

Oklahoma's Promise

OKLAHOMA HIGHER LEARNING ACCESS PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Oklahoma's Promise website: www.okpromise.org

Remember, you, the student, are ultimately responsible for completing all the requirements of the program. If you change high schools between the time you enroll in Oklahoma's Promise (OKPromise) and the time you graduate, inform your new school that you are an OKPromise student and also notify the OKPromise office.

I. Requirements for Students

Scholarship Requirements (must be completed by the time the student graduates from high school):

- The student must achieve at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA for **all** course work attempted in grades 9 through 12.
- The student must also complete the following 17-unit core curriculum and achieve at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA for the following 17-unit OKPromise core curriculum.*

[*Homeschool students and students graduating from a high school not accredited by the Oklahoma State Board of Education or a recognized accrediting agency must **also** achieve a composite score of 22 or higher on an ACT test taken on a national test date. "Residual" ACT test scores do not qualify.]

- **Students must strictly follow the college preparatory curriculum listed below. Be aware that some courses that qualify for high school graduation requirements do not qualify for OKPromise requirements. For more information, go to the Frequently Asked Questions section at www.okpromise.org.**
- Students with a disability or on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may participate in Oklahoma's Promise. However, to qualify for the scholarship, the core courses completed by the student must have the same academic content and be of the same academic rigor as the regular college preparatory core courses offered by the high school in the same academic subject.

4	English (grammar, composition, literature: courses should include an integrated writing component)
3	Lab science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, or any lab science certified by the school district. General science with or without a lab may not be used to meet this requirement)
3	Mathematics (Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Trigonometry, Math Analysis, Calculus, Advanced Placement [AP] Statistics)
3	History and Citizenship skills including 1 unit of American history and 2 units from the subjects of history, government, geography, economics, civics and/or non-Western Culture.
2	2 units of Foreign or non-English language (two years of the same language) OR 2 units of Computer Technology (courses in programming, hardware, and business computer applications such as word processing, databases, spreadsheets, and graphics will qualify. Keyboarding or typing classes <u>do not</u> qualify) (1 foreign language & 1 computer course <u>will not</u> meet this requirement.)
1	Additional unit of any of the subjects listed above
1	Fine arts (music, art, or drama) or speech

- The student must also agree to:
 - ❖ attend school regularly and do homework regularly;
 - ❖ refrain from substance abuse;
 - ❖ refrain from criminal or delinquent acts;
 - ❖ have school work and school records reviewed by an appropriate school official;
 - ❖ when requested, provide information to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of Education; and participate in program activities.

(Note: Compliance with conduct standards will be based upon the local school district's policy.)

I. Program Requirements for Parents

The student's parent(s), custodial parent(s), or guardian(s) must sign the student's agreement and further agree to:

- help the student comply with the program requirements;
- talk with school contact person or other program personnel when asked to do so;
- when requested, provide information to the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education or the State Board of Education;
- help the student complete any forms or reports required for program participation, apply for admission to institutions and schools of higher learning, and file applications for college financial aid.

Parents and students should check with the school contact person at the time of high school graduation to make sure that students who have completed the program have been certified by the contact person to the State Regents for Higher Education. OKPromise awards cannot be made for a student until the school contact person provides the necessary documentation to the State Regents.

II. College Requirements/Information

- The income of the student's parents (or the student, if the student is financially independent of their parents) may not exceed \$100,000 at the time the student begins college and prior to receiving the scholarship. [For certain students adopted between the ages of birth and 12, the second income limit will be \$150,000. For certain students adopted between the ages of 13 and 17, the second income limit will be \$200,000].
- The student must be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States to receive the scholarship.
- The scholarship can only be used at eligible institutions within Oklahoma. The scholarship is not available for students attending colleges outside Oklahoma. A list of eligible institutions is available at www.okpromise.org.
- The student must meet normal admission standards for first-time entering students at the college or university to which you apply. Students admitted to an institution by special or alternative admission standards are not eligible for the OKPromise scholarship their first semester of enrollment. Completion of the OKPromise requirements does not guarantee admission to an institution of higher education.

Admission Standards 2009-2010¹ First-Time-Entering Students

Institution	Option 1 Minimum ACT/ SAT	Option 2 Minimum GPA and Class Rank	Option 3 Minimum GPA in the 15-Unit Core
OU (resident)	24 ACT/1090 SAT AND 3.0 GPA or top 50%	3.0 GPA AND top 25%	3.0 GPA AND 22 ACT or 1020 SAT
OSU¹	24 ACT/1090 SAT	3.0 GPA AND top 25%	3.0 GPA AND 21 ACT or 980 SAT
USAO	24 ACT/1090 SAT	3.0 GPA AND top 33%	3.0 GPA AND 21 ACT or 980 SAT
Regional Universities	20 ACT/940 SAT	2.7 GPA AND top 50%	2.7 GPA
Community Colleges	No minimum required		

¹These standards are for the 2009-2010 school year. Requirements may change and requirements for private institutions may be different, so see your counselor for up-to-date information. For more detailed information regarding admission standards, please visit <http://www.okhighered.org/student-center/jrhigh-highscl/grades.shtml>.

- The student must apply for college financial aid when they are preparing to enroll in college. OKPromise does not pay for all charges associated with college such as other required fees, books, supplies, or room and board. The student and parent(s) are responsible for the additional charges. An excellent source of information on financial aid and other college information is www.okcollegestart.org.

- The student must start taking college courses within three years from the time they graduate high school. [Students that cannot meet the three-year deadline to start college **due to active military service** may receive an extension to the three-year limit. This provision applies only to students serving in the U.S. Armed Services, the Reserve Corps of the U.S. Armed Services and the Oklahoma National Guard.]
- The student may not receive funds for more than five consecutive years after enrolling in college.
- Awards cannot be used for courses taken after the student completes a bachelor's degree.
- The student must maintain good grades in college to keep receiving awards. The student must achieve a college GPA of at least 2.0 for courses taken during their sophomore year and a GPA of at least 2.5 for courses taken during their junior year and thereafter. In addition, students attending Oklahoma public colleges and universities must maintain "good academic standing" as defined by the State Regents' Admission and Retention Policy. In short, the policy requires students to achieve at least a 1.7 GPA during their first 30 semester credit hours and maintain a minimum 2.0 cumulative GPA after 30 semester credit hours are completed. If a student attends a private/independent college or university, that institution's policy will apply.
- Any OKPromise student that is suspended from a college for more than one semester for conduct reasons will lose the scholarship permanently.
- The OKPromise scholarship will not be available for the first summer college semester immediately following high school graduation. Since official OKPromise eligibility is not determined until high school graduation, we do not have time to process scholarships for the first summer semester. The first scholarships will be available for the fall semester. However, once you are officially verified in our system, you may use the OKPromise scholarship in summer semesters of later years.
- Legislation passed during the 1997 legislative session authorizes the State Regents to set a maximum limit on the number of courses/credit hours to which the OKPromise scholarship will apply. [At this time, a limit has not been set.]

How is the scholarship amount determined?

- The OKPromise scholarship is not a pre-set amount; the scholarship amount depends upon the type of institution attended and the number of credit hours in which the student enrolls. **The OKPromise award is calculated on the resident tuition cost only; it does not include the cost of other required fees, room and board expenses, books, or other costs related to college attendance.** Tuition rates are set and approved during the summer. These rates will be updated and available on our website at www.okpromise.org.
- Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities: **The OKPromise award will equal the resident tuition at Oklahoma public colleges and universities. It does not include the cost of other required fees such as student activity fees, facility fees, library fees, technology fees, health fees, special or remedial course fees, parking fees, etc.** The final amount awarded to each student will vary depending on the tuition rates in effect at the time, the type of institution attended, and the number of credit hours in which the student is enrolled.

Examples of a semester award at public institutions:

Type of <u>Public Institution</u>	Approximate 2007-2008 <u>Tuition Rate</u> ⁽¹⁾		Hours <u>Enrolled</u> ⁽²⁾		OKPromise Semester <u>Award</u>
Research Univ.	\$115.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$1,725.00
Regional University	\$95.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$1,425.00
Two-Year College	\$60.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$900.00
Technical Branch (2 yr.)	\$89.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$1,335.00

⁽¹⁾ Tuition rates are subject to change and may be higher or lower at different institutions; an **average** rate is shown.

⁽²⁾ Enrollment in 12-15 semester credit hours per fall or spring semester is considered full-time enrollment. While students are not required to take a certain number of credit hours each semester, students will need to take 12-15 credit hours per semester to complete a bachelor's degree within the five-year time period allowed.

- Oklahoma Independent/Private Colleges and Universities: The OKPromise award will cover a portion of the tuition at accredited independent/private colleges or universities in Oklahoma. The amount awarded to a student attending an independent/private institution will be equivalent to the amount the student would have received if the student had attended a comparable public institution. Comparability is determined by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.

Examples of a semester award at independent/private institutions:

Type of Independent Institution	Independent Tuition Rate ¹	OKPromise Award Rate ²		Hours Enrolled ³		OKPromise Semester Award
Research Univ.	\$750/hr.	\$115.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$1,725.00
Regional Univ.	\$650/hr.	\$95.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$1,425.00

¹The tuition rates shown here are for example only. Actual tuition rates may be higher or lower, and will vary by institution.

²At independent research and regional universities, the OKPromise award is the average of the rates at public institutions.

³Enrollment in 12-15 semester credit hours per fall or spring semester is considered full-time enrollment. While students are not required to take a certain number of credit hours each semester, students will need to take 12-15 credit hours per semester to complete a bachelor's degree within the five-year time period allowed.

- **Public Career Technology Programs:** The OKPromise award will cover at least a portion of the tuition cost for certain public technology programs or courses offered through “**cooperative agreements**” between public technology centers and Oklahoma public colleges or universities. [The award is limited to an amount similar to tuition at a public two-year college.] A “cooperative agreement” means certain courses or programs may be taken at the public technology centers that qualify for college credit from a public two-year college. However, not all programs or courses at public technology centers qualify for college credit. The student should check with the public technology center he/she plans to attend.

Will the OKPromise scholarship affect other financial aid or scholarships for which I may be eligible?

- A student receiving an OKPromise scholarship may also receive other financial aid for which the student is eligible, such as the federal Pell Grant, Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG), other academic scholarships, tuition waivers, student loans, etc.
- The only state restriction on other financial aid is that a student receiving the OKPromise scholarship may not receive total financial aid that is more than his/her cost of attending an Oklahoma postsecondary institution, as determined by the institution in which the student is enrolled. If necessary, a student's OKPromise award will be reduced so that the student's total financial aid equals the cost of attendance or budget.
- Students receiving federal financial aid, such as federal Pell Grants, federal student loans, Federal Work-Study (FWS), Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG), and Federal Perkins Loans, may be subject to federal regulations that limit other sources of financial aid that the student may receive.

Funding for the scholarship

- During the 2007 legislative session, the Oklahoma Legislature passed Senate Bill 820 which authorized a dedicated funding source for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship beginning in 2008-09. This change should ensure that the program is fully funded each year. However, if at any time there are not enough funds to pay all eligible students, the State Regents are directed by law to use the following priorities to award scholarships:
 1. OKPromise students who have previously received the scholarship shall receive the award first*; and
 2. OKPromise students eligible to receive the award for the first time shall receive the award second.*

*If funds are not sufficient for all eligible students within the priority category, distribution of the available funds will be based on current financial need.

Information on Oklahoma Colleges and Universities

You can find information on Oklahoma's colleges and universities as well as financial aid information at www.okcollegestart.org

OKPromise E-Mail News service: We strongly encourage you to stay informed about developments with the program. This is a service that is administered by the OKPromise office to send periodic updates about the program. Please note that this is not "spam," and we will only be posting important information related to the program. You may sign up at <http://lists.onenet.net/mailman/listinfo/OKPromise-news>.

Oklahoma's Promise Contact Information

Oklahoma's Promise
Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
PO Box 108850
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-8850

Website: www.okpromise.org

E-mail: okpromise@osrhe.edu

1-800-858-1840 (toll-free information hotline)
(405) 225-9152 (Oklahoma City local calling area)
FAX: (405) 225-9230