

September 2016

OKLAHOMA'S OFFICIAL GUIDE TO PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

DO YOU HAVE A PLAN FOR COLLEGE?



High School Juniors and Seniors



OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS
FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Improving our future by degrees

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 on.

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 to get 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 CLICK • COMPARE • CHOOSE

OKcollegestart.org is the official source for planning a college education in Oklahoma and offers advanced tools to help you prepare and pay for college. The website provides information on admission requirements, financial aid, college costs and more. You can search by keywords and receive personalized results to compare colleges.

GLOSSARY

If any of the terms used in this publication are unfamiliar to you, check out the glossary in the Prepare for College section under the College Planning tab at OKcollegestart.org.

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 \$13 an hour, which is approximately \$1,739 a month or \$20,868 per year in take-home pay.

GROSS PAY
\$2,253 month

less taxes, Social Security and Medicare

TAKE-HOME PAY
\$1,739 month

WITH A DEGREE

Now let's say you take extra 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 \$31 an hour. That's \$3,791 a month or \$45,498 per year in take-home pay.

GROSS PAY
\$5,373 month

less taxes, Social Security and Medicare

TAKE-HOME PAY
\$3,791 month

The more you learn, the more you can earn

In fact, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, someone with a bachelor's degree earns about 50 percent more 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.

What a difference a degree makes!

Associate or Bachelor's Degree	Hourly Wage	Moderate On-the-Job Experience	Hourly Wage
Computer Programmer	\$32.54	Data Entry Keyer	\$13.63
Architect or Engineer	\$38.20	Construction Laborer	\$14.12
Zoologist or Wildlife Biologist	\$23.41	Veterinary Assistant	\$11.28
Forensic Science Technician	\$26.57	Security Guard	\$13.52
Preschool Teacher <small>(except Special Education)</small>	\$14.99	Child Care Worker	\$9.21
Registered Nurse	\$28.39	Nursing Assistant	\$11.01

Source: Oklahoma Employment Security Commission, Oklahoma Wage Report 2015



To learn more about earning income 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).

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.

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 in case you decide to get a job right out of high school.

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 "standard" 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 – as early as your junior year. Taking advantage of opportunities such as Advanced Placement (AP) courses and concurrent enrollment can save you time, tuition, and room and board 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.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

For information about preparing for the ACT exam, visit act.org, or for information about preparing for the SAT exam, visit collegeboard.org.

Visit OKcollegestart.org to learn more about preparing for college entrance exams. Talk to your counselor about taking the ACT and SAT.

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).
- Your overall grade point average (GPA) and ranking within your high school class OR
- Your GPA in the 15 core courses required for college entry.

For more information about admission requirements, visit OKcollegestart.org, talk to your school counselor or check with the college(s) you want to attend.

2017-18 Admission Standards for First-Time Entering Students

Minimum High School Performance Criteria for Admission

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3 ¹
Oklahoma State University ²	24 ACT ⁴	3.0 GPA AND top 33%	3.0 GPA in 15-unit core AND 21 ACT ⁴
University of Oklahoma ³	24 ACT ⁴ AND 3.0 GPA or top 50%	3.0 GPA AND top 25%	No Option 3
University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma	24 ACT ⁴ AND 3.0 GPA or top 50%	3.0 GPA AND top 25%	3.0 GPA in the 15-unit core AND 22 ACT ⁴
Regional Universities	20 ACT ⁴	2.7 GPA AND top 50% of class	2.7 GPA in 15-unit core
Community Colleges	No minimum required. You don't need to make certain scores, but you should take required high school classes AND graduate from an accredited high school or have a GED AND take the ACT exam.		

1. Additional weighting (1.0) will be added to GPAs of students who take Advanced Placement and higher-level International Baccalaureate courses.

2. Students who score a 22 on the ACT⁴ or have an unweighted high school core curriculum GPA of at least 3.0 undergo a review of cognitive and noncognitive factors. Cognitive factors include noted academic admission standards; quality, quantity and level of course work throughout the entire high school program; completion of a progressively challenging math sequence, demonstrated by performance; and class rank taken in context with academic rigor and class size of high school attended. Noncognitive factors include positive self-concept, realistic self-appraisal, long-term goals, leadership experience, community and knowledge in an acquired field. Cognitive factors will be weighted at 60 percent and noncognitive at 40 percent.

3. Students who do not meet the option 1 or option 2 admission requirements are considered for admission through a holistic admission review and selection process. The holistic admission process considers several factors that predict academic success (high school GPA, high school course rigor, academic engagement, writing ability, leadership and ACT/SAT scores).

4. As a result of recent changes to the SAT, please consult the institution you plan to attend to obtain information about using an SAT score to satisfy college admission requirements.

The choice

Choosing where to go to college is an important decision. The decision will affect your future and even your success as a student. Here are some things to think about.

- **Location** – Are you willing to move away from home? Do you prefer a city or country setting?
- **Type of school** – Do you want to go to a large or small school?
- **Admission requirements** – How are your grades and test scores?
- **Academics** – What do you want to study?
- **Financial aid** – How much financial assistance do you need? Can the campus provide you with aid (scholarships, part-time employment)?
- **Housing** – Where will you live? Do you want to live on campus?
- **Activities** – What are your interests and hobbies? Which campus offers the best options for you?



CAMPUS VISITS

Still undecided about which college to attend? Schedule some college visits to the schools you might be interested in attending. These visits can help you make a more educated decision. While on your campus visits, talk to as many people as you can and don't pass up a chance to ask questions. Use the Making the Most of Campus Visits tool found at UCanGo2.org/publications/HS to make your trip a success.

Types of schools and 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.

CERTIFICATE: a credential awarded for an organized program of study that does 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). The State Regents recognize these two types of associate degrees that transfer to any 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, Engineering, etc.



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.

2016-17 Estimated Average Costs for Resident Students at Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities (30 credit hours)

Expenses	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches
Tuition	\$4,759	\$5,034	\$2,941	\$3,434
Mandatory Fees	\$3,717	\$1,394	\$989	\$991

Visit OKcollegestart.org and click [How Much Does College Cost?](#) on the [Financial Aid 101](#) page under the Financial Aid Planning tab for a more detailed breakdown of costs, including room and board.

Types of financial aid

There are four different types of financial aid available: scholarships, grants, work-study and student loans. To learn more about financial aid, visit OKcollegestart.org.



What's the FAFSA?

To apply for federal financial aid (grants, work-study and student loans), Oklahoma's Promise and the Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG), you and your parents must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need to have your parents' tax return(s) – along with yours – to complete the FAFSA. Even if you don't think you need financial

aid (or qualify for it), fill out the FAFSA anyway. Most students qualify for some form of federal financial aid! Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1 of your senior year and each year you need financial aid. Visit StartWithFAFSA.org to find FAFSA completion tools, including video tutorials available in English and Spanish.

Financial Aid Checklist

- ✓ Don't wait. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Oct. 1 of the year prior to every year you need financial aid. Many students don't realize they may qualify for federal aid such as grants, scholarships, work-study or low-cost student loans. Learn more at FAFSA.gov.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Find out if scholarships are available in the field(s) 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 earn scholarships based on financial need, grades, talents and life experiences.
- ✓ Ask family members to open an Oklahoma College Savings Plan account by calling [877.654.7284](tel:877-654-7284) or visiting ok4saving.org. OCSF offers tax advantages for families, and funds can be used at nearly all colleges and universities in the United States.
- ✓ Learn about the student financial aid application process and programs by calling or visiting the websites for the resources listed in this brochure.

Tips for scholarship success

GO LOCAL. Many clubs, civic organizations and churches offer scholarships. If you aren't sure, ask! Applying locally for scholarships means you're competing against fewer people.

DO THE "WRITE" THING. Many scholarships require an essay, but don't let that discourage you. Scholarships that require essays have fewer applicants, which means you have a greater chance of winning the award.

DON'T MISS THE BOAT. Apply for as many scholarships as possible and keep track of the requirements for each one so you don't miss out on free money by forgetting to include your transcript or submitting your application after the deadline.

DO YOUR RESEARCH. Set up an appointment with your school counselor to talk about your scholarship options. Many colleges post available scholarships on their websites. Check with the school(s) you plan to attend to learn about scholarships they may offer.

Check out the [Scholarship Success Guide](#) under the Publications tab at UCanGo2.org.

Junior Checklist

- Take core classes that meet college entrance requirements.
- If you signed up for Oklahoma's Promise in the eighth-10th grade, use the curriculum checklist at okpromise.org to keep track of your courses, continue to make good grades and stay out of trouble.
- Explore opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school, like concurrent enrollment and AP courses.
- Prepare to take ACT/SAT exams. You may want to take these more than once to raise your score. Visit OKcollegestart.org to take free practice exams.
- Attend college fairs in your area.
- When you narrow the list of schools you're interested in, schedule campus visits.

Review more detailed junior and senior checklists at UCanGo2.org/publications/HS.

Senior Checklist

- In addition to the steps above, talk to your family and school counselor about your goals after high school.
- Research grants and scholarships available through your school, business community and local civic organizations.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Oct. 1 of your senior year and prior to each year you need financial aid. The FAFSA is used to determine your eligibility for most federal financial aid, including federal (and some state) grants and scholarships.
- Visit FAFSA.gov to request a Federal Student Aid ID and submit your FAFSA online.
- Submit admission and financial aid applications to the college(s) of your choice; pay close attention to deadlines.
- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) from the college(s) of your choice to make sure your information is correct; quickly return the form with any corrections.
- Respond quickly to any requests from colleges and universities for additional information.

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 find OKcollegestart.org on Facebook today! OKcollegestart.org or 800.858.1840



[UCanGo2](http://UCanGo2.org) provides valuable 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. Find [UCanGo2](http://UCanGo2.org) on Facebook today! UCanGo2.org or 866.443.7420

[Ready Set Repay](http://ReadySetRepay.org) works with student loan borrowers and Oklahoma higher education institutions to help students make smart borrowing decisions and successfully repay their student loans. Learn more about student loan management at ReadySetRepay.org. Find Repayment Scoop on Facebook today! ReadySetRepay.org or 800.635.3743



College Questions Answered Promptly
studentinfo@osrhe.edu

ACT Financial Aid Need Estimator
webappso1.act.org/fane/docs/

ACT Student Center
actstudent.org

Federal Student Aid
studentaid.ed.gov

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
FAFSA.gov
startwithfafsa.org

Oklahoma GEAR UP
okgearup.org

Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant Program (OTAG)
otag.org

OKLAHOMA PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Current as of September 2016



Research Universities

1. Oklahoma State University, Stillwater
okstate.edu, 800.233.5019
2. OSU Center for Health Sciences, Tulsa
healthsciences.okstate.edu, 800.677.1972
3. OSU-Tulsa
osu-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

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.aspx, 918.449.6000
14. Northeastern State University, Muskogee
nsuok.edu/muskogee, 918.683.0040
15. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Alva
nwsu.edu, 580.327.1700
16. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Enid
nwsu.edu/enid, 580.237.0334
17. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward
nwsu.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
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/sayre, 580.928.5533
26. University of Central Oklahoma, Edmond
uco.edu, 405.974.2000

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. Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Miami
neo.edu, 888.464.6636

36. Northern Oklahoma College, Tonkawa
noc.edu, 580.628.6200
37. Northern Oklahoma College, Enid
noc.edu/enid, 580.242.6300
38. Oklahoma City Community College
occc.edu, 405.682.1611
39. Redlands Community College, El Reno
redlandsc.edu, 866.415.6367
40. Rose State College, Midwest City
rose.edu, 866.621.0987
41. Seminole State College, Seminole
sscok.edu, 405.382.9950
42. Tulsa Community College
tulsacc.edu, 918.595.7000
43. Western Oklahoma State College, Altus
wosc.edu, 580.477.2000

Technical Branches

44. Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology, Okmulgee
osuit.edu, 800.722.4471
45. Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City
osuokc.edu, 800.560.4099

Higher Education Programs/Sites

46. Langston University, Oklahoma City
langston.edu/okc/langston-okc, 405.962.1620
47. Northern Oklahoma College, Stillwater
noc.edu/stillwater, 405.744.2246
48. University Center at Ponca City,
ucponcacity.com, 580.718.5600
49. University Center of Southern Oklahoma, Ardmore
ucso.osrhe.edu, 580.223.1441

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