

CHAPTER 25. STUDENT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

SUBCHAPTER 1. ~~ACADEMIC SCHOLARS~~ OKLAHOMA RISING SCHOLARS AWARD PROGRAM

610:25-1-1. Purpose

The ~~Oklahoma State Regents~~ Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program was created and funded by the Oklahoma Legislature and is administered by the Oklahoma State Regents as an incentive for students of high academic ability to ~~attend~~ attend both public and private higher education institutions in Oklahoma. The specific goals are:

- (1) To retain top-ranked students from Oklahoma in Oklahoma colleges and enable these institutions to compete aggressively for top Oklahoma scholars;
- (2) To attract high caliber out-of-state students to attend Oklahoma colleges and universities; and
- (3) To enhance the academic quality in Oklahoma colleges and universities.

610:25-1-3. General principles for operation of program

(a) Recipients of award must attend a regionally or State Regents' accredited public, independent or proprietary higher education institution in Oklahoma.

(b) The program is designed to adhere to the State Regents' Policy on Social Justice by encouraging all potential applicants to the ~~Oklahoma State Regents'~~ Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program to enter national scholarship competition.

(c) Concurrently enrolled high school students are not eligible for this program.

(d) Only ACT test scores reported by ACT prior to college entry, excluding concurrently enrolled students and students enrolled for the summer term following high school graduation, will be considered for admission to the program. Scores from ACT residual tests will not be considered except under extraordinary circumstances as determined and approved by the Chancellor. SAT and CLT test scores will be considered in a manner comparable to ACT test scores. CLT test scores of students in this state who take the CLT test shall only be accepted if the student took the CLT test in compliance with 70 O.S. § 1210.508-7. OSRHE may require students to demonstrate compliance with 70 O.S. § 1210.508-7. Qualifying test scores obtained after college enrollment are invalid for applying to the program. Until August 31, 2020, partial scores from more than one examination will not be considered. Beginning September 1, 2020, all test scores reported by ACT, including "superscores" as defined by ACT, will be considered.

(e) A student must enter the program the fall semester immediately after his/her class graduates from high school, except for students admitted under the State Regents' Opportunity Admission Category. The Chancellor may approve exceptions to this requirement for extraordinary circumstances.

(f) Disability Provision. Provisions contained in this section are consistent with 70 O.S. 1991, Section 2403, as amended, and federal legislation affecting disabled persons. If a person identifies himself or herself as a student with a disability and requests consideration for a scholarship under the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program by means other than standard testing procedures, the State Regents shall permit the student to be examined under the special testing arrangements provided by either ACT, Classic Learning Initiatives, LLC, or The College Board provided that he or she meets the qualifications specified by ACT, CLT, and SAT respectively to be examined. Performance percentile requirements for participation in the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program remain the same as for other students. Students taking such tests and receiving Academic Scholarship awards will be expected to meet the same retention standards as other students. Special provisions may be considered in determining full-time enrollment for students falling in this category.

610:25-1-4. Eligibility Requirements and Term of Scholarship Award

(a) There are five avenues by which to qualify for the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program. Each is defined below:

- (1) An Individual Applicant Qualified Student, which shall mean a student who is a resident of the State of Oklahoma whose ACT ~~test~~ score, CLT score, or whose ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test~~ SAT score falls within the 99.5 to 100.0 percentile levels as administered in the State of Oklahoma and whose grade-point average and/or class rank is exceptional, as determined by the State Regents,
- (2) A Presidential Scholar, which shall mean a student selected by the Commission on Presidential Scholars pursuant to the Presidential Scholars Program administered by the United States Department of Education,
- (3) A National Merit Scholar, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation,
- (4) A National Merit Finalist, which shall mean a student designated as a National Merit Finalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.
- (5) An Institutional Nominee, which shall mean a student nominated by an institution in The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education whose ACT ~~test~~ score, CLT score, or whose ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test~~ SAT score falls within the 95.0 to 99.49 percentile levels, or who shows exceptional academic achievement as evidenced by factors including but not limited to grade point average, class rank, national awards, scholastic achievements, honors, and who shows exceptional promise based on documentation that may include but not be limited to teacher recommendations, extracurricular activities, and

evidence of overcoming economic and social obstacles as determined by the State Regents. The State Regents shall ensure that standards of high academic ability are documented. Scholarship awards to institutional nominees become effective when appropriate documentation is verified by the State Regents.

(A) Effective with the Fall 2020 semester, Institutional Nominees are required to meet at least one of the three minimum criteria outlined below to be considered eligible for application as an Institutional Nominee:

(i) Research universities:

(I) ACT: 32; or SAT equivalent; or CLT equivalent

(II) GPA 3.9 and either Top 2% Class Rank or rank of first or second in their graduating class

(III) GPA 3.9 and 30 ACT; or SAT equivalent; or CLT equivalent

(ii) Regional universities:

(I) ACT: 30; or SAT equivalent; or CLT equivalent

(II) GPA 3.8 and either Top 4% Class Rank or rank of first or second in their graduating class

(III) GPA 3.8 and 28 ACT; or SAT equivalent; or CLT equivalent

(iii) Two-year colleges:

(I) ACT: 29; or SAT equivalent; or CLT equivalent

(II) GPA 3.7 and either Top 5% Class Rank or rank of first or second in their graduating class

(III) GPA 3.7 and 26 ACT; or SAT equivalent; or CLT equivalent

(B) Home-educated students shall be considered for eligibility as an Institutional nominee based on minimum criteria (I) and (III) in sections (a)(5)(A)(i), (a)(5)(A)(ii), and (a)(5)(A)(iii), above.

(C) Students are eligible for consideration as an Institutional Nominee no later than the fall semester immediately following the graduation of their high school class. The Chancellor may approve exceptions to this requirement for extraordinary circumstances.

(D) Institutional Nominees may be Oklahoma residents or nonresidents.

(E) Students receiving the scholarship as an Institutional Nominee of a two-year college are eligible for transfer to a four-year public or private Oklahoma institution after completion of an associate's degree or the accumulation of at least 48 credit hours. In addition, the Institutional Nominee of a two-year college must attend the nominating institution for the first year.

(F) Students receiving the scholarship as an Institutional Nominee of a four-year university are eligible for transfer to another Oklahoma institution after one year of attendance at the nominating institution.

(G) Tuition waivers shall only be portable between institutions in the Oklahoma State System of Higher education.

~~(G)(H)~~ For any year that the State Regents provide less than full funding of the total cost of all awards for nonresident students participating in the program, nonresident students may transfer the scholarship to another institution only upon approval of the institution to which they intend to transfer.

~~(H)(I)~~ Students who fail to enroll the first semester upon nomination forfeit their scholarship eligibility.

~~(I)(J)~~ Institutions may not replace students who forfeit their scholarship or are removed from the program due to failure to meet continuing eligibility requirements with another nominee.

(b) Students receiving the scholarship are eligible for eight semesters of scholarship at Oklahoma colleges and universities.

Additional semesters of award, up to ten semesters, are available upon approval by the President or appropriate academic officer of the institution and the Chancellor. Additional semesters are intended only for extraordinary circumstances or for undergraduate academic programs that cannot be completed within eight semesters.

610:25-1-5. Criteria for Annual Renewal

(a) Participants awarded a scholarship under the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program shall maintain a 3.25 cumulative or retention grade-point average. The cumulative grade point average will include all courses attempted in high school for college credit. For the purpose of this policy, a fiscal year begins in the fall semester and continues through the summer term. The cumulative grade-point average will be determined between the summer and fall term.

(b) Participants awarded a scholarship under the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program must enroll full-time each semester (as defined by the State Regents) for continuation in the program. In this context, "full-time" means a minimum of 12 hours per semester. A total of 24 hours must be earned for the program year to retain eligibility for the next program year. Students who, due to extraordinary circumstances during the semester, drop below the minimum of 12 hours of initial enrollment, must earn 24 credit hours for the program year to retain eligibility for the next program year. Students will be eligible for summer support if they have earned 24 semester credit hours in the preceding two regular semesters. Students who receive part-time awards for summer must enroll in at least 6 credit hours and must complete a total of at least 30 credit hours during the full academic year (fall, spring, summer). Students who receive full-time awards for summer must enroll in at least 12 credit hours and must complete a total of at least 36 credit hours during the full academic year (fall, spring, summer). Hours of enrollment required for summer support may consist of a combination of summer and intersession enrollment. Part-time awards, for enrollment of 6 to 11 credit hours, made for the summer term will count as one-half of a semester used in the program and will be in the amount of one-half of a semester award. Full-time awards, for enrollment of 12 or more credit hours, made for the summer term will count as a full semester used in the program and will be in the amount of one semester award.

- (c) In order to receive a payment for enrollment in a summer term, the student must submit the summer term application to the State Regents' office by the specified deadline.
- (d) Credit by examination, the practice of granting students credit for passing tests based on the subject matter of college courses in which they have not enrolled, audited courses and correspondence courses will not be considered toward meeting the full-time enrollment requirement or the requirement to earn 24 hours for the program year.
- (e) A student beginning in the program for the first time in the summer must have achieved a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average at the end of the one year and the summer. The student is not required to meet the 3.25 grade-point average at the end of the first summer.

610:25-1-6. Reinstatement; leave of absence

- (a) A student who fails to meet the continued eligibility requirements will be removed from the program without ~~academic scholarship~~ Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award Program assistance. A student may be reinstated to the program:
 - (1) If the student achieves a 3.25 cumulative grade-point average at the end of the following fall or spring semester or summer term; or
 - (2) If the student in the following fall or spring semester remedies the credit-hour deficiency by earning 12 credit hours in addition to the number of hours by which the student is deficient; or if the student earns the deficient credits in the following summer term.
 - (3) If the student is deficient in the number of credit hours earned for the academic year due to a grade of Incomplete, the student will be eligible for the following fall award if the Incomplete is remedied by a deadline determined by the State Regents.
- (b) A student who is removed from the program may petition to the State Regents for reinstatement into the program. Reinstatement will only occur when the circumstance is covered in this policy or under unusual and compelling circumstances as determined by the State Regents. Scholarship assistance will not be awarded to students who fail to meet continuing eligibility requirements. Any semesters during which the student receives no award due to grade-point average or credit hour deficiency will be subtracted from the available semesters ~~on~~ in the program. Likewise, any period of enrollment, except intersession and summer terms, for which the student does not accept a scholarship award will be subtracted from the available semesters in the program.
- (c) A student may be reinstated only one time and has one year to remedy the grade-point-average or credit-hour deficiency. Maintaining eligibility and familiarity with State Regents' and institutional policy is the responsibility of the student.
- (d) Participants may take a leave of absence from the program for a period of time during which the student is not enrolled, unless the student is studying abroad. Participants may either take a leave of absence or request scholarship assistance for study abroad. Program recipients who elect to study abroad with scholarship assistance are required to meet all enrollment and grade point average requirements as specified in this policy for students attending Oklahoma colleges and universities. Leaves of absence may not be used to remedy grade-point-average or credit hour deficiency.

610:25-1-7. Fiscal aspects of program

- (a) **Award limits.** Academic Scholarship awards to qualified nonresident students attending Oklahoma institutions shall not exceed 25 percent of the greater of the number of awards of the preceding year or the amount of the previous year's funding for certified awards for the program.
- (b) **Additional aid.** Students receiving this scholarship may also receive additional state-supported financial aid, but not in excess of the student's cost of attendance as determined by the institution consistent with regulations for federal financial aid. Likewise, a student may enhance the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars award by accepting grants and scholarships from private sources.
- (c) **Funding priorities.** The Oklahoma State Regents will, as soon as fiscally feasible, set aside in the Oklahoma State Regents' Academic Trust funds for the full scholarship commitment. Funding priority will be given first to prior years' recipients, and secondly, to any students applying for the scholarship for the ~~first-time~~ first time. For first-time students, priority will be given to Individual Applicant Qualified Students, Presidential Scholars, National Merit Scholars, and National Merit Finalists, and secondly, to Institutional Nominees.
- (d) **Amount of Scholarship.** The program shall provide qualifying Individual Applicant Qualified Student, Presidential Scholar, National Merit Scholar, and National Merit Finalist participants who attend an accredited institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education a scholarship in an amount not to exceed the cost of attendance for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study. The program shall provide qualifying Individual Applicant Qualified Student, Presidential Scholar, National Merit Scholar, and National Merit Finalist participants who attend an accredited private institution a scholarship in an amount not to exceed the cost of attendance at an institution in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of comparable type which has the highest general enrollment fees of its type of institution in the State System as determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study. The program shall provide qualifying Institutional Nominee participants a scholarship in an amount not to exceed the average costs of ~~tuition~~ all enrollment fees and other fees, room and board, and all required textbooks or materials for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study for students attending regionally accredited public institutions of higher education in Oklahoma.
 - (1) For a qualifying Institutional Nominee who attends an accredited ~~The institution within the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, the institution shall provide the student a tuition waiver that, when combined with the scholarship award, will not exceed the costs described in paragraph (d) above~~ not to exceed the average cost of tuition. For a qualifying

Institutional Nominee who attends an accredited private institution, the program shall provide a scholarship in an amount not to exceed the average cost of tuition at an institution in the Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of comparable type which has the highest general enrollment fees of its type of institution in the State System as determined annually by the Oklahoma State Regents for up to five (5) years of undergraduate and/or graduate study.

(2) The total scholarship and waiver amounts shall exclude the cost of internships and shall be subject to the availability of funds.

~~(2)~~(3) Students who do not meet the continuing eligibility requirements for the scholarship may be eligible for the tuition waiver if they meet the standard tuition waiver criteria determined by the institution.

~~(3)~~(4) Transfer students are eligible for the same level of tuition waiver as all other Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award.

~~(4)~~(5) Institutions may elect to award nonresident students a resident and/or nonresident tuition waiver.

(e) **Payment of funds.** Funds made available to students as part of the Oklahoma State Regents Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program shall be paid directly to the institution in which the student is enrolled, in trust for the student, and on the student's behalf and shall contain appropriate restrictions and conditions that such monies are expended only for the purposes authorized by the State Statute authorizing this program.

(f) **Private institutions.** For students attending private Oklahoma institutions, the award amount will be the same as the student attending a similar type of public institution as defined by the State Regents.

610:25-1-8. Requirements for graduate and professional study

The requirements for graduate and professional-study participants in the Oklahoma Rising Academic Scholars Award Program are as follows:

(1) Eligible participants moving from undergraduate to graduate or professional schools shall have achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.25 and earned at least 24 credit hours, unless provided for in paragraph five of this section, during the preceding year of undergraduate school enrollment.

(2) Post-baccalaureate students must be enrolled in a degree program at graduate/professional schools and are required to meet the academic standards in effect at the graduate or professional school.

(3) The dean of the graduate college/professional school or his/her designee will certify to the State Regents' office that the student is enrolled full time and making satisfactory progress at the outset of each academic year as defined in 610:25-1-6(a).

(4) The number of awards a graduate/professional student may receive while doing graduate/professional study shall be determined by the unused portion of the award entitlement. A student may take no more than a one-year leave of absence between completion of undergraduate work and enrollment in a graduate or professional program.

(5) Students who require less than 12 credit hours for graduation purposes during the last semester of undergraduate enrollment may request payment of their scholarship in the amount of 1/2 semester award for at least six hours of enrollment. The term will count as 1/2 semester used in the program.