

## 3.2 FUNCTIONS OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

### 3.2.1 Purpose

The Constitution of Oklahoma (Article XIII-A, Section 2) directs the State Regents to determine the functions and courses of study in each of the institutions of the State System. There are currently 25 institutions in the State System, including 2 research universities, 2 statewide universities, 9 regional universities, and 12 community colleges.

### 3.2.2 Common Functions

- A. Participate in programs of economic and community development independently or in cooperation with public and private entities.
- B. Provide general education for all students.
- C. Provide micro-credentials, certificates, and degrees to prepare individuals to enter the labor market.
- D. Responsibility for institutional and applied research in those areas related closely to their programs of study and effectiveness of operation.
- E. Responsibility for public service in the geographic regions in which they are located.
- F. Provide formal and informal programs designed to serve Oklahomans with continuing education and professional enhancement opportunities.
- G. Provide developmental education for students who lack required high school academic requirements for college admission or competency in the basic academic skills areas.
- H. Perform other special programmatic activities as authorized by the State Regents.

### 3.2.3 Research Universities

University of Oklahoma (OU)  
Oklahoma State University (OSU)

The functions of the research universities include:

- A. Both lower-division and upper-division undergraduate study in a number of fields leading to the baccalaureate or first-professional degree.
- B. Graduate study in any field of advanced learning leading to all degree levels, including terminal degrees.
- C. All aspects, fields, and depths of research.
- D. Carry out programs and projects on a statewide, national, and international scale.

### 3.2.4 Statewide Universities

Langston University (LU): As explained in [70 O.S. § 4666](#), Langston University has a statewide plan and mission due to its “historical significance and future potential.”

University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO): USAO has a special function as the state’s public liberal arts and sciences college.

Functions include:

- A. LU offers associate level degree programs.
- B. Both lower-division and upper-division undergraduate study fields leading to the baccalaureate degree.
- C. Programs leading toward professional master's and doctoral degrees when appropriate to the institution's strengths and the needs of the state.

### 3.2.5 Regional Universities

Cameron University (CU)  
 East Central University (ECU)  
 Northeastern State University (NSU)  
 Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU)  
 Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU)  
 Rogers State University (RSU)  
 Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU)  
 Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU)  
 University of Central Oklahoma (UCO)

The functions of the 9 regional universities include:

- A. OPSU, SWOSU, CU, and RSU offer associate level degree programs.
- B. Both lower-division and upper-division undergraduate study fields leading to the baccalaureate degree.
- C. Programs leading toward the first-professional master's and doctoral degrees when appropriate to an institution's strengths and the needs of the state.

### 3.2.6 Community Colleges

Carl Albert State College (CASC)  
 Connors State College (CSC)  
 Eastern Oklahoma State College (EOSC)  
 Murray State College (MSC)  
 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEOAMC)  
 Northern Oklahoma College (NOC)  
 Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC)  
 Redlands Community College (RCC)  
 Rose State College (RSC)  
 Seminole State College (SSC)  
 Tulsa Community College (TCC)  
 Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC)

The functions of the 12 public community colleges include:

- A. The Common Functions applicable to all State System institutions.
- B. Provide one- and two-year programs of technical and occupational education to prepare individuals to enter the labor market.

### 3.2.7 Exceptions to Functions of Public Institutions

Exceptions to functions and associated degree programs may be considered by the State Regents for very unique and specific purposes, such as unmet workforce needs that cannot be achieved any other way or through collaboration. All requests must be approved by the governing board prior to consideration by the State

Regents. Institutions seeking exceptions to functions must address the specific purpose of the function exception and associated degree program and address all criteria required in this policy, as well as the required criteria in the 3.4 *Academic Program Approval* policy and procedures. Each institution is allowed only one functional exception. To request additional exceptions, the institution must apply for a complete change of function and demonstrate that their initial exception has been successful.

### 3.2.8 Change of Function

In exceptional instances, a full institutional reclassification may be considered by the State Regents. As defined in [70 O.S. § 3208](#), all functions and courses of study of State System institutions shall stand as they now are until changed with the approval or by order of the State Regents. Institutions seeking a full reclassification must provide a proposal and impact study to the State Regents. Institutions must receive approval from the State Regents before starting a function change impact study. Once the proposal and impact study are received by OSRHE staff, the documents will be presented at the next State Regents' Board meeting to provide public notice. Proposing and any affected institutions will then have an opportunity at the following State Regents' Board meeting to present their arguments and briefs in support of or in opposition to any such proposed change. The State Regents' encourage institutions to resolve differences before the public hearing.

### 3.2.9 Constituent Agencies ([70 O.S. § 3103](#))

OU Health Sciences Center  
OU Law Center  
OU Geological Survey  
OU-Tulsa  
OSU College of Veterinary Medicine  
OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine  
OSU Agricultural Experiment Station  
OSU Agricultural Extension Division  
OSU Center for Health Sciences ([70 O.S. § 3423](#))  
OSU-Oklahoma City (OSU-OKC)  
OSU Institute of Technology (OSUIT)

The functions of OSU's two technical constituent agencies (OSU-OKC and OSUIT) include:

- A. Provide lower division education in several fields of technical study and Associate in Science degree programs.
- B. Offer bachelor in technology degree programs as authorized by the State Regents that build on Associate in Applied Science programs and enhance workforce preparation.
- C. Provide certificates and undergraduate technical and occupational educational degree programs, such as AAS degrees, that prepare individuals for immediate entry into the labor market, including both credit and non-credit programs designed to enhance job skills, promote workforce readiness and provide professional development.
- D. Evaluate opportunities for providing technical education, service and/or training consistent with the statewide technical mission of these constituent agencies.

### 3.2.10 Branch Campuses

The Oklahoma Legislature has created the following branch campuses:

CASC-Sallisaw ([70 O.S. § 4423.1\(A\)](#))  
CSC-Muskogee ([70 O.S. § 3405.1\(B\)](#))  
CU-Duncan ([70 O.S. § 3404.3](#))  
EOSC-McAlester ([70 O.S. § 3511.1](#))  
LU-Tulsa ([70 O.S. § 4667](#))  
MSC at Ardmore ([70 O.S. § 3213](#))  
NOC-Enid ([70 O.S. § 3707](#))  
NSU-Broken Arrow and Muskogee ([70 O.S. §§ 4668](#) and [3405.1\(C\)](#))  
NWOSU-Woodward and Enid ([70 O.S. §§ 3517.1](#) and [3517.2](#))  
OSU-Tulsa ([70 O.S. § 4662](#))  
RSU-Bartlesville and Pryor ([70 O.S. § 4669](#))  
SEOSU-McCurtain County ([70 O.S. § 3514.1](#))  
SWOSU-Sayre ([70 O.S. § 4428](#))  
OU College of Medicine-Tulsa ([70 O.S. § 3312](#))

A. Branch campuses should:

1. Assess the community's higher education needs.
2. Provide courses and programs that are part of the institution's assigned functions within limits of available resources.
3. Offer community services through programs of continuing education and public service.
4. Provide concurrent enrollment opportunities for area high school students.
5. Coordinate and facilitate the delivery of courses and programs from other institutionally accredited colleges and universities.

B. Branch Campus Individual Functions

Colleges and universities may offer any courses or programs approved by the State Regents at both the home campus and branch campus without seeking State Regents' further approval, except as noted in this section.

The following branch campuses have site-specific functions:

EOSC-McAlester ([70 O.S. § 3511.1](#))  
LU-Tulsa ([70 O.S. § 4667](#))  
NSU- Broken Arrow ([70 O.S. § 4668](#))  
NSU-Muskogee ([70 O.S. § 3405.1\(C\)](#))  
NWOSU-Enid ([70 O.S. § 3517.2](#))  
NOC-Enid ([70 O.S. § 3707](#))  
OSU-Tulsa ([70 O.S. § 4662](#))  
MSC at Ardmore ([70 O.S. § 3213](#))