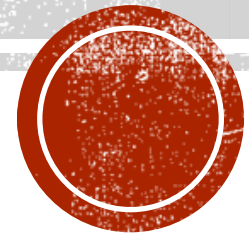


HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE

SWCS



www.southwestcovenant.com/academics/ccguidance.cfm

Estimated Costs for Resident Students at Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities

The estimated cost of attending Oklahoma colleges and universities is calculated below for full-time **resident** undergraduate students enrolled in 30 semester credit hours during the 2026-27 academic year. For per credit hour rates by institution, visit the [Oklahoma Tuition Breakdown](#) page.

2026-27 Estimated Costs for Full-Time Resident Undergraduate Students at Oklahoma Public Colleges and Universities (current as of 09/2026)				
Expenses	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches
Tuition	\$5,603	\$6,572	\$3,625	\$4,469
Mandatory Fees	\$4,481	\$1,725	\$1,211	\$1,069
Average Academic Service Fees	\$5,001	\$1,050	\$385	\$653
Food and Housing*	\$12,017	\$7,875	\$4,909	\$7,746
Books and Supplies	\$1,115	\$1,114	\$1,192	\$1,320
TOTAL	\$28,215	\$18,337	\$11,321	\$15,257

**Note: Food and housing costs are based on a student living in a traditional dormitory with a roommate and a meal plan. The costs represent the preferred food and housing plan available on each campus. Many institutions offer a wide variety of food and housing plans that may be more or less than the amount reported above. Costs for food and housing and books and supplies are based on Fiscal Year 2027 estimated costs and may be rounded to the nearest dollar.*



HOW TO PAY FOR COLLEGE?

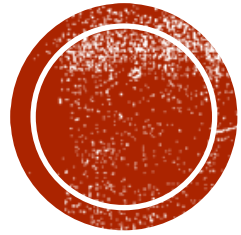
- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Work-Study
- Tax Incentives
- Tips for Cutting Costs



FINANCIAL AID TIMELINE

- Present —————> ▪ Scholarship research/applications
- October 1st of Senior Year —————> ▪ FAFSA Application Opens
- November 1st of Senior Year —————> ▪ Some scholarship deadlines
- Spring of Senior Year —————> ▪ Financial Aid Award Letter
- May 1st of Senior Year —————> ▪ Accept awards – Keep looking for \$\$\$





GRANT



GRANTS

- Aid awarded based on need or circumstances and does not need to be paid back
- Many are awarded through the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) which opens Oct. 1st
- Federal
 - Pell Grant: Need-based
 - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG): Need-Based
 - Teacher Educational Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant (TEACH) – apply through university that participates)
 - Iraq and Afghanistan Service Grant: Guardian has died during military service
- State
 - Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG): Need-based
 - Oklahoma Tuition Equalization Grant (OTEG): Need-based

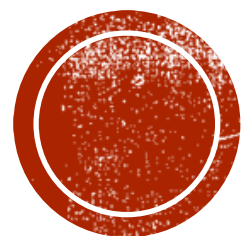


GRANTS

- Some are awarded based on the private institution that offers its own grants based on different needs

**GO THROUGH THE ENTIRE PROCESS WITH FINANCIAL AID
– YOU NEVER KNOW HOW MUCH YOU WILL RECEIVE
UNLESS YOU TRY**





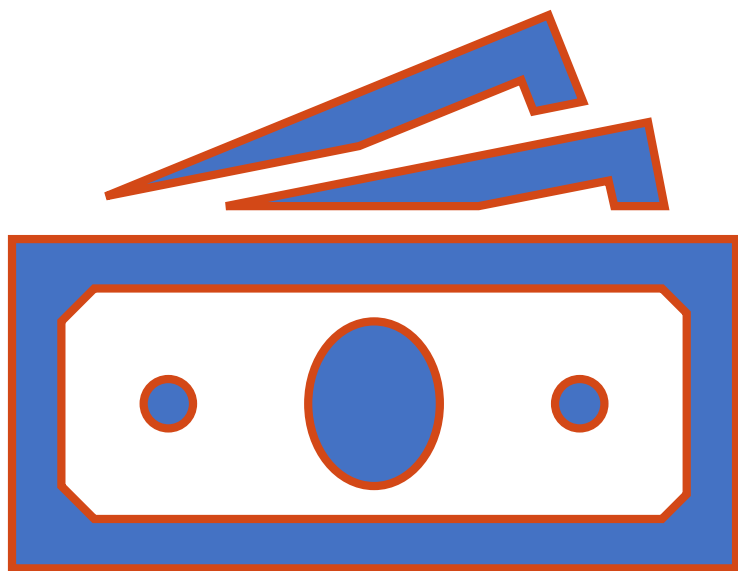
SCHOLARSHIPS



SCHOLARSHIPS/TUITION WAIVERS

- Aid that does not have to be paid back
- Need-base and/or merit-based
- May have a GPA requirement





OK STATE SCHOLARSHIPS



Career



High School



College



Financial Aid



Portfolio

\$ Financial Aid Planning



Financial Aid 101

You CAN afford to go to college. Learn about the FAFSA and your financial aid.



Make College More Affordable

Explore options that can help lower the cost of going to college.



Find Scholarships

Find scholarships that match your profile!



Financial Aid Calculators

Determine your Student Aid Index (SAI) and college savings.



Financial Aid Planning Timeline

Get a grip on what you need to do now to be successful in paying for college.



Financial Aid Wizard

In 7 easy steps, plan your entire financial aid packages online.



Financial Fitness

Managing YOUR money is a key life skill. Learn the basics.

Sign In

Sign In

New to this site?

[Create an Account >](#)

[Forgot Your Username or Password? >](#)

FAFSA

Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) between October 1 and June 30.

[Learn more about the FAFSA >](#)

Financial Aid Resources

For more information about what financial aid is and how to apply for it, check out these resources!

[StartWithFAFSA.org >](#)

Potential OK Promise Students

Who May Apply

APPLICANTS MUST MEET ALL THREE:

1

Oklahoma Resident

Applicants must be Oklahoma residents.

2

In the Right Grade

8th, 9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade students no later than Dec. 31 of the senior year. All students must apply before their official high school graduation date.

Homeschool & non-accredited

Homeschool students, students who attend non-accredited high schools, and students who are educated by other means must apply for Oklahoma's Promise before their **18th birthday** or the end of their high school education, whichever comes first. All students must apply before

Find Out More

[About Oklahoma's Promise](#)

[Application Requirements](#)

[Incomplete Application](#)

[Benefits](#)

[Student Requirements](#)

[Required Courses](#)

[Scholarship Conditions](#)

[Scholarship Deadlines](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Ready to apply?](#)

OK Promise: Financial Need or
Circumstance

3

Within the Income Limit

Student whose parents' federal adjusted gross income does not exceed:

- **\$60,000** with 1 or 2 dependent children OR
- **\$70,000** with 3 or 4 dependent children OR
- **\$80,000** with 5 or more dependent children.

Special Income Provisions

Special provisions may apply to families outside standard income limits:

- **Children of a certified public classroom teacher** employed in Oklahoma for a minimum of 10 years.
- **Children adopted from certain Oklahoma court-ordered custody** and children in the custody of court-appointed legal guardians.
- **Taxable Social Security benefits** based on the death or disability of the student's parent(s).

[See full special income provisions →](#)

 *Additional documentation may be required for special income provisions.*



■ OK Regents Rising Scholars Award

- Scholarship for attending an Oklahoma college or university
Up to eight-semesters
- Amount depends on the school
 - Ex) Research ~ \$24,000
 - Regional ~ \$13,000
 - Community ~ \$12,500
- Requirements: Total Sum of ACT scores = 103
 - National Merit or ACT at/above 99.5% automatically qualified
- Also, can qualify for a smaller scholarship through Institutional Nomination (28-32 ACT) ~\$3000 - \$4000
- Apply at OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG
- Transferrable



- OK Regents: Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship

- Offered by 11 universities: Cameron University, East Central University, Langston University, Northeastern State University, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, Rogers State University, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Oklahoma State University, University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma
- Requirements: ACT composite score 30 or National Merit Semifinalist/Commended Student
- Apply through the university
- Annual Award of \$3500 and receive a resident tuition waiver
- Non-transferrable



Oklahoma State Scholarship Programs

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education administer several scholarships and grants that can help you pay for college.

For more information or to obtain application forms, ask your counselor to see a copy of the State Regents' [Counselors' Resource Book: Oklahoma's Colleges and Universities](#), call the Student Information Hotline at 800.858.1840 or email studentinfo@osrhe.edu. For information on federal financial aid, visit [Federal Student Aid](#).

Academic Scholarships

Oklahoma Rising Scholars Award (formerly the Academic Scholars Program)
Regional University Baccalaureate Scholarship

Career-Related Scholarships

Chiropractic Education Scholarship Program
George and Donna Nigh Public Service Scholarship
Inspired to Teach
Scholars for Excellence in Child Care
Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program

Military Scholarships

Heroes Promise Scholarship Program
Oklahoma National Guard Educational Assistance Program

Other Scholarships

Independent Living Act (Foster Care Tuition Waiver)
Oklahoma Access and Achievement Scholarship Program
Reach Higher Finish Line Scholarship
Tulsa Reconciliation Education and Scholarship Program

Scholarships by Deadline



Check out helpful links to scholarships with upcoming application deadlines, scholarship search sites, and tools to make your scholarship search successful.

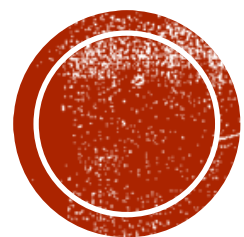
Scholarships by Deadline



Where to look for scholarships?

- www.southwestcovenant.com
- Local banks, business, insurance companies, social clubs – [Tuition Assistance](#)
- Indian tribal grants
- Military ROTC and dependents of Active/Veterans
- Specific majors and colleges offer own \$\$\$
- Demographics
- Family circumstances





LOANS

LOANS

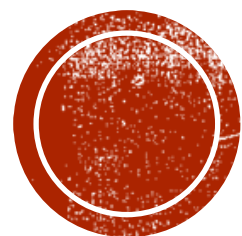
- Aid that must be paid back with interest
- Apply through FAFSA
- 3 types of Student Loans:
 - Direct Subsidized: Federal loan where gov't pays interest while in school; Loan amount is determined by the school
 - Direct Unsubsidized: Federal loan where you pay the interest
- Parent Loans:
 - Direct PLUS: Federal loan where you pay interest
 - Personal bank loan



LOAN FORGIVENESS

- Loan Forgiveness Programs
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness – government or non-profits; after 120 payments
- Teacher Loan Forgiveness – up to \$17,500 and 5 years of service
- Some colleges also have loan payback programs if you complete your degree.





WORK STUDY



WORK STUDY

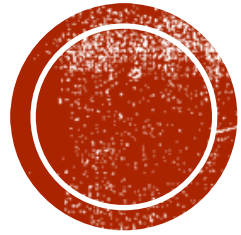
- Apply through FAFSA/University
- Hours are flexible with schedule



TIPS TO SAVE \$\$\$

- Take advantage of college classes in HS
 - Dual Credit, Concurrent Enrollment, CLEP tests
 - Less Expensive per credit hour earned
 - Reduces time in college
- Living Costs – on campus vs. living at home, meal planning, student discounts, etc.
- Renting books vs. buying books
- Pay interests on loans now when \$\$ is available
- Choosing community college and transferring





FINANCIAL AID AWARD LETTERS



KEY TERMS

- ***Cost of Attendance (COA)***: an estimate of one full year of school costs. It includes tuition, room/board, books, fees, living costs, etc.
- ***Student Aid Index (SAI)*** an estimate that the school uses to determine how much financial aid you could get – the amount you ACTUALLY pay may be different

$$\text{COA} - \text{SAI} = \text{What You Could Pay}$$



ANATOMY OF A FINANCIAL AID LETTER

Part 1: Yearly costs, such as tuition, fees, books, room and board, travel expenses, etc. - COA

Part 2: Financial aid that you don't have to pay back, such as scholarships, grants, and work-study.

Part 3: Financial aid that you do need to pay back, such as federal loans.

Part 4: What's left after accounting for the above three items — that's the amount you'll need to pay out of pocket, or pay with private student loans.



ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE	\$38,400
-------------------------------------	-----------------

Tuition and fees:	\$24,500
Room and board:	\$9,400
Books, materials, and supplies:	\$1,000
Personal, travel, misc:	\$2,000
Computer	\$1,500

COA

Aid Description	Fall	Spring	Total
Federal Perkins Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Federal Stafford Loan - Subsidized	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Stafford Loan - Unsubsidized	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
School Scholarship	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
Federal Pell Grant	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
State Scholarship	\$450	\$450	\$900
Federal Work-Study (FWS)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000
Total			\$28,400

**Financial Aid:
You Pay Back**

**Financial Aid:
You DO NOT
Pay Back**

**Work at school
to earn \$**



ESTIMATED COST OF ATTENDANCE	\$38,400
Tuition and fees:	\$24,500
Room and board:	\$9,400
Books, materials, and supplies:	\$1,000
Personal, travel, misc:	\$2,000
Computer	\$1,500

**COA -
Aid Not Payed Back =
Your Cost**

Aid Description	Fall	Spring	Total
Federal Perkins Loan	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
Federal Stafford Loan - Subsidized	\$1,750	\$1,750	\$3,500
Federal Stafford Loan - Unsubsidized	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000
School Scholarship	\$7,500	\$7,500	\$15,000
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Federal Work-Study (FWS)	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000

Total	\$28,400
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**\$38,400 -
\$17,900 =**

**\$20,500
Your Cost**





MY OWN COST ANALYSIS

