

**TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
SUBCHAPTER 1. ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

**AGENCY RULE REPORT  
December 5, 2013**

**1. The date the notice of the intended rulemaking action was published in "The Oklahoma Register";**

November 1, 2013

**2. The name and address of the agency;**

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
655 Research Parkway, Suite 200  
Oklahoma City, OK, 73104

**3. The title and number of the rule;**

TITLE 610. STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
SUBCHAPTER 1. Academic Scholars Program  
610-25-1-5. Criteria for Annual Renewal [AMENDED]  
610:25-1-7. Fiscal Aspects of Program [AMENDED]

**4. A citation to the statutory authority for the rule;**

70 O.S. §2405; 70 O.S. §3206 (i); Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

**5. A brief summary of the content of the adopted rule;**

The proposed rule changes address the following issues:

Summer Awards: The proposed revisions clarify that students may receive a full-semester award during the summer if the student enrolls full-time in at least 12 semester credit hours. The summer award will count toward the student's overall scholarship limit of eight full-time semester awards, so no additional fiscal impact to the program is expected. The proposed change will accommodate those students capable of completing their undergraduate degree in less than four calendar years. The proposed change also recognizes alternate semester structures such as the trimester system at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) which provides three equal trimesters each academic year allowing students to earn 36 credit hours or more per year.

Clarification of Institution Tuition Waiver Award: State system colleges and universities are required to provide program participants a tuition waiver award in addition to the cash award paid by the program. The proposed revision clarifies that the combined amount of the program award and the institution tuition waiver may not exceed the average costs of tuition and fees, room and board, and required textbooks or materials.

**6. A statement explaining the need for the adopted rule;**

The adopted rule changes are necessary to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the program by allowing capable students to complete their degrees more quickly and providing greater clarity about the program award.

**7. The date and location of the meeting, if held, at which such rules were adopted;**

December 5, 2013  
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education  
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**8. A summary of the comments and explanation of changes or lack of any change made in the adopted rules as a result of testimony received at all hearings or meetings held or sponsored by an agency for the purpose of providing the public an opportunity to comment on the rules or of any written comments received prior to the adoption of the rule. The summary shall include all comments received about the cost impact of the proposed rules;**

No comments were received.

**9. A list of persons or organizations who appeared or registered for or against the adopted rule at any public hearing held by the agency or those who have commented in writing before or after the hearing;**

None. There was no public hearing.

**10. A rule impact statement;**

See attached

**11. An incorporation by reference statement if the rule incorporates a set of rules from a body outside the state, such as a national code;**

N/A

**12. The members of the governing board of the agency adopting the rules and the recorded vote of each member;**

Glass – yes  
Harrell – yes  
Helm – yes  
Holloway – yes  
Massey – not present  
Parker – not present  
Strickland – yes  
Turpen – yes  
White – yes

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CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS  
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**RULE IMPACT STATEMENT**

**A. Brief description of the purpose of the proposed rule.**

The proposed rule changes address the following issues:

Summer Awards: The proposed revisions clarify that students may receive a full-semester award during the summer if the student enrolls full-time in at least 12 semester credit hours. The summer award will count toward the student's overall scholarship limit of eight full-time semester awards, so no additional fiscal impact to the program is expected. The proposed change will accommodate those students capable of completing their undergraduate degree in less than four calendar years. The proposed change also recognizes alternate semester structures such as the trimester system at the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO) which provides three equal trimesters each academic year allowing students to earn 36 credit hours or more per year.

Clarification of Institution Tuition Waiver Award: State system colleges and universities are required to provide program participants a tuition waiver award in addition to the cash award paid by the program. The proposed revision clarifies that the combined amount of the program award and the institution tuition waiver may not exceed the average costs of tuition and fees, room and board, and required textbooks or materials. The clarification does not change the current value of the scholarship.

**B. Description of the classes of persons who most likely will be affected by the proposed rule, including classes that will bear the costs of the proposed rule, and any information on cost impacts received by the agency from any private or public entities.**

Participants in the program are the persons that will be affected by the proposed rule. The proposed rule is not expected to increase costs for any classes of persons and no information on cost impacts has been received by the agency from any private or public entities.

**C. Description of the classes of persons who will benefit from the proposed rule.**

Participants in the program who are capable of completing 12 semester credit hours during the summer semester will benefit from the proposed rule.

**D. Description of the probable economic impact of the proposed rule upon affected classes of persons or political subdivisions, including a listing of all fee changes and, whenever possible, a separate justification for each fee change.**

Some participants in the program will receive an increased scholarship award amount during the summer if they enroll in at least 12 semester credit hours. The increase in the award amount could range from \$450 to \$1,375, depending on the individual student's eligibility classification and the type of institution the student is attending.

**E. Probable costs and benefits to the agency and to any other agency of the implementation and enforcement of the proposed rule, the source of revenue to be used for implementation and**

**enforcement of the proposed rule, and any anticipated effect on state revenues, including a projected net loss or gain in such revenues if it can be projected by the agency.**

The costs of the proposed rule should be minimal. The total amount of benefits for each participant in the program remains unchanged. However, some participants may be able to access some program benefits earlier under the proposed rule if they are capable of completing 12 semester hours during the summer semester. The source of revenue for the program is state revenues. No net loss or gain in state revenues is projected.

**F. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an economic impact on any political subdivisions or require their cooperation in implementing or enforcing the rule.**

The proposed rule changes should not have an economic impact on any political subdivisions. Some colleges will be required to cooperate in implementing the rule but should not have to change their administrative systems due to the rule change.

**G. Determination of whether implementation of the proposed rule will have an adverse economic effect on small business as provided by the Oklahoma Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act.**

After consideration with reference to Section 303(A)(4) and 303(B)(6) of Title 75, it is believed that the proposed rules will have no adverse impact upon Small Business.

**H. Explanation of the measures the agency has taken to minimize compliance costs and a determination of whether there are less costly or non-regulatory methods or less intrusive methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule.**

Because the proposed changes do not require any change in administrative processes, there should not be any increase in compliance costs.

**I. Determination of the effect of the proposed rule on the public health, safety and environment and, if the proposed rule is designed to reduce significant risks to the public health, safety and environment, an explanation of the nature of the risk and to what extent the proposed rule will reduce the risk.**

The proposed rule should have no effect on the public health, safety, and environment.

**J. Determination of any detrimental effect on the public health, safety and environment if the proposed rule is not implemented.**

No effect on the public health, safety, or the environment will result if the rule amendments are not implemented.

**K. Date the rule impact statement was prepared and if modified, the date modified.**

October 3, 2013.