

September 2023

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR COLLEGE?

Oklahoma's official guide to preparing for college



8th through 10th Grade Students

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 about \$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

Less taxes, Social Security and Medicare

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

Less taxes, Social Security and Medicare

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.

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.



WHAT A 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

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](#).



GLOSSARY

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

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 and ask your high school counselor what options are available at your school.

For more information about admission requirements for first-time entering students at Oklahoma public colleges and universities, visit OKcollegestart.org, talk to your school counselor or check with the college(s) you want to attend.

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.



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 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.

FINANCIAL AID CHECKLIST

- ☐ Sign up for Oklahoma's Promise now if your family meets requirements outlined at OKPromise.org.
- ☐ 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. You can also find information about numerous scholarship programs on both of these helpful websites.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Ask family members to open an Oklahoma 529 college savings account by calling 877.654.7284 or visiting 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.

EARLY PLANNING CHECKLIST

- ❑ **STUDY HARD.** Build good study habits to keep your grades in tip-top shape.
- ❑ **TALK IT UP.** Discuss your future plans with your school counselor, teachers, family members or other trusted adults.
- ❑ **TAKE THE RIGHT CLASSES.** To be college-bound, you'll need to take and pass classes in high school that are determined by Oklahoma's College Preparatory/Work Ready Curriculum standards. Plan to take at least four college-preparatory classes per year. Oklahoma's curriculum standards and testing requirements can be found at UCanGo2.org.
- ❑ **TRACK IT.** Download the *Tracking My Classes & Achievements* worksheet at UCanGo2.org to plan ahead and keep a record of your accomplishments and volunteer work. This information will be helpful when you start scholarship and college applications.
- ❑ **HIT THE BOOKS.** Study for standardized tests like the ACT and SAT. Visit ACT.org and SAT.org to find links for test locations and dates. Visit OKcollegestart.org for access to additional helpful resources and free practice tests.
- ❑ **BE ACTIVE.** Participate in extracurricular activities and volunteer work. Many college admission officers look for students who are actively involved in their school and community.
- ❑ **TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.** Investigate AP and other honors-level courses to know what's available and if you're eligible to enroll.
- ❑ **CHECK IT OUT.** Review the checklist for your grade at UCanGo2.org. Investigate college entrance requirements at OKcollegestart.org.
- ❑ **THINK ABOUT IT.** Start thinking about the university or college you'd like to attend.
- ❑ **VISIT CAMPUSES.** Download the *Making the Most of Campus Visits* guide at UCanGo2.org, which offers a list of ideas to help you set up a successful college tour. Many colleges also offer virtual campus tours. To find a list of participating colleges, visit OKcollegestart.org.
- ❑ **JOT IT DOWN.** Write a pros and cons list of colleges you're interested in attending. Be sure to evaluate degree programs, location, cost, etc. Learn more about Oklahoma colleges and universities at OKcollegestart.org.
- ❑ **FIND FREE MONEY.** Check out UCanGo2.org and OKcollegestart.org to search for scholarships to help cover future college expenses. Review the [Scholarships](#) [tab](#) on the UCanGo2 website for helpful tools on tracking and applying for scholarships. Many scholarships are available for middle school students and younger!


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 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 on Facebook today!

UCanGo2.org | 866.443.7420 | 



- ▷ College questions answered promptly: studentinfo@osrhe.edu
- ▷ Oklahoma GEAR UP: okgearup.org
- ▷ Resources in Spanish: [Recursos en Español](#)



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.

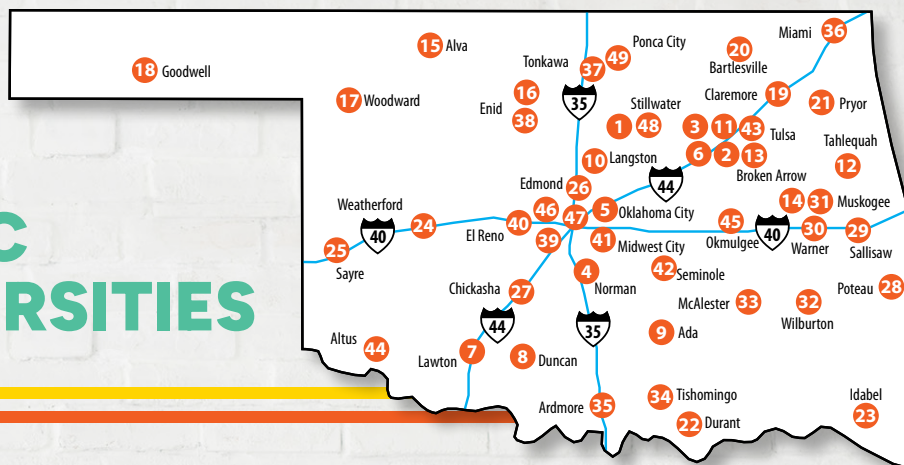


OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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
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

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

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
nwosu.edu, 580.327.1700
16. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Enid
nwosu.edu/enid, 580.237.0334
17. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward
nwosu.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

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

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

