Employment Securities Commission, 2002 Unemployment Rate / 2001 Median Earnings

Other benefits of a college degree include:

- Boosting your job search success.
- Equipping you for better opportunities for promotion.
- Developing an enriched knowledge base and new perspective for work and life.
- Opening doors to further advanced education opportunities, such as obtaining a bachelor's or master's degree.

A college degree will give you a competitive advantage in the marketplace and provide you the skills and knowledge valued by employers in business, government and organizations.

WHERE DO YOU START?

Picking a College

OK. You've thought about it long and hard. And now you've decided to take that leap and join the thousands of other Oklahomans like yourself who want to get a college degree.


In Oklahoma, there are three basic types of public higher education institutions, and one of them is sure to meet your needs. The state's **research universities**, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma, offer bachelor's, graduate and professional degrees but also focus on research, extension and public service. **Regional universities** offer bachelor's and master's degrees, and in some instances, associate or professional degrees. **Community colleges** grant associate degrees for transfer to universities or for career preparation.

Technical branches are another type of institution in Oklahoma. They have a special emphasis on education and training in technical fields.

Research and regional universities have certain admission requirements for all students, such as minimum ACT or SAT scores, class rankings and grade point averages. Community colleges have "open-door" admissions policies, meaning there are no minimum requirements for admission; however, you may have to take an assessment test to determine your proficiency level in one or more subjects.

For more information on Oklahoma public college and university admission standards, e-mail studentinfo@osrhe.edu, call the Student Information Hotline at 1.800.858.1840 or visit Oklahoma's higher education Web site at www.okhighered.org/student-center.

You may also contact either the admissions or enrollment management office at the college or university you plan to attend. Some colleges may even have an office specifically designed to serve adults or non-traditional students.



REACH HIGHER
OKLAHOMA'S DEGREE COMPLETION PROGRAM

ReachHigher, Oklahoma's degree completion program, is designed specifically for working adults who want to finish their college degree, but haven't had the chance because of family, finances, or other obligations.

ReachHigher is an affordable and flexible program offered by nine of Oklahoma's public regional universities.

www.reachhigheroklahoma.org

HOW DO YOU PAY FOR COLLEGE?

Oklahoma's public colleges and universities continue to be among the most affordable in the nation. And, despite some common misconceptions, financial aid is available for adults returning to college or entering college for the first time.

Financial aid includes scholarships, grants, work-study and loans. In addition to government-supported aid, many businesses provide tuition reimbursement programs to their employees. Surveys show that many employers want an educated workforce and are willing to help pay for it. An educated workforce is vital to Oklahoma's economic future.

The first step in applying for student financial aid is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), a form required to apply for financial aid. Forms are available at college or university financial aid offices or online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

Check with the financial aid office at the college or university you're interested in attending to see about other financial aid options. There are also numerous Web sites that will point you in the right direction.

Be very leery about Web sites that charge for information about student financial aid!

Loans should only be used as a last resort after you have exhausted other avenues of financial aid. For more information about student loans, visit the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program at www.ogslp.org or call 405.234.4300.

You may also qualify for certain federal tax credits or deductions for some of your college expenses. To learn more, check out IRS Publication 970, "Tax Benefits for Education," or visit www.irs.gov/publications.

Grants and Scholarships

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administer several scholarships and grants to help adults pay for college, including:

Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program - Awards grants to Oklahoma students who need money to meet part of the cost of attending college. Students must complete the FAFSA and demonstrate financial need.

Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant Program - Awards grants to full-time Oklahoma undergraduate students who want to attend one of the state's private colleges or universities. To be eligible, a student's family income must be under \$50,000.

Tuition Waiver - An arrangement offered by Oklahoma colleges and universities to waive tuition costs for students who meet certain qualifications.

National Guard Tuition Waiver - Awards scholarships to National Guard members and enlistees who want to earn a bachelor's degree at an Oklahoma public college or university.

Scholars for Excellence in Child Care - Ensures that eligible child care professionals in the state of Oklahoma have an opportunity to attend a community college to further their education while earning a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential, Certificate of Mastery, and/or an associate degree in child development or early childhood education.

Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program (TSEIP) - TSEIP is a legislative program that reimburses eligible student loan expenses or pays an equivalent cash benefit to individuals who graduate from an Oklahoma accredited teacher education program, receive teaching certification in math or science and agree to teach in an Oklahoma public secondary school for at least five years.

For more information on the scholarships and grants listed above, e-mail studentinfo@osrhe.edu, call the Student Information Hotline at 800.858.1840 or visit Oklahoma's higher education Web site at www.okhighered.org/student-center.

The table below should help you determine what kinds of college costs you can expect to pay in Oklahoma.

Costs for Part-Time Students*

Expenses	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches
Resident Tuition	\$627	\$515	\$332	\$432
Mandatory Fees	\$384	\$190	\$127	\$152
Average Academic Service Fees	\$111	\$24	\$13	\$51
Books and Supplies	\$201	\$170	\$209	\$244
Total	\$1,323	\$899	\$681	\$879

* 2006-07 Estimated Average Costs at Oklahoma public colleges for Oklahoma residents, based on 6 credit hours per semester

Photo courtesy Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa



Photo courtesy Rose State College, Midwest City



Photo courtesy Oklahoma City Community College

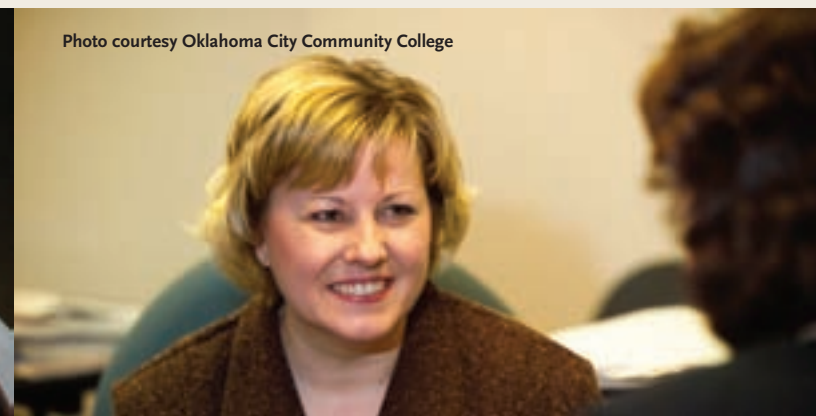


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