

# Getting Ready For College

College is an investment in your future that you SHOULD be planning for now. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education offers many FREE resources to help you and your family consider college options and plan for your future education needs. Many of the programs and resources are listed below. To get more information or a copy of the brochures, visit [www.OKcollegestart.org](http://www.OKcollegestart.org), call the Student Information Hotline at 800.858.1840 (225.9239 in OKC) or e-mail your request to [studentinfo@osrhe.edu](mailto:studentinfo@osrhe.edu).

## THESE WILL HELP

### Academic Commitment to Education (ACE)

A program targeted to those high school students who possess high academic and leadership standards. The ACE curriculum is designed as a “grow your own” teacher recruitment program that includes a teaching internship. However, those who do not become educators evolve into strong advocates for teachers and proponents for education. ACE is offered by the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center. For more information, call 800.858.1840 or 225.9198 in Oklahoma City or visit the MTRC Web site at [www.okhighered.org/mtrc](http://www.okhighered.org/mtrc).

### Advanced Placement Courses (AP)

Allow students to take college-level course work in high school and receive credit at Oklahoma colleges and universities. See the Getting Into College section for more information.

### Concurrent Enrollment

Allows eligible junior and senior high school students to take courses for college credit. See the Getting Into College section for more information.

### Cooperative Alliances

Allow eligible high school juniors and seniors and adults to earn college credit toward an Associate in Applied Science degree for some courses taught at technology centers statewide. See the Getting Into College section for more information.

### Course Transfer

The State Regents provide a course transfer matrix that outlines the 7,500 courses that will transfer among Oklahoma’s public colleges and universities (as well as some private institutions). The information is searchable by year, institution and academic discipline, such as biology or history. For more information, call the Student Transfer Hotline 800.583.5883 or visit [www.okcoursetransfer.org](http://www.okcoursetransfer.org).

### Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP)

Administered by the State Regents, this federally funded program is designed to better prepare middle and high school students for college through academic preparation programs and scholarships for students, professional development activities for educators, and college access information for students and parents. For more information, call 800.858.1840 or 225.9191 in Oklahoma City or visit the GEAR UP Web site at [www.okhighered.org/gearup](http://www.okhighered.org/gearup).

### Leadership Education and Achievement Program (LEAP)

LEAP, a yearlong course, provides eighth- and ninth-grade-level students the knowledge and skills with which to make education, career and life plans and facilitates an understanding of the long-term consequences of the choices they make today. LEAP uses a research-based curriculum with a goal of increasing school retention and the success rate of students. LEAP is offered by the Minority Teacher Recruitment Center. For more information, call 800.858.1840 or 225.9198 in Oklahoma City or visit the MTRC Web site at [www.okhighered.org/mtrc](http://www.okhighered.org/mtrc).

### Oklahoma College Savings Plan

To help families save for college, Oklahoma has created a savings program that offers tax advantages and a low start-up investment of \$100 and contributions as small as \$15 per investment option per pay period through payroll deduction. Funds can be withdrawn as needed and used for college expenses at nearly all colleges and universities in the United States. For more information, call 877.654.7284 or visit [www.ok4saving.org](http://www.ok4saving.org).

### Oklahoma Educational Planning and Assessment System (OK EPAS)

Tests students in the eighth (EXPLORE) and 10th grade (PLAN) to assess their progress in core academic courses as well as career interests and provides feedback to schools, students and parents. Participation in OK EPAS is voluntary and free to school districts and students. For more information, call 800.858.1840 or 225.9320 in Oklahoma City or visit the OK EPAS Web site at [www.okhighered.org/epas](http://www.okhighered.org/epas).

### Oklahoma’s Promise (Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program)

Awards scholarships to students whose families meet certain income requirements and who have demonstrated a commitment to academic preparation in high school. Students must sign up for the program in the eighth, ninth or 10th grade (home-schooled students must be age 13, 14 or 15). There are additional academic and financial requirements to keep the scholarship during college. For more information, call 800.858.1840 or 225.9152 in Oklahoma City or visit the Oklahoma’s Promise Web site at [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org).

### Oklahoma Money Matters (OKMM)

A financial education initiative of the State Regents and the Oklahoma Guaranteed Student Loan Program, OKMM offers information, resources and a variety of services to help students, adults and families successfully manage personal finances, understand consumer credit issues and navigate the financial aid process. For more information, call 800.970.OKMM or 234.4457 in Oklahoma City, or visit the OKMM Web site at [www.oklahomamoneymatters.org](http://www.oklahomamoneymatters.org).

### Student Information Hotline

Provides information on financial aid, admission requirements, placement scores and more. Call 800.858.1840 or 225.9239 in Oklahoma City or e-mail [studentinfo@osrhe.edu](mailto:studentinfo@osrhe.edu).

## CHECK IT OUT

### **GEAR UP Guides for Parents of 8th Graders, 9th-10th Graders and 11th-12th Graders**

Includes information on the important role parents play in preparing their children for college, the economic benefits of obtaining a college degree, the high school courses required for college entry, admission standards, college costs and financial aid. In addition, the guides have a list of activities parents can do with their children to help them prepare for college. The grade-specific guides are provided to parents in the winter.

### **Grant and Scholarship Programs Booklet**

Lists grant and scholarship programs administered by the State Regents.

### **The Official Guide to Oklahoma's Colleges and Universities**

Provides a profile on each college and university in Oklahoma and includes information on preparing for college, college costs and financial aid. Guides are provided to high school counselors in the late summer.

### **OKcollegestart.org**

Provides information on admission requirements, financial aid, college costs and more for students, parents and counselors. Students can search by keywords and receive personalized results to compare colleges. Information is also available in Spanish. Visit the site at [www.OKcollegestart.org](http://www.OKcollegestart.org).

### **Oklahoma's Promise Flyer**

Explains the requirements and benefits of Oklahoma's Promise, which awards scholarships to students with financial need who have demonstrated a commitment to academic success in high school. Posters and application forms are also available. Materials are provided to counselors in late summer for distribution to eighth-, ninth- and 10th-grade students and are also available in Spanish.

### **Preparing for College Brochures**

Outlines the required courses students must take in high school to be admitted to an Oklahoma state college or university, admission standards and financial aid information. Brochures are provided to counselors in late summer for distribution to eighth- through 12th-grade students.

Publications are available for download on Oklahoma higher education's Web site at [www.okhighered.org](http://www.okhighered.org). For more information or to order materials, call the State Regents' toll-free hotline at 800.858.1840 (225.9239 in Oklahoma City), e-mail your request to [studentinfo@osrhe.edu](mailto:studentinfo@osrhe.edu) or write:

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