



OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

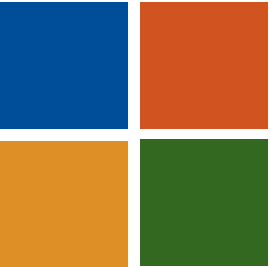
Improving our future by degrees

OKLAHOMA RISING SCHOLARS /OTHER PROGRAMS

2026 Scholarships & Grants workshop

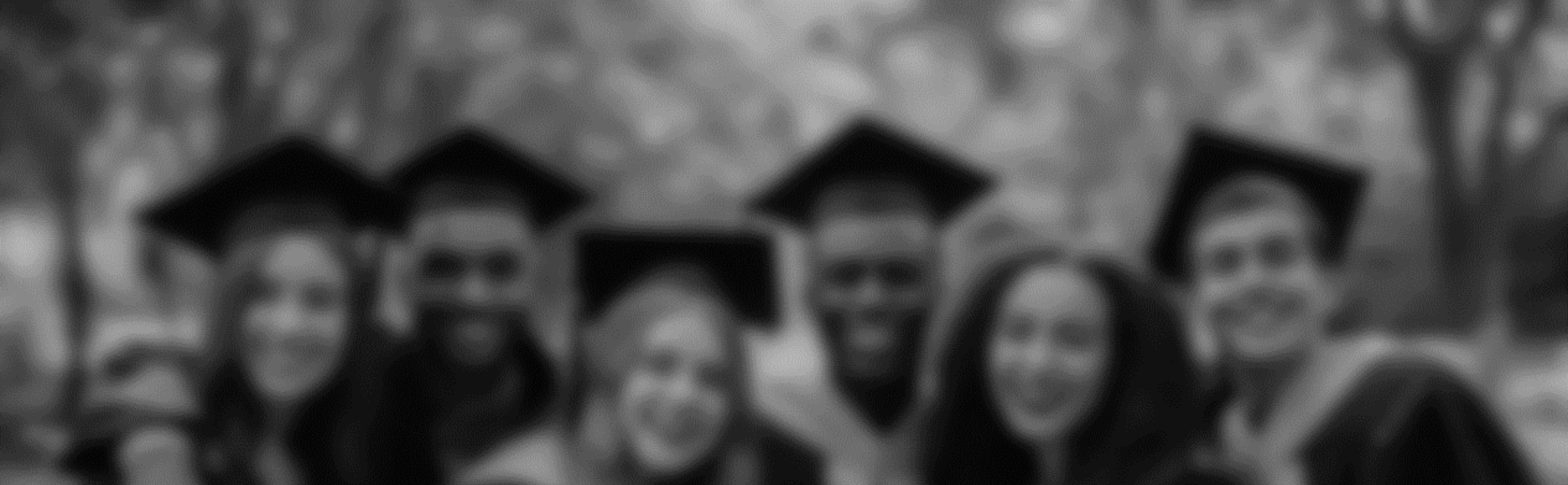
Wei-Ju Gange

7/16/2026



SCHOLARSHIPS

- ▶ Oklahoma Rising Scholars (formerly Academic Scholars Program)
- ▶ Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship
- ▶ William P. Willis Scholarship
- ▶ Independent Living Tuition Waiver



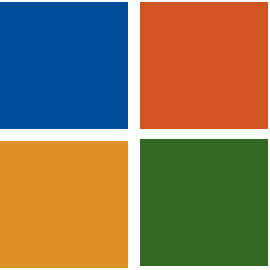
OKLAHOMA RISING SCHOLARS

(Formerly academic scholars program)



OKLAHOMA RISING SCHOLARS (ORS)

- ▶ Established in 1988
- ▶ Oklahoma Merit Based Scholarship Program
- ▶ Open to **high school seniors** planning to attend any Oklahoma college.



ORS QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

► How does a student qualify for ORS?

► National Merit Scholars*

► National Merit Finalists*

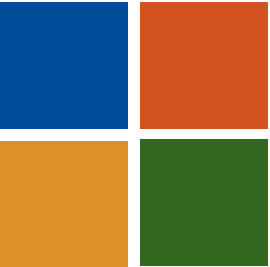
► Presidential Scholars*

► Oklahoma Test Takers at or above the 99.5 percentile on the ACT or SAT

► Institutional Nominee*

*Funding for nonresident participation eliminated

Automatic Qualifier



ORS QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS- INSTITUTIONAL NOMINEE

- Institutional Nominees will be required to meet at least one of the three minimum standards listed in the table below:

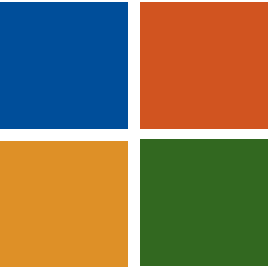
Institutional Nominees Standards			
Institution Type	ACT, SAT, or CLT Equivalent	GPA and Class Rank	GPA and ACT, SAT, or CLT Equivalent
Research Universities	32 ACT / SAT equivalent / CLT equivalent	3.9 GPA and top 2% of class or rank #1 or #2	3.9 GPA and 30 ACT / SAT equivalent / CLT equivalent
Regional Universities	30 ACT / SAT equivalent / CLT equivalent	3.8 GPA and top 4% of class or rank #1 or #2	3.8 GPA and 28 ACT / SAT equivalent / CLT equivalent
Community Colleges	29 ACT / SAT equivalent / CLT equivalent	3.7 GPA and top 5% of class or rank #1 or #2	3.7 GPA and 26 ACT / SAT equivalent / CLT equivalent

ACT AND ACT SUPERSCORING

▶ ACT Superscore Impact

- ▶ Automatic Qualifiers –Oklahoma high school seniors can use their “superscore” to meet the ACT score requirement to automatically qualify for the program.

Example Scenario				
TEST DATE	English Score	Math Score	Reading Score	Subject Sum
April	33	32	35	100
June	36	31	34	101
September	34	34	34	102
Superscore	36	34	35	105



ORS QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS- INSTITUTIONAL NOMINEE AWARDS

Institutional Nominee Awards	
Institution Type	Institutional Nominee (IN)
Research Universities	\$4,000 per year
Regional Universities	\$3,200 per year
Community Colleges	\$3,000 per year

State system institutions also provide the scholarship recipient a tuition waiver.

ORS QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS-

AUTOMATIC QUALIFIER (AQ) AWARDS

Automatic Qualifier (AQ) Awards		
Institution Type	Entry Year 2026	Entry Year 2025 and earlier
Research Universities	\$24,000 per year	\$7,200 per year
Regional Universities	\$13,000 per year	\$5,700 per year
Community Colleges	\$12,500 per year	\$5,200 per year

\$700 more than the previous year

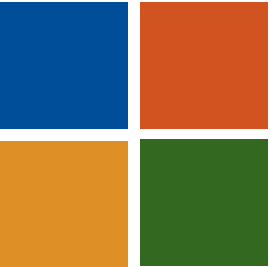
State system institutions also provide the scholarship recipient a tuition waiver.



ORS QUALIFICATIONS AND AWARDS- RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

► Retention Requirements

- Full-time Enrollment Each Semester
- Maintain at least a 3.25 Cumulative GPA
- Complete at least 24 Credit Hours Each Year

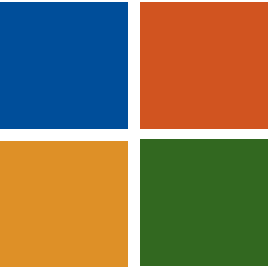


ORS PROGRAM RULES

▶ Administrative Rules

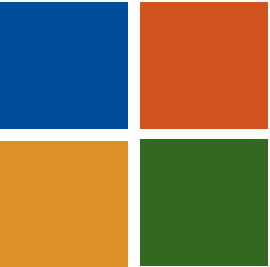
▶ <http://www.rules.ok.gov>

▶ On the site, enter “Oklahoma Rising Scholars” in the search box.



ORS PROGRAM RULES (CONTINUED)

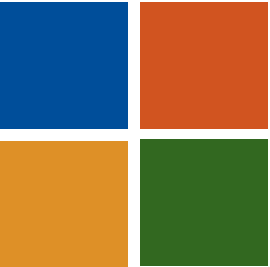
- ▶ A student must enter the program the fall semester immediately after his/her class graduates from high school
- ▶ Renewable for **eight** semesters
- ▶ Additional semesters available only for extraordinary circumstances or undergraduate academic programs that cannot be completed in eight semesters



ORS PROGRAM RULE- EXTENSION

- The guidelines shown below will be used to review requests for extensions to the eight-semester limit on ORS awards:

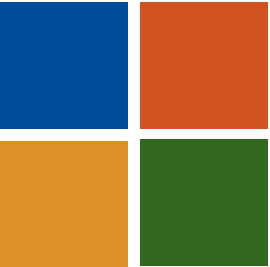
Hours Required for Undergraduate Degree	Recommended Action
124-129	No extension
130-135	½ semester extension
136-141	1 semester extension
142-147	1 ½ semester extension
148 & above	2 semester extension



ORS PROGRAM RULES- SUMMER TERM

▶ Summer Semester

- ▶ To receive payment for enrollment in a summer term, the student must submit the summer term application to the State Regents' office by the application deadline
- ▶ Summer funding is not automatic.



ORS PROGRAM RULES- TRANSFER

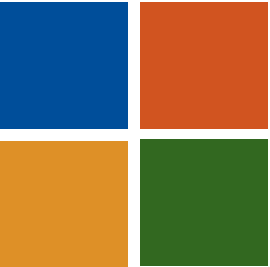
Transfer Scenario	AQ (Automatic Qualifiers)	IN (Institutional Nominees)
Two-Year College	- AQ can transfer their scholarship award at any time.	- IN must complete an <u>associate's degree or 48 credit hours</u> to transfer to a four-year university. AND IN must attend the nominating college for the first year .
Four-Year University	- AQ can transfer their scholarship award at any time.	- IN must attend the nominating university for the first year .
Graduate Transfer	- AQ can request to use remaining semesters of eligibility for professional or graduate school.	- IN can request to use remaining semesters of eligibility for professional or graduate school.



ORS PROGRAM RULES- LEAVE OF ABSENCE

▶ Leave of Absence

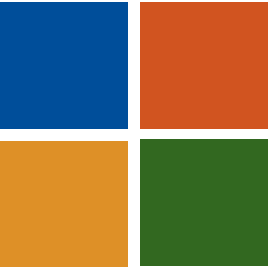
- ▶ Students may take a leave of absence if not enrolled
- ▶ Student studying abroad
 - ▶ Student can take a leave of absence or request scholarship assistance
 - ▶ If the student requests scholarship assistance while studying abroad, he/she is required to meet all enrollment and GPA requirements



ORS INSTITUTIONAL NOMINEE SLOTS

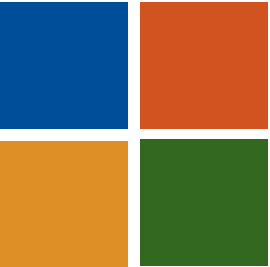
▶ Institutional Nominee Slots

- ▶ Institutional Nominee slots and award amounts are authorized annually (subject to change)
- ▶ Presidents of Institutions are notified of authorization by letter from Chancellor.



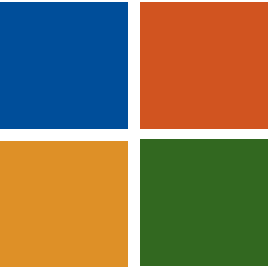
ORS INSTITUTIONAL NOMINEES

- ▶ Institutional nominee slots are determined at the September/October State Regents meeting
- ▶ A letter from the Chancellor is sent to the university/college Presidents
 - ▶ This letter is forwarded to the institutional scholarship coordinators
- ▶ The Institutional Nominee spreadsheet is sent to institutions at end of spring semester.
- ▶ Completed spreadsheets and authorization forms must be uploaded to O-Safe by deadline.
- ▶ Institutional nominees are entered into our database, and award letters are sent to scholars.



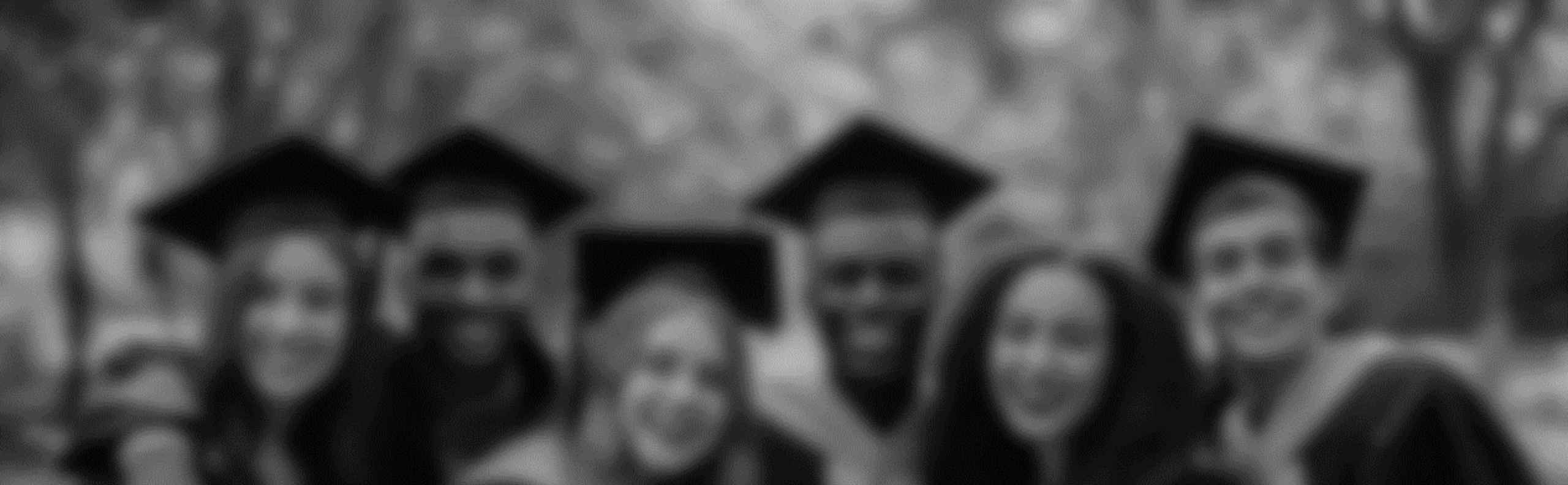
ORS PROCESS – AQ QUALIFIERS

- ▶ Required ACT/SAT score determined for Oklahoma test takers at or above 99.5 percentile on ACT or SAT in October for upcoming year
- ▶ In October, applications for HS seniors made available at www.okhighered.org/academic-scholars.
- ▶ Completed applications sent to the OSRHE office
- ▶ Award notifications letters are sent to scholars
- ▶ A report with incoming Automatic Qualifiers are uploaded to O-SAFE during the summer



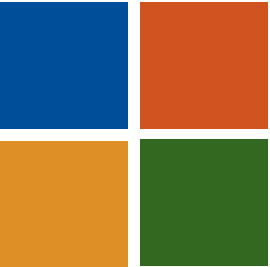
ORS - DISBURSEMENT

- ▶ State Regents Office uploads certifications to O-SAFE and email notifications are sent to institutions
 - ▶ Includes all new and continuing automatic qualifiers and institutional nominees
- ▶ Certifications are completed and uploaded back to O-SAFE after add/drop (lock-in) date for semester.
- ▶ Certification records are entered in our database and a disbursement roster is uploaded to O-SAFE
- ▶ After confirmation by the institution, funding is requested from the business office
- ▶ Checks are mailed or wire notifications are sent



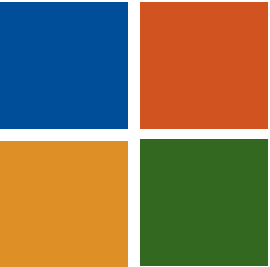
REGIONAL UNIVERSITY BACCALAUREATE SCHOLARSHIP

(RUBS)



REGIONAL UNIVERSITY BACCALAUREATE SCHOLARSHIP (RUBS)

- ▶ Established in 1994
- ▶ To enable public regional universities to provide four years of scholarship support to academically promising Oklahoma students enrolled in a baccalaureate program
- ▶ To enhance academic quality in public regional universities



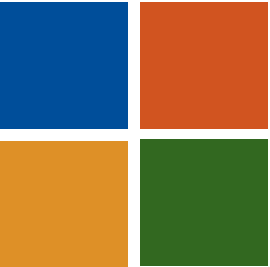
ELIGIBILITY

▶ Program Rules (Eligibility):

- ▶ Composite score of 30 on the ACT and a GPA and class rank which are exceptional as determined by the institution

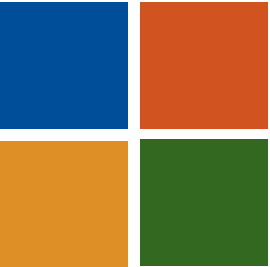
OR

- ▶ National Merit Semifinalist or National Merit Commended Student
- ▶ Student must be an Oklahoma resident



RUBS

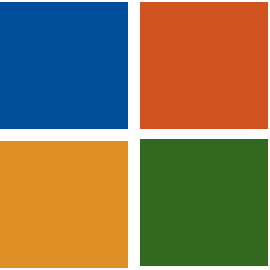
- ▶ Each regional university was authorized **15** freshman nominee slots for fall 2026
- ▶ **\$3,500** annual cash award
- ▶ Regional universities are required to offer a tuition waiver while the student is receiving the cash award



RETENTION REQUIREMENTS

▶ Retention Requirements

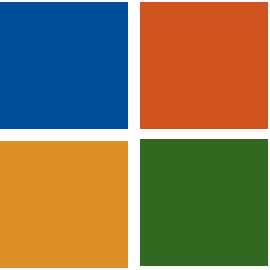
- ▶ Full-time Enrollment Each Semester
- ▶ Maintain at least a 3.25 Cumulative GPA
- ▶ Complete at least 24 Credit Hours Each Year



PROGRAM RULES

▶ Program Rules

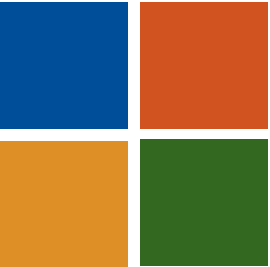
- ▶ Renewable for up to eight semesters or until a bachelor's degree is received, whichever comes first
- ▶ Scholarship is not transferable



SUMMER TERM

► Summer Semester

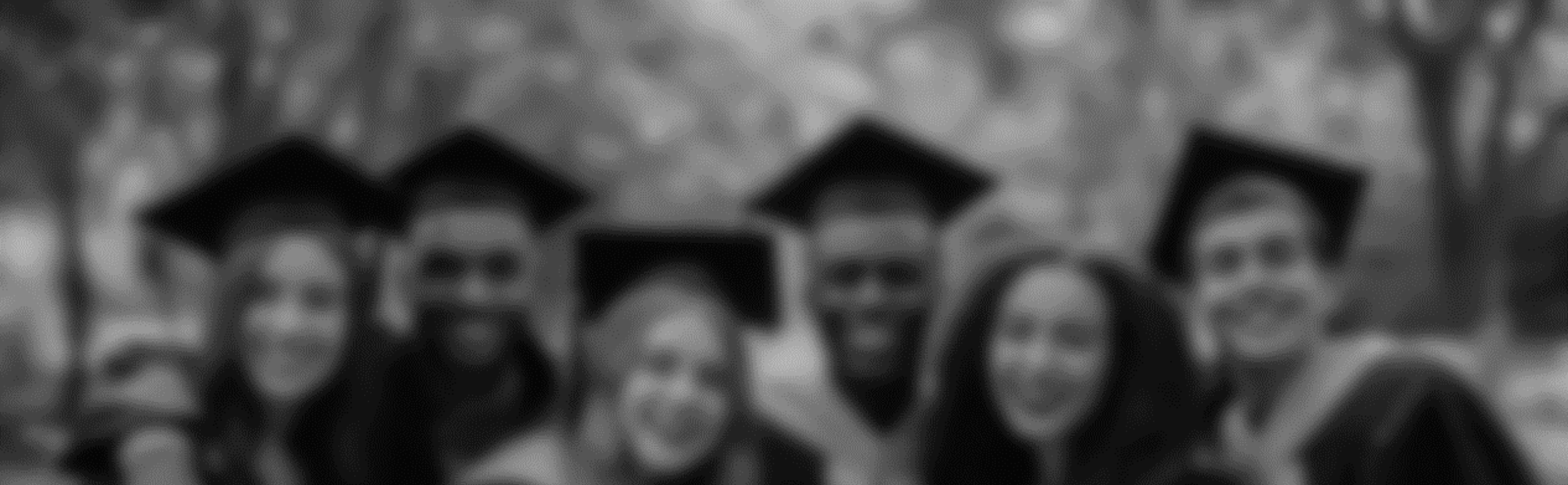
- To receive payment for enrollment in a summer term, the student must submit the summer term application to the State Regents' office by the application deadline



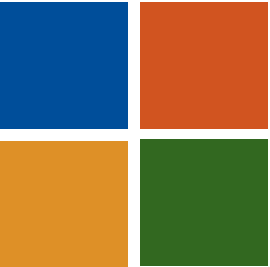
FRESHMEN SLOTS

► RUBS freshmen slots

- Freshmen slots and award amounts are approved annually. (subject to change)
- Presidents are notified of annual authorization by letter from Chancellor.

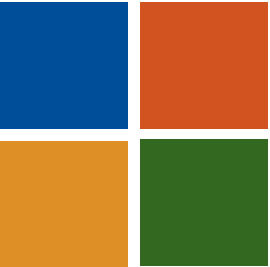


WILLIAM P. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



WILLIAM P. WILLIS SCHOLARSHIP

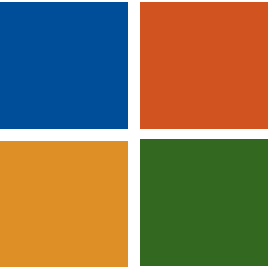
- ▶ Scholarship was established by the 1986 Oklahoma Legislature
- ▶ The goal is to provide scholarships to low income, full-time undergraduates attending institutions in the Oklahoma state System of Higher Education



WPW- ELIGIBILITY

▶ Program Rules (Eligibility):

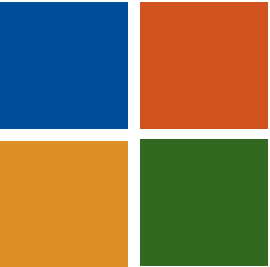
- ▶ Nominee must be a **full-time** undergraduate
- ▶ Must have an effective income of **\$32,000** or less per year (AGI minus standard or itemized deductions)
- ▶ Must be an Oklahoma resident
- ▶ Each institution nominates one student except NSU which nominates two students



AWARD LEVELS

▶ Award Levels:

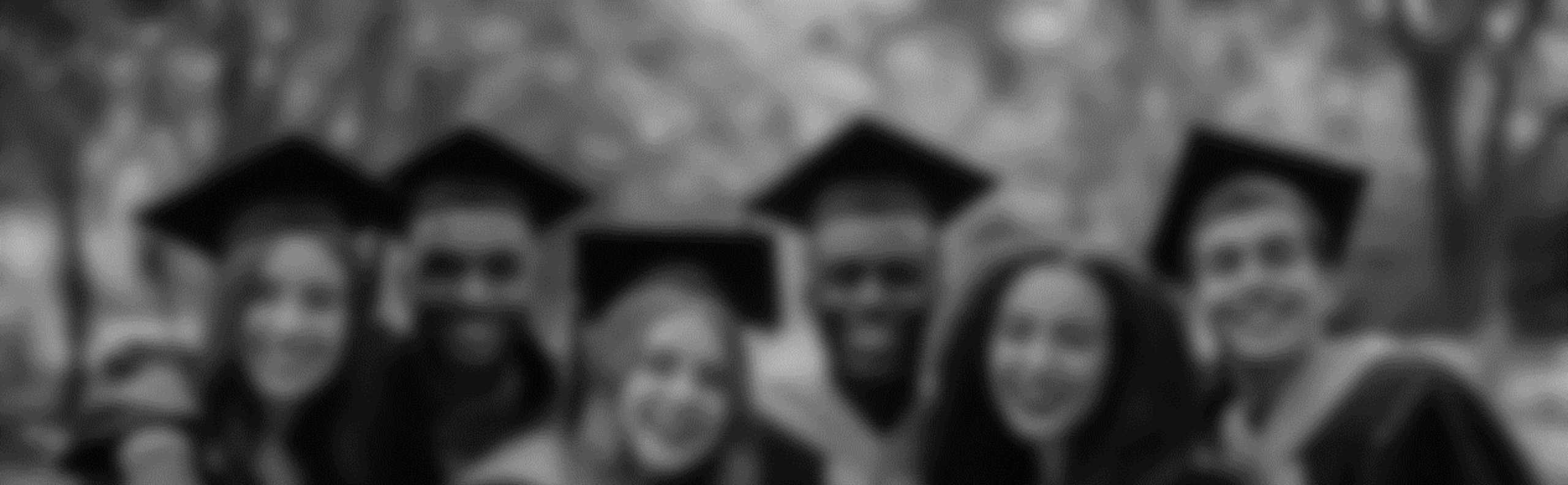
- ▶ \$3,000 at Research Universities
- ▶ \$2,400 at Regional Universities
- ▶ \$2,000 at Community Colleges



WPW- PROGRAM RULES

▶ Program Rules

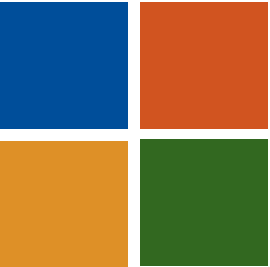
- ▶ Scholarship award is **not-transferable**
- ▶ It is recommended that institutions give priority to their previous year recipient. Recipients may receive the award for no more than four years
- ▶ Must be meeting Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements.



INDEPENDENT LIVING TUITION WAIVER

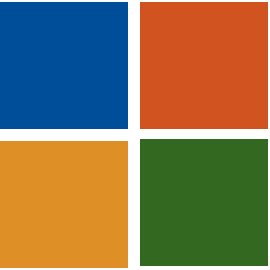
Foster Care Tuition Waiver

- ▶ The Independent Living Act was established by the 2000 Oklahoma Legislature to ensure that eligible individuals who have been or are in the foster care program of the Department of Human Services receive services that include housing, medical coverage and education.



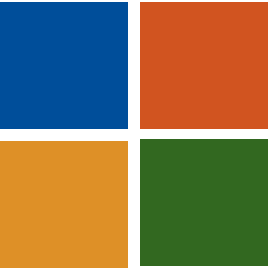
ILTW- ELIGIBILITY

- ▶ Student must be a resident of Oklahoma
- ▶ Student must have graduated within the previous three years from a State Board of Education-accredited high school, the Oklahoma School of Science and Mathematics or a high school bordering Oklahoma as approved by the State Board of Education OR the student must have completed the General Educational Development (GED) requirements.



ILTW- ELIGIBILITY (CONTINUED)

- ▶ The student must have been in DHS custody for at least **nine months** between the ages of 16 and 18.
- ▶ Students must be enrolled in a public college or university or certain programs at technology centers.
- ▶ Tuition waivers will be made available to eligible students up to 26 years of age or upon completion of a baccalaureate degree, whichever comes first.



ILTW- CONTACT

▶ OK Dept of Human Services Contact

▶ Jeff Walls
Program Manager
Jeffrey.Walls@okdhs.org



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QUESTIONS?

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