

# OKLAHOMA'S PROMISE

## (Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program)

### INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING THE HIGH SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

(The information provided below is based on Oklahoma law and policy in effect as of July 2024. The information is subject to change. The Oklahoma's Promise website at [www.okpromise.org](http://www.okpromise.org) will contain the most up-to-date information.)

Congratulations on completing the Oklahoma's Promise (OKPromise) high school requirements! Please read this information very carefully as it will explain what you need to know about receiving the OKPromise award, conditions for keeping your scholarship in college, and how to determine your scholarship award amount. For additional frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other helpful information, please continue to review and explore the OKPromise website.

#### **Once I complete the high school requirements for OKPromise, are there any other conditions for receiving or keeping the award?**

- You 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 3.18 – 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 and graduate from an Oklahoma high school are not considered residents of Oklahoma and may not be eligible for the OKPromise award.]

- **OKPromise students in college are subject to a second income limit and you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <https://studentaid.gov/> each year.** The information from the FAFSA will be used to determine whether your parent(s)' federal adjusted gross income (AGI) exceeds \$100,000 (the income limit will apply to your income if you're officially determined to be financially independent of your parents). The check of the second income limit will be applied each year you're enrolled in college or at a career technology center. For any year that the income reported on your current FAFSA exceeds \$100,000, you won't be eligible to receive the OKPromise benefit. If the income is less than \$100,000 in a future year, you may be eligible for the award that year. Any year that you don't receive the award because the income exceeds the limit will count toward your five-year period of scholarship eligibility.
- Students who enroll in OKPromise 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 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration status are not eligible to receive the OKPromise scholarship.
- The award can only be used at eligible institutions within Oklahoma. It's not available for students attending colleges/postsecondary institutions outside Oklahoma. You must enroll in an associate or baccalaureate degree program at an eligible college or in a program that meets the requirements for federal financial aid at a public career technology center. A list of eligible colleges is available at <https://okhighered.org/>. A list of public technology centers is available at <https://oklahoma.gov/careertech/technology-centers.html>.

- You must meet the regular admission requirements for the institution you 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>.

- You must begin classes in college or at a career technology center within three years of graduating high school.

Students who 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.

- Once you begin classes in college or at a career technology center, you’re 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.

- The OKPromise award cannot be used to pay for noncredit remedial courses.
- Your OKPromise award will not cover courses taken in excess of the requirements for completion of a baccalaureate (undergraduate) degree program.
- Payment of your scholarship is limited to 129 semester credit hours. Exceptions to the limit may be considered for a degree program that requires more than 129 semester credit hours. Contact the OKPromise office for information regarding exceptions to this requirement.
- Your award will **not** be available for the summer semester immediately following your high school graduation. Since official eligibility for the OKPromise award is not determined until after high school graduation, your eligibility cannot be determined in time to process your award for the first summer semester. Your first award will be available for the fall semester. However, once you’re officially verified in our system, you may use the award in summer semesters of later years.

- Once in college, you must meet the following requirements to remain eligible for benefits:
  - ✓ You must maintain “satisfactory academic progress” (SAP) according to the college’s policy as required for eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs. This requirement applies to **all** OKPromise students, even if the student is not currently receiving federal financial aid. Please contact the financial aid office at the institution you’re attending for specific questions regarding their SAP policy.
  - ✓ You must also meet any other requirements for retention, degree completion, or “good academic standing” as established by the college in which you’re enrolled.
  - ✓ If you’re suspended from a college or career technology center for more than one semester for conduct reasons, you will lose the scholarship permanently.

**How will the college/university know I’m an OKPromise student?**

- When you enroll in a college or career technology center, **you should notify the institution's financial aid office that you're an OKPromise student.** The institution will verify your official status with the State Regents Office before calculating and processing your award. If you enroll before you're officially eligible for the award, you should still notify the institution's financial aid office so that they can process your award when your eligibility is confirmed.
- Official eligibility information for OKPromise students is made available to the financial aid offices at the colleges and career technology centers. Updates are made throughout the summer evaluation period.

**How is the award amount determined?**

- The OKPromise award is not a pre-set amount; the award amount depends upon the institution you attend and the number of hours in which you enroll. **The award is calculated on the resident tuition cost<sup>1</sup> only; the award 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 posted annually on our website at <https://okpromise.org/> in July.
- 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.** 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 <https://okpromise.org/>.

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

Type of Public Institution	Approximate 2023-24 Tuition Rate <sup>(1)</sup>		Hours Enrolled <sup>(2)</sup>		OKPromise Semester Award
Research University	\$175.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$2,625.00
Regional University	\$202.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$3,030.00
Community College (2 yr.)	\$119.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$1,785.00
Technical Branch (2 yr.)	\$141.00 per credit hr.	X	15	=	\$2,115.00

<sup>(1)</sup> Tuition rates are subject to change and may be higher or lower at different institutions; an **average** rate is shown. At the four-year public universities, 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 or more 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 or more 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 that offer an associate degree and higher. 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. A list of institutions is available at <https://okpromise.org/>.

**Examples of a semester award at independent/private institutions:**

Type of Independent Institution	Independent Tuition Rate <sup>1</sup>	OKPromise Award Rate <sup>2</sup>		Hours Enrolled <sup>3</sup>	=	OKPromise Semester Award
Research University	\$600 / hr.	\$175.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$2,625.00
Regional University	\$600 / hr.	\$202.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$3,030.00
Associate degree inst.	\$600 / hr.	\$119.00/ hr.	X	15	=	\$1,785.00

<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 award is the average of the rates at comparable public institutions.

<sup>3</sup>Enrollment in 12 or more 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 or more 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 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. A list of public technology centers is available at <https://oklahoma.gov/careertech/technology-centers.html>.

**Since the OKPromise award does not pay for all costs associated with college, how will it affect other financial aid or scholarships for which I may be eligible?**

- As an OKPromise award recipient, you may also receive other financial aid for which you may be eligible, such as the federal Pell Grant, Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG), other academic scholarships, fee or tuition waivers, student loans, etc. The only state restriction on other financial aid is that as an OKPromise award recipient, you may not receive total financial aid that is more than your cost of attending an Oklahoma college or a career technology center, as determined by the institution in which you're enrolled. If necessary, your OKPromise award may be reduced or eliminated so that your total financial aid doesn't exceed the cost of attendance or budget.
- If you receive federal financial aid, such as federal Pell Grants, federal student loans, Federal Work-Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), you may be subject to federal regulations that limit other sources of financial aid you're eligible to receive (such as the OKPromise award).
- OKPromise can be used for distance learning courses (online, interactive video, etc.) offered for college credit by an eligible Oklahoma institution and for college-credit courses taken through an institution's continuing education/extension divisions. However, all students must go through the financial aid and/or bursar's office for payment processing. Award payments for these courses will be limited to the tuition rate of the institution's regular on-campus undergraduate courses.

### **Will the award payments be sent directly to me?**

- No. The institution will calculate your award amount and notify the Oklahoma State Regents' office after the drop/add period of each semester. The State Regents' office will verify the amount of your award and make payment directly to the institution, which will then apply the award to your account.

### **What if there is not enough funding for the awards?**

- The Oklahoma Legislature authorized a dedicated funding process for the Oklahoma's Promise program. This ensures 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 make awards:
  1. OKPromise students who have previously received the award 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.

### **Will I have to apply to renew the OKPromise award each semester?**

- No. Once you are officially confirmed as eligible for the award, you won't need to reapply each semester. However, you must continue to meet all the required continuing eligibility requirements to remain eligible for the award. In addition, remember that the five-year period for using your award starts when you begin classes in college or at a career technology center. We'll monitor this deadline and no OKPromise scholarship funding will be provided beyond the deadline.
- You're required to complete the FAFSA each year to verify compliance with the second income limit.
- If for any reason you transfer to a different college at which you can use the OKPromise award, it is very important that you contact the financial aid office at that institution and inform them that you're an OKPromise student.
- You should always check your financial account at the institution you're attending to monitor your financial aid.

### **What if my name or address changes?**

- Please contact the OKPromise office if you have a change to your name, your permanent address, your current phone number or your current email address. If there are any changes in the program or if we have any questions, we'll need to know how to contact you. There is a simple link for contacting us on our website at <https://okpromise.org/>, look for the "Contact Us" tab.

### **Information on Oklahoma Colleges and Universities**

You can find information on Oklahoma's colleges and universities and financial aid information at <https://secure.okcollegestart.org>.

If you have further questions, please see the information below to contact the OKPromise Office.

Oklahoma's Promise

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

P.O. Box 108850

Oklahoma City, OK 73101-8850

OKPromise website: <https://okpromise.org/>

**E-mail: [okpromise@osrhe.edu](mailto:okpromise@osrhe.edu)**

**1-800-858-1840 (information hotline)**

(405) 225-9152 (Oklahoma City local calling area)

FAX: (405) 225-9392