

**OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION
OKLAHOMA TUITION AID GRANT PROGRAM**

Student Eligibility Requirements

Student Eligibility:

Changes based on 2024 Oklahoma Legislative changes are highlighted in red.

- ◆ An OTAG award must not be claimed for a student until and unless the institution has confirmed that all general Title IV and all OTAG eligibility requirements have been met.
 - ⇒ If a student's satisfactory academic progress is under review and a final eligibility determination has not been made, OTAG award status and funds cannot be claimed in advance of final eligibility determination
 - ⇒ If a student is known to be overawarded, and the student's OTAG award is expected to be reduced, the adjustment to the student's package should be made prior to claiming funds for the student.
- ◆ Students for whom OTAG funds are claimed must meet each of the following conditions:
 - ⇒ Must have filed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
 - ⇒ Must meet guidelines set by the United States Department of Education for Pell grant eligibility
 - ⇒ Must be a U.S. citizen or a national of the United States or an eligible non-citizen. Certain undocumented students may be eligible per Oklahoma Statute (Title 70, Chapter 50, Article II, Section 3242).
 - ⇒ Must be eligible residents of Oklahoma per the State Regents' residency policy. The policy can be reviewed at <http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/policy-procedures/>. (See Chapter 3-3.18 In-State Out-of-State Status of Enrolled Students).

The student's eligibility for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA, administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security; see <http://www.dhs.gov/deferred-action>) does not affect state aid eligibility at this time according to the OSRHE General Counsel's office. Many DACA eligible students receive a valid social security number for work purposes only and may believe they are eligible for aid. DACA students filing a FAFSA are not eligible for OTAG and should be removed from the claim unless the specific requirements outlined in the Regent's residency policy are met. (See 3.18.6 (C)(4))

Remember the Regent's residency policy change regarding military personnel will be in effect for all schools for 2023-2024. There is immediate in-state status for all full-time active duty military personnel, spouse and dependent children stationed in Oklahoma. Legislation now extends in-state status to certain veterans, spouses and dependent children as well. ROTC participants are also now eligible for in-state status. This makes these students eligible for OTAG if all other requirements are met. If these students have listed a state other than Oklahoma on the FAFSA, they will not automatically appear on your pre-populated claim forms. Please be sure to add these students to your claim.

- ⇒ Must be enrolled in an eligible undergraduate program leading to a degree or certificate

Eligible programs shall include comprehensive transition and post-secondary (CTP) programs approved by the United States Department of Education.

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- ⇒ Must not have already earned their first bachelor's degree
- ⇒ Must be enrolled at an institution eligible to disburse OTAG. **Please indicate enrollment/attendance status as FT for full-time, PT for students at least half-time but less than full-time and LT for students that are less than half-time.**
- ⇒ Must be eligible to receive federal aid under the institution's satisfactory academic progress policy.
- ⇒ Must have sufficient unmet need for the award.
- ⇒ Must be eligible for funding from the Pell grant program during the payment period for which OTAG funds are claimed. Students that have reached his/her lifetime eligibility (or are so close that they cannot receive additional disbursements) for Pell grants are **not** eligible for OTAG. *Exception to this requirement MAY be made for certain eligible undocumented students.*
- ⇒ *Students who are incarcerated in a state, federal, or private correctional facility and enrolled in a Prison Education Program (PEP) structured primarily for virtual learning are not eligible to receive tuition aid grants. However, students who are incarcerated that are enrolled in programs with primarily traditional learning environments may be eligible if the individual is within five (5) years from being released from incarceration. Incarceration will be defined in accordance with the current definition for federal Pell grant eligibility.*

Contact the OTAG office at 405.225.9456 or toll-free at 800.858.1840 or send e-mail to reports@otag.org for more information.