

# Oklahoma's Promise

OKLAHOMA HIGHER LEARNING ACCESS PROGRAM

## INFORMATION FOR ENROLLED STUDENTS AND PARENTS

Oklahoma's Promise website: [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org)

**Remember, you, the student, are ultimately responsible for completing all the requirements of the program. In 2017 the Oklahoma Legislature passed Senate Bill 529 which modified some requirements of the Oklahoma's Promise program. The information in this document reflects those changes.**

## I. Requirements for Students

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.

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

- **Students must strictly follow the 17-unit 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](http://www.okpromise.org).**

- The student must achieve at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA for **all** course work attempted in grades 9 through 12.

- The student must also achieve at least a 2.50 cumulative GPA for the 17-unit OKPromise core curriculum.\*

[\*Homeschool students and students graduating from a high school not accredited by the Oklahoma State Board of Education must **also** achieve a composite score of 22 or higher on an ACT test reported on an official test report issued by ACT. "Residual" ACT test scores do not qualify.]

- Students with a disability or on an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) may participate in OKPromise. 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	<b>English</b> (grammar, composition, literature: courses should include an integrated writing component)
3	<b>Lab science</b> (biology, chemistry, physics, or any lab science certified by the school district. General science with or without a lab may <b>not</b> be used to meet this requirement)
3	<b>Mathematics</b> (Algebra I, Algebra II, geometry, trigonometry, math analysis, pre-calculus, statistics and probability [must have completed geometry and Algebra II], calculus, Advanced Placement [AP] statistics)
3	<b>History and Citizenship skills</b> including 1 unit of American history and 2 units from the subjects of history, economics, geography, government, and/or non-Western Culture.
2	2 units of <b>Foreign</b> or <b>non-English</b> language (two years of the same language) <b>OR</b> 2 units of <b>Computer Technology</b> (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) <b>(1 foreign language &amp; 1 computer course <u>will not</u> meet this requirement.)</b>
1	<b>Additional</b> unit of any of the subjects listed above
1	<b>Fine arts</b> (music, art, or drama) or <b>speech</b>

- 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.)

## II. 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.

## III. College Requirements/Information

- Oklahoma's Promise students graduating high school are subject to a second income limit and must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (<http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>) each year they are enrolled in postsecondary education. The information from the FAFSA will be used to determine whether or not the federal adjusted gross income (AGI) of the student's parents exceeds \$100,000 (the income limit will apply to student's income if the student is officially determined to be financially independent of his or her parents). For any year that the income reported on the student's current FAFSA exceeds \$100,000, the student will not be eligible to receive the OKPromise benefit for that year. [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 resident of Oklahoma at the time of high school graduation according to the residency policy of the Oklahoma State Regents' for Higher Education (OSRHE policy 3.17 – In-State/Out-of-State Status of Enrolled Students). In accordance with this policy, students who are temporarily in the United States on a visa are not considered residents of Oklahoma and may not be eligible for the OKPromise award.
- Students who enroll in Oklahoma's Promise must be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United States at the time they enter postsecondary education to receive the program award. Students who later become a United States citizen or lawfully present may become eligible for the award at that time. Students with temporary DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) immigration status are not eligible to receive the OKPromise scholarship.
- The scholarship can only be used at eligible institutions within Oklahoma. It is not available for students attending colleges/postsecondary institutions outside Oklahoma. (Please visit the State Regents' website at <http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/colleges-universities/list.shtml> for a list of eligible institutions.)
- OKPromise students must meet the regular admission requirements for the institution they plan to attend. Students admitted to an institution by special or alternative admission standards are not eligible for the award their

first semester of enrollment. Completion of the program's high school requirements does not guarantee admission to an institution of higher education. Admission standards for state public colleges and universities can be found at [https://secure.okcollegestart.org/College\\_Planning/Prepare\\_for\\_College/grades\\_to\\_make.aspx](https://secure.okcollegestart.org/College_Planning/Prepare_for_College/grades_to_make.aspx).

- The student must begin postsecondary education within three years of graduating high school. [Students that cannot meet this three-year deadline **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.] Please contact the OKPromise office for information regarding exceptions to this requirement.
- Beginning with the 2018-19 academic year, the OKPromise award will not be allowed for payment of noncredit remedial courses.
- Once a student begins postsecondary education, he/she is eligible for benefits for a maximum of five consecutive years or completion of a bachelor's degree, whichever comes first. (For students serving on active military duty during this time period, please contact the OKPromise office for information regarding exceptions to this requirement.).
- OKPromise awards will not cover courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a bachelor's (undergraduate) degree program. Legislation passed during the 2017 legislative session requires the State Regents to set a maximum limit on the number of courses/credit hours to which the OKPromise award will apply. The State Regents are expected to set this limit through the Administrative Procedures process during the 2017-18 academic year.
- The OKPromise scholarship will not be available for the summer college semester immediately following high school graduation. Because official OKPromise eligibility is not determined until high school graduation, eligibility cannot be determined in time to process awards 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.
- Once in college, OKPromise students must meet the following requirements to maintain their eligibility for the award:
  - ✓ All OKPromise students in college must meet the Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) requirements set by the college to be eligible to receive federal financial aid. This requirement applies to all OKPromise students, whether or not they are currently receiving federal financial aid. The SAP requirements include minimum GPA standards and minimum standards for completing courses in which the student enrolls.
  - ✓ OKPromise students must also meet any other requirements for retention, degree completion, or "good academic standing" as established by the college in which they are enrolled.
  - ✓ An OKPromise student suspended from a college/postsecondary institution for more than one semester for conduct reasons will lose the scholarship permanently.

### **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](http://www.okpromise.org).
- Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities: **The OKPromise award will equal the resident tuition<sup>1</sup> 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. A list of institutions is available at <http://www.okhighered.org/state-system/colleges-universities/list.shtml>

**Examples of a semester award at public institutions:**

Type of <u>Public Institution</u>	Approximate 2016-17 <u>Tuition Rate</u> <sup>(1)</sup>		Hours <u>Enrolled</u> <sup>(2)</sup>		OKPromise Semester <u>Award</u>
Research University	\$159.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$2,385.00
Regional University	\$168.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$2,520.00
Community College (2 yr.)	\$102.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$1,530.00
Technical Branch (2 yr.)	\$124.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$1,950.00

<sup>(1)</sup> Tuition rates are subject to change and may be higher or lower at different institutions; an **average** rate is shown. The award is based on the non-guaranteed resident tuition rate. If the student opts for the guaranteed rate of tuition, he/she will be responsible for the cost difference.

<sup>(2)</sup> 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 <u>Independent Institution</u>	Independent Tuition Rate <sup>1</sup>	OKPromise Award Rate <sup>2</sup>		Hours <u>Enrolled</u> <sup>3</sup>		OKPromise Semester <u>Award</u>
Research University	\$600 / hr.	\$159.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$2,385.00
Regional University	\$600 / hr.	\$168.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$2,520.00
Assoc. degree inst.	\$600 / hr.	\$102.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$1,530.00

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

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

<sup>3</sup>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.

- **Public Career Technology Programs:** The OKPromise award will cover at least a portion of the tuition cost for enrollment in certain programs at public career technology centers supervised by the Oklahoma State Board of Career and Technology Education. Programs must meet the requirements to be eligible for federal student financial aid. [The award is limited to an amount similar to tuition at a public two-year college.]

**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 may be reduced so that the student's total financial aid does not exceed 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 OKPromise 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](http://www.okcollegestart.org)

## **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](http://www.okpromise.org)  
**E-mail:** [okpromise@osrhe.edu](mailto:okpromise@osrhe.edu)  
 1-800-858-1840 (toll-free information hotline)  
 (405) 225-9152 (Oklahoma City local calling area)  
 FAX: (405) 225-9392

## OK Promise Curriculum Worksheet

Please record the letter grade or numerical value on the lines next to the courses completed. (i.e. A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) Each short line indicates  $\frac{1}{2}$  unit of credit.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENGLISH: (4 units)**

English I	_____	_____	English III	_____	_____
English II	_____	_____	English IV	_____	_____

**LAB SCIENCE: (3 units - must be a district certified lab science)**

Biology	_____	_____	Physical Science (lab)	_____	_____
Chemistry	_____	_____		_____	_____
Physics	_____	_____		_____	_____

**MATH: (3 units)**

Algebra I	_____	_____	Trig/Calculus	_____	_____
Geometry	_____	_____	Math Analysis	_____	_____
Algebra II	_____	_____	AP Statistics	_____	_____
Algebra III	_____	_____		_____	_____

**HISTORY AND CITIZENSHIP SKILLS: (3 units - 1 unit must be American/U.S. History)**

American History	_____	_____	World History	_____	_____
Oklahoma History	_____	_____	Modern History	_____	_____
Government/Civics	_____	_____	Ancient History	_____	_____
Geography	_____	_____	World Geography	_____	_____
Economics	_____	_____		_____	_____

**FOREIGN OR NON-ENGLISH LANGUAGE: (2 units of the SAME language)**

Spanish I/ Span II	_____	_____	_____	_____	Native Amer. Lang I/II	_____	_____	_____	_____
French I/French II	_____	_____	_____	_____	Sign Language I/II	_____	_____	_____	_____
German I/German II	_____	_____	_____	_____		_____	_____	_____	_____

**OR**

**COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY: (2 units - not including keyboarding or typing)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL COURSE: (1 unit of the subjects listed above)**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FINE ARTS OR SPEECH:**

(1 unit of music, art, drama or Speech - competencies WILL count if noted on the transcript.)

\_\_\_\_\_

ACT Score: _____	17-unit OHLAP Core GPA (must be 2.50 or above)	_____
Required for non-accredited schools and homeschooled students	Overall GPA (transcript) (must be a 2.50 or above)	_____