

FINANCIAL AID

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Financial aid is money in the form of loans, grants, scholarships, waivers, and employment that is available to students to help pay the cost of attending a college, university, or vocational/technical school. Most financial aid comes from the federal government, which is the largest provider of aid, as well as state government, schools, and a variety of other public and private sources.

SCHOLARSHIP & WAIVERS

Each year the OSU-OKC Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships administers various external, state, and institutional scholarships and tuition waivers based on financial need, academic excellence, talent, leadership, and community service. Awards are available to full- and part-time students. Scholarship opportunities are competitive and are awarded on an annual basis.

The application process for an academic school award will vary by school. Students applying for a school foundation scholarship or tuition scholarship should check with the academic school for application deadlines. Students applying for institutional waivers and scholarships should visit <https://osuokc.awardspring.com/>. The deadline to apply varies based on scholarship.

Applicants admitted to Oklahoma State University – Oklahoma City will receive award consideration. Awards are on a

first come, first served basis in the following awarding priority:

1. First-time Freshman awards will be based on the cumulative grade point average from an official 7 or 8 semester transcript, (whichever is available), ACT scores, or GED documentation. You will be required to upload copies of your transcript or ACT scores for scholarship consideration.
2. College Transfer Students awards are made on the cumulative graduation/retention grade point average from all previous official college transcripts. You will be required to upload copies of your transcript history from each previously attended institution.
3. Current OSU-OKC Students—students enrolled at OSU- OKC during the 2023-2024 academic year will receive priority consideration for tuition waivers and scholarships based on the cumulative graduation/retention grade point average as determined by the OSU-OKC Registrar's Office.

OSU-OKC waives tuition for fulltime benefit-eligible faculty and staff, concurrently enrolled high school junior and seniors, and Oklahoma Independent Living Act students (in

Oklahoma Department of Human Services custody).

In addition, many employers, professional organizations, civic groups, and other groups offer scholarships. Eligibility criteria and deadlines vary from program to program. Applicants must contact the agency offering the scholarship for information. Examples of these types of scholarships are Oklahoma's Promise and the Heartland Scholarship Program.

OKLAHOMA PROMISE

For students who completed eligibility requirements, Oklahoma's Promise will pay his/her tuition at an Oklahoma public two-year college or four-year university. It will also cover at least a portion of tuition at an Oklahoma accredited private college or university or for courses offered at public technology centers that qualify for credit from an Oklahoma public two-year college. The scholarship amount, however, does not cover items such as books, supplies, room and board, or any other special fees. Students are strongly encouraged to apply for other forms of financial aid to cover these costs. Students receiving Oklahoma's Promise must maintain satisfactory academic progress standards as required from federal aid. For more information concerning your receipt of Oklahoma's Promise while attending OSU-OKC, please visit:

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<https://osuokc.edu/sites/default/files/documents/FinancialAid/Oklahoma-Promise-FAQ.pdf>

For detailed information, visit

<https://www.okpromise.org/>.

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS' ACADEMIC SCHOLARS PROGRAM

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Academic Scholars Program is designed to attract top students in Oklahoma and from across the country. The Academic Scholars Program covers a student's college costs, including room, board, tuition, books and incidental fees for up to five years of full-time undergraduate and/or graduate study. Students can qualify for the Academic Scholars Program by being named National Merit Scholars, National Merit Finalists, National Achievement Scholars, National Hispanic Scholars, Hispanic Honorable Mention Awardees or Presidential Scholars. Oklahomans can also qualify by scoring at or above the 99.5 percentile on the American College Testing Program exam (ACT) or the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Once admitted to a college or university, Academic Scholars must maintain a 3.25 cumulative grade point average. For more information regarding this scholarship visit [https://secure.okcollegestart.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/Scholarships/Academic_Scholarships/Academic_Scholarships/Academic_Scholarships_Program.aspx](https://secure.okcollegestart.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/Scholarships/Academic_Scholarships/Academic_Scholars_Program.aspx).

OKLAHOMA NATIONAL GUARD TUITION & FEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Oklahoma National Guard Tuition & Fee Scholarship Program shall be awarded a tuition and fee scholarship, provided the student:

- Has been certified as eligible by the Oklahoma Military Department,
- Is enrolled in at least three credits required for an associate or baccalaureate degree,
- Is an Oklahoma resident,
- Has a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or better,
- Does not currently hold a baccalaureate or graduate degree,
- Is enrolled in a program of study leading to an associate degree or a baccalaureate degree and
- Meets all admission and retention requirements of the institution.

HEROES PROMISE

The Oklahoma legislature has enacted legislation, which provides a tuition scholarship for children of Oklahoma military personnel killed in action after Jan. 1, 2000.

Heroes Promise will help pay the student's tuition at a public community college or university. It will also cover a portion of tuition at an

accredited Oklahoma private college or university or for courses at public technology centers approved for credit, toward an Associate in Applied Science degree at a public college for up to five years or bachelor's degree completion, whichever comes first. The final amount of the scholarship will vary depending on where the student attends college, the tuition rates in effect at that time and whether he or she attends full time or less.

SENIOR CITIZENS

Institutions of the state system are authorized to waive the tuition for Oklahoma residents 65 years of age or older for auditing academic courses, contingent upon space available. Students auditing courses under this policy are responsible for paying any and all fees associated with enrollment.

VETERANS BENEFITS

Veterans Education Benefits provide educational assistance to eligible veterans as well as to children of deceased or disabled veterans. For complete information concerning VA benefits, applications for benefits, amount of assistance awarded, eligibility and other veteran services, contact the Veterans Services, located in the Student Center on the first floor, or call (405) 945-8692 or email okc.va@okstate.edu.

MERIT-BASED AID

Students are eligible for merit-based when

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demonstrating special characteristics, skill, talent or ability. Scholarships and/or tuition waivers are examples of merit-based aid.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR MERIT-BASED FINANCIAL AID (SCHOLARSHIPS)?

- Contact the schools to which you are applying and ask for information and/or applications on any available merit-based aid. At OSU-Oklahoma City, financial aid and scholarships are processed in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships located in the Student Center on the first floor.
- Visit your public library; it should give reference books with information on the many scholarships available from public and private sources. Some high schools, colleges and libraries have computerized scholarship listings that help students identify potential sources of funds. When using scholarship search services, check with a school to see if the organization is reliable and reputable. You should never have to pay any fee to an organization for scholarship information. *Please note information about financial aid and scholarships should be free.* Additional scholarship opportunities are available through OSU-OKC's Academic Schools. Applicants wanting to apply for an academic school

scholarship should contact the academic school for more information.

NEED-BASED AID

Need-based aid is given to a student who can show that he or she needs financial assistance to pursue an education beyond high school. Most financial aid is awarded on the basis of need. There are three kinds of need-based aid: grants, college work-study and loans.

One of the principles behind need-based aid is that a student and his or her family should pay for educational expenses to the extent they are able. If your educational expenses are more than you and your family can afford, apply for need-based financial aid using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Apply online at <https://studentaid.gov/>. OSU-OKC's federal school code is **009647**.

FINANCIAL AID ELIGIBILITY

Students applying for federal financial aid must:

- enroll as a degree- or certificate-seeking student and register for courses required on their major's degree sheet,
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen,
- have a valid social security number,

- make satisfactory academic progress (successfully complete with grade of A, B, C, D or P at least 67 percent of the cumulative hours attempted with a GPA of 2.0 or above), and
- have a high school diploma, home schooled completion certificate, GED, or registered at a Title IV institution prior to July 1, 2012, and achieved ability to benefit requirements.

ABILITY TO BENEFIT (ATB)

Federal regulations state that a student must demonstrate an ability to benefit from college before receiving aid. Students must demonstrate one of the following ATB requirements:

1. High school diploma or
2. General Education Development (GED) Certificate or
3. Home schooled completion certificate.

FINANCIAL AID SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PROGRESS POLICY

In accordance with the U.S. Department of Education regulations governing Title IV (federal student aid) and state grant student financial aid programs, students receiving financial aid must be in compliance with the Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City Financial Aid Satisfactory

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Academic Progress Policy (SAPP). Federal regulations require this policy to be applied to each financial aid recipient in determining satisfactory academic progress for financial aid eligibility purposes. Students are expected to read, understand and adhere to this policy. A copy of this policy is available in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships or online at <https://osuokc.edu/financialaid/sap>.

TYPES OF AID GRANTS

Grants are often called “gift aid” because they are free money—financial aid that does not have to be repaid.

Grants are often need-based:

- ◆ Pell Grants - Federal Pell Grants are available only to undergraduates with no prior bachelor’s degree. Pell Grant Awards for the 2024-2025 school year will range from \$750 to \$7,395. The amount of aid a student receives will depend on his or her Student Aid Index (SAI), the cost of attendance, enrollment intensity, and other requirements set by the U.S. Department of Education. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships determines eligibility and notifies students of awards.
- ◆ Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG) - This grant is available only to undergraduates with no

prior bachelor’s degree whose FAFSA SAI is zero. SEOG awards at OSU-OKC will range from \$200 to \$600. Funding is limited resulting in awards made on first-come, first-served basis by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

- ◆ Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG) - Grant available to Oklahoma residents whose Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was processed by the federal processor by March 31, 2024, and are awarded a Federal Pell Grant. This grant is also limited to undergraduates who have not earned a bachelor’s degree. The maximum award is \$1,000.

COLLEGE WORK-STUDY

Money that a student can earn by working at a part-time job on campus. Funds to pay the major portion of the student’s work-study earnings come from the federal work-study program.

This part-time work program provides employment opportunities on and off campus. Financial aid eligibility is required, and the OSU-OKC Financial Aid and Scholarships Office will contact eligible applicants.

Students who do not qualify for the federal work-study program may apply for part-time employment through the OSU-OKC Human Resources Office.

LOANS

Unlike grants or federal work-study, loans are serious financial and legal obligations and must be repaid with interest.

If you decide to take out a loan, make sure you understand who is making the loan and the terms and conditions of the loan. Loans made by the federal government, called federal student loans, usually have more benefits than loans from banks or other private sources.

Repayments typically begin upon graduation, withdrawal or enrolling at less than half-time status. Students are encouraged to pursue all financial opportunities available (grants, employment opportunities and scholarships) before borrowing. Failure to repay student loans may result in a damaged credit rating, loss of federal/state tax refunds, a lawsuit and ineligibility for further financial aid. For detailed information, concerning all loan programs listed in this publication, visit <https://studentaid.gov/>.

OSU-OKC participates in the Federal Direct Student Loan Program. The William D. Ford Direct Loan program, also called Direct Loans, allows students and parents to borrow directly from the U.S. Department of Education. Direct loans include subsidized and unsubsidized Direct Student Loans and Direct PLUS Loans. A brief description of the loan opportunities

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available at OSU-OKC are as follows:

- ◆ Subsidized Direct Student Loan - Need-based loan program in which the U.S. Department of Education pays the interest while the student is in school at least half-time, for the first six months after you leave school and during a period of deferment. Federal Stafford Loan funds borrowed from the U.S Department of Education with funds obtained from the U.S. Treasury. Borrowers must be enrolled at least half time to receive a loan.
- ◆ Unsubsidized Direct Student Loan - This program is non-need-based, and the borrower is responsible for the interest during the life of the loan. The borrower must be enrolled at least half-time to receive a loan and is responsible for paying the interest that accrues on the loan from the time the loan is disbursed until it is paid in full.
- ◆ Direct Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS) - Parents of dependent students enrolled at least half-time may apply for the Federal PLUS loan. The terms and conditions of this loan program require that the applicant not have an adverse credit history and a fixed interest rate of 8.05 percent. Repayment usually begins 60 days

after the loan is fully disbursed or six months after the dependent student is not enrolled at least half-time.

Early application is encouraged to allow processing time by OSU-OKC and the Department of Education. If you have classes that are late starting classes, i.e. fast-track, second eight-week classes, etc., your loan disbursement could be delayed until after the start date for the course(s) that make the student a half-time student. Student loans are disbursed depending on when the student applied for the loan and/or whether the student is a new borrower. No money will be disbursed prior to the first day of courses for any given semester.

Every student awarded a loan is put into a grade level by their classification of hours earned, as calculated by the OSU-OKC Office of Admissions. A freshman-level borrower is a student who has earned 0 through 29 credit hours. A sophomore-level borrower is a student who has earned 30 or more hours.

All first-time loan borrowers are required to complete loan entrance counseling session before loans are disbursed. You may complete loan counseling online at <https://studentaid.gov/entrance-counseling/>. Follow the instructions on the screen. Our office will receive notification from the Department of Education informing us of the date and time of your

successful completion of this requirement.

Consequently, upon your departure from OSU-OKC, (withdrawal, graduation or less than half-time enrollment status) you are required by federal regulations to complete an Exit Counseling Session in person at the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships or online at <https://studentaid.gov/exit-counseling/>. Follow the instructions on the screen. Our office will receive notification informing us of the date and time of your successful completion of this requirement.

A NOTE ON BORROWING

Many students find that they must borrow money to finance a portion of their education. Before you borrow, remember that loans must be repaid at some point in the future. Consider carefully how much you will need to borrow and the burden your loans will impose after you leave school. Your Financial Aid and Scholarship Office staff can provide you with more information about the responsibilities that you assume when you borrow money.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL NEED?

Financial need is the difference between a student's total annual educational expenses and SAI. Total educational expenses are called the Cost of Attendance or student budget. The Student Aid Index (SAI) is an eligibility

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index number that colleges' financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you would receive if you attended the school.

The SAI is calculated when the student completes the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by the Federal Student Aid processor. A student's need for assistance will differ from school to school because the cost of attendance will differ. The equation for determining financial need is:

$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Cost of Attendance} \\ \text{MINUS } \underline{\text{STUDENT AID INDEX}} \\ \text{EQUALS Financial Need} \end{array}$$

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE COST OF ATTENDANCE?

The OSU-OKC Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships must calculate the cost of the student's college education based on several variable factors, which include the number of credit hours taken, books and supplies, and personal expenses. Awarded financial aid can be used for educational expenses such as tuition, books, transportation costs, food and housing, and other personal expenses.

When calculating a financial aid package, a full-time student is a student that is enrolled in twelve or more credit hours in a fall, spring or summer semester. Three-quarter-time students are enrolled for nine, ten or eleven hours in a fall, spring or summer semester. Half-time

students are enrolled for six, seven or eight hours in a fall, spring or summer semester. Less than half-time enrollment is one, two, three, four or five hours in a fall, spring or summer semester. When your enrollment status is determined, it should be noted that courses outside the typical fall, spring or summer semester are counted toward the semester following the term. Examples: August interim courses count toward fall enrollment hours, January interim courses count toward spring enrollment hours and May interim courses count toward summer enrollment hours.

AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP PAY THE COST OF ATTENDANCE?

Yes. One of the principles of need-based aid is that the student and his or her family should pay what they can afford for educational expenses. This means you will be expected to help pay for your education; and, if the federal government considers you as a dependent student, your parent(s) may also be expected to assist.

HOW IS DEPENDENCY STATUS DETERMINED?

Whether you are considered dependent or independent of your parents depend mostly on your age, but other factors are considered as well. For each school year (fall, spring and summer), the U.S. Department of Education considers you an

independent student if you can answer yes to just one of the following questions:

- Were you born before January 1, 2001—The year noted in the question changes each application year on the FAFSA.
- During the 2024-2025 school year, will you be working on a graduate degree program?
- As of today, are you married? (Answer no if you are separated but not divorced.)
- Are you currently serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces for purposes other than training? (If you are a National Guard or Reserves enlistee, are you on active duty for other than state or training purposes?)
- Do you have children or other people (other than your spouse) who live with you and who receive more than half of their support from you, now and through June 30, 2025?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were you a ward of the court?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were you an orphan (not living with biological or adoptive parent)?
- At any time since you turned age 13, were you in foster care?
- Are you a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces?

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- Are you or were you an emancipated minor as determined by a court in your state of legal residence?
- Are you or were you in legal guardianship with someone other than your parent or stepparent, as determined by a court in your state of residence?
- At any time on or after July 1, 2023, were you unaccompanied and either (1) homeless or (2) self-supporting and at risk of being homeless?

The rules about dependency status pertain to students who are applying for any federal aid programs, including grants, loans and on-campus work programs.

HOW DO I APPLY FOR NEED-BASED FINANCIAL AID?

You will need to apply for need-based financial aid every year by completing a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

APPLICATION PROCESS

New students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Previous students may either complete a new application or simply update the renewal application sent to you by the federal government. Applications will be available beginning October 1 each year. To apply, visit <https://studentaid.gov/>.

- Remember to list OSU-Oklahoma City Federal School Code: 009647 on the FAFSA if you want OSU-OKC to receive your need analysis information electronically.
- Students will receive a FAFSA Submission Summary from the federal aid processing center electronically.
- Review the information on the FAFSA Submission Summary for accuracy.
- Respond immediately if any information is inaccurate or if there is a request for additional information. The sooner you respond, the sooner you will receive notification of eligibility for financial aid. If you need assistance please call the OSU-OKC Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, (405) 945-8646 or (405) 945-8681 or email okc.finaid@okstate.edu.
- Respond promptly to any requests for additional information from the OSU-OKC Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.
- Award offers indicating the types and amounts of financial aid available will be emailed to students beginning in late spring or early summer, for the fall semester.

WHEN TO APPLY

You should apply for federal and state need-based financial aid via the FAFSA each school year. December 31, 2023, the 2024-2025 application cycle begun. Many financial aid programs have limited funding, therefore early application is recommended. Application should be completed at least two months prior to the semester you are planning to attend. If you apply late for funding, you will receive your funding late.

HELPFUL HINTS WHEN APPLYING FOR FINANCIAL AID

- Contact the financial aid office for information on application procedures.
- Complete and submit forms, as requested.
- Know the deadline dates and meet them.
- Complete the forms accurately.
- Respond promptly to any correspondence you receive from the school or the application servicer.
- Keep copies of all forms you use to apply for financial aid and any forms or correspondence you receive or send relating to your aid application.
- Apply every year for as long as you need assistance.

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- Update your email as needed.

HOW WOULD I HEAR ABOUT MY AID ELIGIBILITY?

The Financial Aid and Scholarship Office will utilize email as its official notification mode. You are strongly encouraged to activate your O-Key account so that you can receive these email messages and gain access to the student portal. To activate your account, visit <https://apps.okstate.edu/okey>.

WHEN WILL I GET THE EXCESS MONEY AFTER MY CHARGES AT OSU-OKC HAVE BEEN PAID BY FINANCIAL AID?

OSU-OKC policy states that students will not receive funds in excess of institutional charges (refunds) prior to the first day of classes for the semester the funds are certified for disbursement. This applies specifically to all student or parent loans. Grants or scholarship monies are applied to student accounts after the semester's add/drop period. Refunds are processed promptly accordingly.

Exceptions to this policy apply to students that are classified as both first-time freshmen and first-time loan borrowers. These students have a federally mandated 30-day disbursement delay from the first day of classes for their first semester of enrollment. This means that any loan proceeds for first-time freshmen, first-time borrowers

will not be released from their lender until 30 days after the first day of classes for the semester; therefore, OSU-OKC will not receive their loan proceeds until nearly a month after the start of school. Also, if a student has courses that are late starting classes, i.e. do not begin on the first day of the semester, the loan disbursement could be delayed until after the start date for the course(s) that make that student a half-time student.

HOW DO I COMPARE AID OFFERS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS?

If you are applying for financial aid at more than one school, you may receive several financial aid offers. Federal regulations do not allow for a student to benefit from federal aid at two institutions for the same or overlapping academic periods, therefore a choice will have to be made by the student as to which institution will handle the financial aid for the semester. Take a close look at the offers and note the following:

- **Cost of Attendance.** The more costly a school is to attend, the more financial aid you may need to make ends meet. A high cost of attendance may not be a problem as long as you have the resources to pay for it. Make sure you know what items are included in the cost of attendance and

compare the figures with your own estimates.

- **Student Aid Index.** Is an eligibility index number that the financial aid office uses to determine how much federal student aid you would receive if you attended school.
- **Financial Aid Package.** Remember that grants and scholarships are gifts; you do not have to pay them back or work for them. Compare the total gift aid (grants and scholarships) to the cost of attendance. A high proportion of gift aid in the package may mean you will not have to borrow or work as much to meet your expenses. If you need to borrow, you should be aware that the terms and conditions of educational loans vary. Make sure you understand the terms and the costs (i.e., interest rate, loan fees) of the loans you are offered.
- **Unmet financial need.** If the aid offer does not contain enough money to cover all your financial need, you will have to come up with this amount on your own.
- **Conditions of the aid award.** Note the things you must do to receive and keep your financial aid.

Beware of the "bottom line." The total amount of aid in your aid offer notification is not

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necessarily the most important figure. Consider the whole package, starting with the cost of attendance. Subtract the financial aid offer from the cost of attendance to see exactly how much you and your family will have to pay. Remember that it is the combination of both cost and financial resources that determines how much you will have to pay.

WHAT IF I DON'T QUALIFY FOR NEED-BASED AID?

If you do not qualify for need-based aid, or if you feel your award is insufficient to allow you to go to school, contact the Financial Aid and Scholarship Office to ask about alternatives. You may have special circumstances that were not considered when your eligibility was determined.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Contact the Financial Aid & Scholarship Office at (405) 945-8646 or (405) 945-8681, visit us in the Student Center, First Floor, Room 100 or visit our website at <https://osuokc.edu/financialaid>. You can also visit the Department of Education's website at <https://studentaid.gov/> for more detailed information concerning federal aid application and programs.

CONSUMER INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

The Student Consumer Regulations of the U.S. Department of Education

require universities to provide their students access to certain information to which they are entitled as consumers. For your convenience, OSU-OKC has placed this consumer information online at <https://osuokc.edu/financialaid/consumerinfo>.

By visiting this webpage, you will find information about OSU-OKC, important website links, and addresses and phone numbers of the OSU-OKC offices responsible for consumer information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS CONTACT:

Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships
Student Center, First Floor
(405) 945-8646 or
(405) 945-8681
okc.finaid@okstate.edu or
www.osuokc.edu/financialaid
Federal School Code: 009647