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 is the official source for planning a college education in Oklahoma and offers interactive 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.

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 $14 an hour, which is approximately $1,866 a month or $22,392 per year in take-home pay.

GROSS PAY
$2,427 month
less taxes, Social Security and Medicare
TAKE-HOME PAY
$1,866 month

WITH A DEGREE
Now let’s say you take the 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 $36 an hour. That’s $4,336 a month or $52,032 per year in take-home pay.

GROSS PAY
$6,240 month
less taxes, Social Security and Medicare
TAKE-HOME PAY
$4,336 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.

GLOSSARY
If any of the terms used in this publication are unfamiliar to you, check out the glossary in the Prepare for College section in the College Planning tab at OKcollegestart.org.
What a difference a degree makes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Associate or Bachelor’s Degree</th>
<th>Moderate On-the-Job Experience</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer Programmer</td>
<td>Data Entry Keyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$36.47 per hour</td>
<td>$14.21 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect or Engineer</td>
<td>Construction Laborer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$37.82 per hour</td>
<td>$14.19 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoologist or Wildlife Biologist</td>
<td>Veterinary Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$24.72 per hour</td>
<td>$11.48 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forensic Science Technician</td>
<td>Security Guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$28.03 per hour</td>
<td>$14.34 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Teacher (except Special Education)</td>
<td>Child Care Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15.39 per hour</td>
<td>$9.47 per hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered Nurse</td>
<td>Nursing Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$29.15 per hour</td>
<td>$11.56 per hour</td>
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</tbody>
</table>


OKLAHOMA MONEY MATTERS
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.

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, and 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.
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 for first-time entering students at Oklahoma public colleges and universities, 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 (OKcollegestart.org, Grades to Make)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option 1</th>
<th>Option 2</th>
<th>Option 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA</strong></td>
<td><strong>OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY</strong></td>
<td>Students who do not meet 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).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 ACT/1160\textsuperscript{1} or 1090\textsuperscript{2} SAT AND 3.0 GPA or top 50% class rank</td>
<td>3.0 GPA AND top 25% class rank</td>
<td>24 ACT/1160\textsuperscript{1} or 1090\textsuperscript{2} SAT 3.0 GPA AND top 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND ARTS OF OKLAHOMA</strong></td>
<td><strong>REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>COMMUNITY COLLEGES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 ACT/1160\textsuperscript{1} or 1090\textsuperscript{2} SAT AND 3.0 GPA or top 50% class rank</td>
<td>24 ACT/1160\textsuperscript{1} or 1090\textsuperscript{2} SAT 3.0 GPA AND top 25% class rank</td>
<td>22 ACT/1100\textsuperscript{1} or 1020\textsuperscript{2} SAT AND 3.0 GPA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 ACT/1160\textsuperscript{1} or 1090\textsuperscript{2} SAT AND 3.0 GPA or top 50% class rank</td>
<td>20 ACT/1020\textsuperscript{1} or 940\textsuperscript{2} SAT 2.7 GPA AND top 50% class rank</td>
<td>No minimum required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{1}This score is valid for SATs administered on or after March 5, 2016. This score is based on the College Board’s Concordance Table that was published May 9, 2016. It is subject to change.

\textsuperscript{2}This score is valid for SATs administered before March 5, 2016.

\textsuperscript{3}Cognitive: Noted academic admission standards; quality, quantity and level of coursework 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.

\textsuperscript{4}Non-Cognitive: Students must demonstrate strengths in non-cognitive factors such as positive self-concept, realistic self-appraisal, long-term goals, leadership experience, community, and knowledge in an acquired field.

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? Do you want to live on campus?
- **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)?
- **Activities:** Which campus offers the best options for your interests?

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.
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.

To learn more about selecting the right school for you, check out the Explore Postsecondary Schools section in the College Planning tab at OKcollegestart.org.

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.

2017-18 estimated average costs for resident students
Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities (30 credit hours)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES</th>
<th>REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES</th>
<th>COMMUNITY COLLEGES</th>
<th>TECHNICAL BRANCHES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUITION</td>
<td>$4,989.00</td>
<td>$5,255.47</td>
<td>$3,153.75</td>
<td>$3,951.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MANDATORY FEES</td>
<td>$3,911.00</td>
<td>$1,434.22</td>
<td>$1,056.59</td>
<td>$1,281.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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) 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 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 fields 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 qualify for scholarships based on financial need, grades, talents and life experiences.
- Ask family members to open an Oklahoma College Savings Plan (OCSP) account by calling 877.654.7284 or visiting ok4saving.org. OCSP 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 in the Publications tab at UCanGo2.org.
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.

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.

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) for accuracy. Any inaccurate items need to be corrected, either at FAFSA.gov or by contacting your college’s financial aid office.

Respond quickly to any requests from colleges and universities for additional information.

Review more detailed junior and senior checklists at UCanGo2.org/publications/HS.
OKLAHOMA PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
Current as of September 2017

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, 800.234.6668
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
   eceu.edu, 580.332.8000
10. Langston University, Langston
    langston.edu, 877.466.2331
11. Langston University, Tulsa
    langston.edu/tulsa, 918.877.8100
12. Northeastern State University, Tahlequah
    nsuok.edu, 800.722.4471
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
    nwosu.edu, 580.327.1700
16. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Enid
    nwosu.edu/enid, 580.237.0334
17. Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Woodward
    nwosu.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
    sesu.edu, 800.435.1327
23. Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Idabel
    sesu.edu/idabel, 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
    caralbert.edu, 918.647.1200
29. Carl Albert State College, Sallisaw
    caralbert.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
    eosu.edu, 918.465.2361
33. Eastern Oklahoma State College, McAlester
    eosu.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
    redlandscc.edu, 866.415.6367
40. Rose State College, Midwest City
    rose.edu, 866.621.0987
41. Seminole State College, Midwest City
    seminolestate.edu, 866.415.6367
42. Tulsa Community College
    tulsacc.edu, 918.708.1977
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