

September 2023

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR COLLEGE?

Oklahoma's official guide to preparing for college



High School Juniors & Seniors

WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR COLLEGE?

Right now, college probably seems a million miles away. But NOW is the best time to start making plans for what happens after high school. You don't have to make any big decisions yet, but the sooner you start thinking about what you're interested in doing for a living, the easier your choices will be later. Where are you headed after graduation? What do you have to do to get there? Don't know where to start? You're not alone! Read this booklet for some good ideas about how to begin your journey. Then talk to your family and school counselor about your plan for college.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR YOU?

- ▷ You'll have the time to explore your interests, discover things you didn't know and set new goals.
- ▷ College is fun! You'll meet interesting people and make new friends.
- ▷ You'll learn how to learn — how to think critically, solve problems and develop new skills.
- ▷ A degree can take you out of a minimum-wage job and into a good-paying career you enjoy. Studies prove it: continue your education after high school, and you're likely to make more money and enjoy a better life.



OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG

OKcollegestart.org is the official source for planning a college education in Oklahoma and offers interactive tools to help you prepare and pay for college. The website provides information about admission requirements, financial aid and scholarships, college costs and more. You can search by keywords and receive personalized results to compare colleges.

LET'S TALK MONEY

WITHOUT A DEGREE

Let's say you decide to skip college and take a job as a data entry keyer. You'll get paid almost \$17 an hour, which is approximately \$3,106 a month or \$37,270 per year in take-home pay.

GROSS PAY
\$3,106 per month
<i>Less taxes, Social Security and Medicare</i>
TAKE-HOME PAY
\$2,410 per month

WITH A DEGREE

Now let's say you take the time to explore careers, go that extra mile and graduate from college with a degree in computer programming. As a computer programmer, you'll make about \$43 an hour. That's \$7,383 a month or \$88,590 per year in take-home pay.

GROSS PAY
\$7,383 per month
<i>Less taxes, Social Security and Medicare</i>
TAKE-HOME PAY
\$5,253 per month

THE MORE YOU LEARN, THE MORE YOU CAN EARN

In fact, national data show that someone with a bachelor's degree earns a median income nearly 60% higher than someone with just a high school diploma. That makes a huge impact on your monthly paycheck and can help you afford the lifestyle you want.



GLOSSARY

If any of the terms used in this publication are unfamiliar to you, check out the glossary at OKcollegestart.org.

THE DIFFERENCE A DEGREE MAKES

ASSOCIATE OR BACHELOR'S DEGREE	MODERATE ON-THE-JOB EXPERIENCE
Computer Programmer \$42.59 per hour	Data Entry Keyer \$16.96 per hour
Architect or Engineer \$42.38 per hour	Construction Laborer \$18.81 per hour
Veterinarian \$46.10 per hour	Veterinary Assistant \$14.26 per hour
Detective/Criminal Investigator \$34.09 per hour	Security Guard \$15.25 per hour
Preschool Teacher (except Special Education) \$17.16 per hour	Child Care Worker \$11.67 per hour
Registered Nurse \$36.98 per hour	Nursing Assistant \$14.52 per hour

Source: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Oklahoma Wage Report 2022



CAREERS

Want to investigate your skills and interests and explore career options that may be right for you? Check out the *Career Planning* tab at OKcollegestart.org.

OKLAHOMA MONEY MATTERS

To learn more about saving and managing money, check out Oklahoma Money Matters (OKMM). OKMM offers information and resources to help students and parents prepare financially for college, strengthen family financial planning and empower young adults with money management skills for independent living. Visit OklahomaMoneyMatters.org or call 800.970.OKMM (6566). Follow OKMM on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



COURSES TO TAKE

You must take certain courses in high school to graduate and for admission to an Oklahoma public college or university. These requirements will prepare you for college, and you'll learn valuable skills for your future career.

SUBJECT	UNITS
English	4 units
Mathematics	3 units
Laboratory Science	3 units
History and Citizenship Skills	3 units
Other	2 units
Total	15 units

For more information about the specific courses you must take to earn a “college preparatory/work ready” high school diploma, visit OKcollegestart.org. Remember that requirements may change, and they may be different for private colleges and universities, so always check with your counselor for details.

THINK AHEAD

A great way to speed up your college career is to consider earning college credit even before you graduate from high school. Taking advantage of opportunities such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses and concurrent enrollment can save you time, tuition, and food and housing, and will also prepare you for the demands of college. To learn more, visit [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) and ask your high school counselor what options are available at your school.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

Talk to your counselor about taking the ACT and/or SAT. Visit [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) to learn more about preparing for college entrance exams and take the free practice tests for the ACT and SAT. For more information about preparing for the ACT exam, visit [ACT.org](https://act.org), and for information about preparing for the SAT exam, visit [SAT.org](https://sat.org).

GRADES TO MAKE

If you want to attend an Oklahoma college or university, you must meet certain requirements. When you apply for admission, public colleges and universities will look at:

- ▷ Your score on a national standardized test (ACT or SAT) (optional at some institutions for admission decisions).
- ▷ Your overall grade point average (GPA) and ranking within your high school class, AND
- ▷ Your GPA in the 15 core courses required for college entry.

For more information about 2023-24 admission requirements for first-time entering students at Oklahoma public colleges and universities, visit [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org). You can also talk to your school counselor or check with the college(s) you want to attend.

NOTE: While all students are encouraged to take the ACT or SAT if the tests are available, public colleges and universities may be authorized to use multiple measures of student performance to make admission and placement decisions for the fall 2024 semester. For more information, students should contact the admissions office at the college or university they would like to attend.

THE CHOICE

Choosing where to go to college is an important decision. Your selection will affect your future and even your success as a student. Here are some things to think about:

- ▷ **Location:** Are you willing to move away from home? Do you prefer a city or country setting? Do you want to live on campus?
- ▷ **Type of college/university:** Do you want to be on a large or small campus?
- ▷ **Admission requirements:** How are your grades and test scores?
- ▷ **Academics:** What do you want to study?
- ▷ **Financial aid:** How much financial assistance do you need? Can the campus provide you with aid (scholarships, part-time employment)?
- ▷ **Activities:** Which campus offers the best options for your interests?

CAMPUS VISITS

Still undecided about which college is best for you? Schedule some visits to the colleges and universities you might be interested in attending. These visits can help you make a more educated decision. While on your campus visits, talk to as many people as you can and don't pass up a chance to ask questions. Use the *Making the Most of Campus Visits* guide found at [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) to make your trip a success. Many colleges also offer virtual campus tours. To find a list of participating colleges, visit [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org).



TYPES OF INSTITUTIONS & DEGREES

RESEARCH UNIVERSITY

An institution that grants bachelor's, graduate and professional degrees and offers a wide variety of courses and degree programs. Generally, they have large student bodies and expansive campuses.

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY

An institution that offers bachelor's and master's degrees, and in some instances, associate or professional degrees. They tend to have mid-sized student populations and campuses.

PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

An institution that grants bachelor's degrees in arts and science fields, including humanities. A public liberal arts university tends to have smaller class sizes that facilitate close interaction between faculty and students.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

An institution that grants associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions or for career preparation. They usually offer flexible class schedules with smaller class sizes.

TECHNICAL BRANCH

An institution that grants applied associate degrees, some Bachelor of Technology degrees and a limited number of associate degrees for transfer to four-year institutions. Technical branches have a special emphasis on education and training in technical fields.

MICRO-CREDENTIAL

A micro-credential is a short-term, specialized qualification you can earn after completing a set of activities, projects and/or courses that are designed to teach you specific skills, capabilities and knowledge you can use right away in the workplace.

CERTIFICATE

A credential awarded for an organized program of study that may or may not lead to an academic degree.

ASSOCIATE IN ARTS (A.A.) OR ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE (A.S.) DEGREE

A degree awarded upon completion of two years of full-time college work (at least 60 credit hours) that is designed to transfer to a four-year university. The State Regents recognize these two types of associate degrees that transfer to any state system university.

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE (A.A.S.) DEGREE

A degree requiring two years of full-time college work (at least 60 credit hours) that emphasizes an occupational specialty and is designed to lead the individual directly to employment. Some A.A.S. degrees may lead to a Bachelor of Technology degree.

BACHELOR'S DEGREE

A degree requiring four years of full-time college work (at least 120 credit hours). The State Regents recognize three types of bachelor's degrees — Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of (Specialty), such as Music, Education, etc.

To learn more about selecting the right institution for you, check out the *Browse Postsecondary Schools* section at [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org).

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

College costs vary; some institutions are more expensive than others, especially for out-of-state students. Fortunately, the cost of attending an Oklahoma public college or university is among the lowest in the nation. In addition, the availability of financial aid from various sources can make college even more affordable for qualified students.

2023-24 ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS

Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities (30 credit hours)

Expenses	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches
Tuition	\$5,243	\$6,082	\$3,476	\$4,236
Mandatory Fees	\$4,176	\$1,655	\$1,260	\$1,051

Visit *How Much Does College Cost?* at [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) for a more detailed breakdown of costs, including food and housing.

OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE

Oklahoma's Promise allows students to earn a college tuition scholarship if they meet certain academic and conduct requirements in high school. The 11th grade is the last year you can apply to the program. Your parent(s) must meet certain income requirements at the time of application and each year you are enrolled in college.* There are also academic and conduct requirements to keep the scholarship in college. For more information, visit [OKPromise.org](https://okpromise.org) or call 800.858.1840.



*Special income provisions may apply to children adopted from certain court-ordered custody, children in the custody of court-appointed legal guardians, and Social Security benefits based on the death or disability of the student's parent(s). Please contact the Oklahoma's Promise office for more information.

TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

There are four different types of financial aid available: scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans. To learn more about financial aid, visit [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org).

WHAT IS THE FAFSA?

To apply for federal financial aid (grants, work-study and student loans) and the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG), you and your parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Oklahoma's Promise recipients will also be required to complete the FAFSA each year. You'll need to have your parents' tax return(s) along with yours to complete the FAFSA. Even if you don't think you need financial aid (or qualify for it), fill out the FAFSA anyway. Most students qualify for some form of federal financial aid! Complete the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available during your senior year and each year prior to the term you will need financial aid for college. Visit [StartWithFAFSA.org](https://startwithfafsa.org) to find FAFSA completion tools and learning modules.

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

- ❑ Don't wait. Fill out the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available during your senior year and each year prior to the term you will need financial aid for college. Many students don't realize they may qualify for federal aid such as grants, scholarships, work-study or low-cost student loans. Learn more at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov).
- ❑ Explore [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) and [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) to learn more about paying for college. Start researching the colleges you're interested in and learn what types of financial aid they offer.
- ❑ Find out if scholarships are available in the fields you're interested in and what the requirements are, so you can plan early to apply. Scholarships are called "free money" because they don't have to be paid back. Students qualify for scholarships based on financial need, grades, talents and life experiences. [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) offers a database of over 20,000 scholarships for students, and [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) provides scholarships by deadline and category. Review the [Scholarships 101 presentation](#) on the UCanGo2 website for helpful tips on scholarship completion.
- ❑ Ask family members to open an Oklahoma 529 college savings account by calling 877.654.7284 or visiting [Oklahoma529.com](https://oklahoma529.com). Oklahoma 529 offers tax advantages for families, and funds can be used at nearly all colleges and universities in the United States.

EMPLOYER TUITION ASSISTANCE

Are you exploring options to help pay for college? Many companies across the state provide tuition assistance benefits to help employees pay college expenses. Check out our list of employers offering higher education benefits that can be used at an Oklahoma public college or university at okhighered.org.

TIPS FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

- **Do your research.** Set up an appointment with your school counselor to talk about your scholarship options. Many colleges post available scholarships on their websites. Check with the college(s) you plan to attend to learn about scholarships they may offer.
- **Go local.** Many clubs, civic organizations and churches offer scholarships. If you aren't sure, ask! Applying locally for scholarships means you're competing against fewer people.
- **Do the "write" thing.** Many scholarships require an essay but don't let that discourage you. Scholarships that require essays have fewer applicants, which means you have a greater chance of winning the award. Review UCanGo2's [Scholarship Essay Tips](#) for assistance.
- **Don't miss the boat.** Apply for as many scholarships as possible and keep track of the requirements for each one so you don't miss out on free money by forgetting to include your transcript or submitting your application after the deadline.

Check out the *Scholarship Success Guide* at [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org).



JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Take core classes that meet college entrance requirements.
- Sign up for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship program. Use the curriculum checklist at OKPromise.org to keep track of your courses, continue to make good grades and stay out of trouble.
- Explore opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school, like concurrent enrollment and AP courses. Learn more about these programs on OKcollegestart.org.
- Prepare to take ACT/SAT exams. You may want to take these more than once to raise your score. Visit OKcollegestart.org to take free practice exams.
- Attend college fairs in your area. Find college fair information on college/university websites, including virtual college fairs.
- When you narrow the list of colleges you're interested in, schedule campus visits or visit OKcollegestart.org to review virtual tour options.
- Explore OKcollegestart.org and UCanGo2.org to learn more about paying for college. Start researching the colleges you're interested in and learn what types of financial aid they offer. Search and apply for scholarships listed on OKcollegestart.org and UCanGo2.org. We recommend juniors apply for one or two scholarships per week.


SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Talk to your family and school counselor about your goals after high school.
- Research scholarships available through your school, business community and local civic organizations. Search and apply for scholarships on OKcollegestart.org and UCanGo2.org. We recommend seniors apply for two or three scholarships per week.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as it becomes available during your senior year. The FAFSA is used to determine your eligibility for most types of financial aid, including federal (and some state) grants, work-study programs, student loans and scholarships.
- Visit StudentAid.gov to request a Federal Student Aid ID (FSA ID) and submit your FAFSA online at FAFSA.gov.
- Submit admission and financial aid applications to the college(s) of your choice; pay close attention to deadlines.
- Review your FAFSA Submission Summary for accuracy. Any inaccurate items need to be corrected, either at StudentAid.gov or by contacting your college's financial aid office.
- Respond quickly to any requests from colleges and universities for additional information.

Review more detailed junior and senior checklists at UCanGo2.org.


COLLEGE PLANNING RESOURCES

Remember, OKcollegestart.org is your one-stop shop for interactive college planning tools and information about career exploration, selecting a college or university, ACT/SAT test prep, financial aid and more. Open a free student account and follow OKcollegestart.org on Facebook today!

OKcollegestart.org | 866.443.7420 | 




[UCanGo2](http://UCanGo2.org) provides resources and information to demonstrate the value of higher education, inspire confidence to support academic achievement, and help students plan, prepare and pay for education after high school. Follow [UCanGo2](http://UCanGo2.org) on Facebook today!

UCanGo2.org | 866.443.7420 | 



Ready Set Repay provides information and tools for student loan borrowers and Oklahoma higher education institutions to help students make smart borrowing decisions and successfully repay their student loans. Learn more about student loan management at ReadySetRepay.org. Follow Ready Set Repay on Facebook today!

ReadySetRepay.org | 800.970.6566 | 



▷ ACT Student Center
ACT.org

▷ FAFSA
FAFSA.gov
StartWithFAFSA.org

▷ Oklahoma GEAR UP
okgearup.org

▷ Resources in Spanish
[Recursos en Español](#)

▷ College questions answered promptly
studentinfo@osrhe.edu

▷ Federal Student Aid
StudentAid.gov

▷ Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG)
otag.org



Multiple staff are available to assist students and parents in Spanish through the State Regents' student information hotline, which families can reach at 800.858.1840 (405.225.9239 in Oklahoma City) or studentinfo@osrhe.edu.

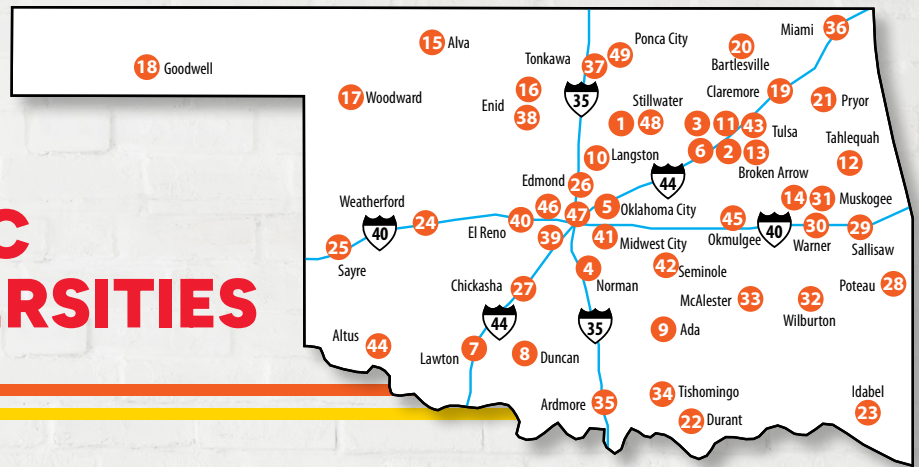


OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

Current as of September 2023



RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES

1. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
okstate.edu, 800.233.5019
2. OSU Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa
medicine.okstate.edu, 800.677.1972
3. OSU-Tulsa
tulsa.okstate.edu, 800.364.0710
4. University of Oklahoma, Norman
ou.edu, 800.234.6868
5. OU Health Sciences Center, Oklahoma City
ouhsc.edu, 877.577.5655
6. OU-Tulsa,
ou.edu/tulsa, 918.660.3000

REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES

7. Cameron University, Lawton
cameron.edu, 888.454.7600
8. Cameron University, Duncan
cameron.edu/duncan, 877.282.3626
9. East Central University, Ada
ecok.edu, 580.332.8000
10. Langston University, Langston
langston.edu, 877.466.2231
11. Langston University, Tulsa
langston.edu/tulsa, 918.877.8100
12. Northeastern State University, Tahlequah
nsuok.edu, 800.722.9614
13. Northeastern State University, Broken Arrow
nsuok.edu/brokenarrow, 918.449.6000
14. Northeastern State University, Muskogee
nsuok.edu/muskogee, 918.683.0040
15. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
nwsu.edu, 580.327.1700
16. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Enid
nwsu.edu/enid, 580.237.0334
17. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward
nwsu.edu/woodward, 580.256.0047
18. Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Goodwell
opsu.edu, 800.664.6778
19. Rogers State University, Claremore
rsu.edu, 918.343.7777
20. Rogers State University, Bartlesville
rsu.edu/bartlesville, 918.338.8000

21. Rogers State University, Pryor
rsu.edu/pryor, 918.825.6117
22. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant
se.edu, 800.435.1327
23. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Idabel
se.edu/mccurtain, 888.286.9431
24. Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford
swosu.edu, 580.772.6611
25. Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Sayre
swosu.edu, 580.928.5533
26. University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
uco.edu, 405.974.2000

PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS UNIVERSITY

27. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Chickasha
usao.edu, 800.933.8726

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

28. Carl Albert State College, Poteau
carlalbert.edu, 918.647.1200
29. Carl Albert State College, Sallisaw
carlalbert.edu, 918.775.6977
30. Connors State College, Warner
connorsstate.edu, 918.463.2931
31. Connors State College, Muskogee
connorsstate.edu, 918.687.6747
32. Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton
eosc.edu, 918.465.2361
33. Eastern Oklahoma State College, McAlester
eosc.edu/mcalester, 918.426.5272
34. Murray State College, Tishomingo
mscok.edu, 580.371.2371
35. Murray State College, Ardmore
mscok.edu/ardmore, 580.319.0370
36. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami
neo.edu, 888.464.6636
37. Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa
noc.edu, 580.628.6200
38. Northern Oklahoma College, Enid
noc.edu/enid, 580.242.6300

39. Oklahoma City Community College
occc.edu, 405.682.1611
40. Redlands Community College, El Reno
redlandsc.edu, 866.415.6367
41. Rose State College, Midwest City
rose.edu, 866.621.0987
42. Seminole State College, Seminole
sscok.edu, 405.382.9950
43. Tulsa Community College
tulsucc.edu, 918.595.7000
44. Western Oklahoma State College, Altus
wosc.edu, 580.477.2000

TECHNICAL BRANCHES

45. Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Okmulgee
osuit.edu, 800.722.4471
46. Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City
osuokc.edu, 800.560.4099

HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMS/SITES

47. Langston University, Oklahoma City
langston.edu/okc/langston-okc, 405.962.1620
48. Northern Oklahoma College, Stillwater
noc.edu/stillwater, 405.744.2246
49. University Center at Ponca City,
ucponcacity.com, 580.718.5600

