

COLLEGE APP WEEK

STUDENT PACKET



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QUICK ANSWERS TO KNOW FOR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

PLEASE NOTE: It's very important that you do not leave this information lying around for someone else to find. This information can be used to steal your identity and commit fraud in your name. As soon as you're done with your college application, destroy this document.

- Valid Email Address _____
- Full Legal Name _____
- Name(s) of Custodial Parents/Guardians _____
- Current Mailing Address _____
- Permanent Address/Parents' Address _____
- Emergency Contact/Next of Kin _____
- Social Security Number _____
- Date of Birth _____
- Country of Birth _____
 - **Citizenship Status** – Are you a U.S. Citizen? If your answer is 'no,' make sure to bring copies of your documentation status for the U.S. to include with your application.
- Religious Preference/Denomination _____
- Do you have a parent who is active duty military, a military veteran, retired from the military, etc? If so, list name of veteran and branch of service.

- Ethnicity _____
- Are you a resident of Oklahoma? _____
- How long have you lived in Oklahoma? _____
- Current County of Residence in Oklahoma? _____
- Term you expect to enroll in college (Fall, 2017; Spring, 2018, etc.) _____
- Intended major or area of study _____
- What is your anticipated high school graduation date? _____
- Credit/debit card information (if applying at Northeastern State University [NSU], Southeastern Oklahoma State University [SE] or University of Central Oklahoma [UCO]). _____

COLLEGE ADMISSION TIPS

If you feel confused about admissions and financial aid, don't worry! Your teachers and school counselor can give you tons of help during this process. Here are few tips to help you along the way.

- It's OK to apply to colleges before you've made a final choice. You need several options to choose from when selecting a college, and applying early helps ensure you're a good fit.
- It's wise to apply to more than one school. Make sure at least one is a school where you know you'll be admitted, can pay for it, and feel you fit. Most students apply to between two and five colleges.
- You want to represent yourself in the best manner possible, so be sure that your online profiles (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) show the positive decisions you make.
- Talk to your teachers and counselor about your plans for college. They can help you through the application process and ensure that you have everything you need to complete admission to the colleges you choose.
- Visiting a college campus is the single best way to determine if a college is right for you. Use college visit days or school breaks to visit different campuses. When you're there, ask lots of questions! For more helpful hints, visit http://ucango2.org/publications/student/Making_Most_of_Campus_Visits.pdf
- Don't let finances keep you from applying. You may be eligible for scholarships or other financial aid that may help you afford college. If you have questions, talk with your parents or counselor. You can also visit https://secure.okcollegestart.org/Financial_Aid_Planning/default.aspx to learn the basics about paying for college.

SAMPLE COLLEGE APPLICATION ESSAY QUESTIONS

Colleges use your writing sample to learn more about you as a person. Below are examples of essay topics you may see on Oklahoma college applications.

- How can you contribute to diversity?
- Why do you believe this college is a good fit for you?
- Evaluate a significant experience you've had, an achievement you've accomplished, a risk you've taken or ethical dilemma you've faced, and describe its impact on you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local, national or international concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you, and describe that influence.
- Describe a character in fiction, a historical figure or a creative work (as in art, music, science, etc.) that has had an influence on you, and explain that influence.
- A range of academic interests, personal perspectives and life experiences adds much to the educational mix. Given your personal background, describe an experience that illustrates what you would bring to the diversity in a college community, or an encounter that demonstrated the importance of diversity to you.
- What is one of the most important decisions you will ever have to make in your lifetime? Explain why the decision is so important and the way your decision will impact you and others.

TIP: It's possible that you can use some of the essays you submit on your college applications again—when you apply for scholarships. Be sure to keep all of your essays stored on a thumb drive so they will be easy to revise and send in with your next application.

ADMISSION APPLICATION CHECKLIST

It's important to gather all of the information you'll need *before* you begin the application process. In order for you to be well-prepared on College Application Day, review the following list for items you'll need to complete most college admission applications.

TIP: A good way to ensure you have all of the biographical information you'll need is to print off a copy of your selected college's application and fill it out on paper before applying online. Keep a copy of your "practice application" in a safe place so you'll have it handy when you need it. Email addresses are often hard to read!

- Your own biographical information.** Colleges will ask you questions like name, address, valid email address, telephone number, etc. You must know your Social Security number! If you don't have it memorized, be sure to bring it with you on College Application Day. You'll also need it when you fill out your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Your parents' biographical information.** Because you're still considered a minor, colleges need to know about your parents when you apply. Be sure to know where they work and whether they went to college. If they did go to college, ask them how many years they completed. Valid email addresses and phone numbers for your parents are also necessary.
- ACT/SAT score.** A college uses your ACT or SAT score to determine how prepared you are to attend their school. Be sure to have a copy of your highest or most recent score with you on College Application Day. If you need a copy of your report, your school counselor can help you get it.
- High school transcript.** Colleges need to review the work you've done in high school. Be sure to have your school counselor send your college an official copy of your transcript. (**Note:** If your ACT or SAT score is printed on your transcript, you may not have to submit your test score separately.)
- College résumé.** College résumés are a great way to illustrate how active you are in clubs, organizations and your community. Have yours created, edited and on hand the day you submit your college application(s).

- ❑ **College admission essay.** Many colleges evaluate students' writing abilities by requiring a college admission essay with their application. Never submit a college essay unless you've revised it and had someone you trust (a parent, peer, teacher or counselor) read it and give you feedback. You want this to be an example of your best work, so make sure it's polished!

TIP: Because you'll need your college résumé and admission essay on hand when you submit your application online, you may want to save both documents to a thumb drive to bring with you on College Application Day.

- ❑ **Letters of Recommendation.** Many colleges ask for letters of recommendation to learn more about you. Choose people whom you trust and feel confident can say great things about you, such as your school counselor or a favorite teacher. Don't ask a family member, since most schools want these letters to be from someone who isn't related to you. Be sure to give your references plenty of time to write and submit your letters before your application deadline. It is also wise to provide them with a copy of your college résumé so they can cite specific things you've done in your high school career.
- ❑ **Payment.** Some colleges still require an application fee even if you apply online. When you arrive on College Application Day, be sure to have a method of payment, such as a credit card number, for your application fee. You can find out how much the fee is by checking the school's website. If you are having problems with the admission application fee, please see your school counselor for options.

WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE?

Step 1: Research your options

Not every college is the same. Before you apply to any colleges, do your research to see if you meet the qualifications for admission. Most colleges include admission requirements on the "Admissions" pages at their websites.

In addition to ACT/SAT scores and grade-point average (GPA), many colleges use a "holistic approach," taking multiple aspects of a student's application into consideration. They look at factors student applicants have experience with such as leadership roles, community service, extracurricular activities, volunteerism, employment, etc., and admit students based on a broad spectrum of attributes. Keep in mind that most colleges will accept an "either/or" list of qualifications, and provisional enrollment may be available for students who come close to certain requirements.

Step 2: Apply online

Once you know where you'd like to apply, use our [list of college websites](#) to find each college's online application. While you can apply to as many schools as you like, each school may have an application fee. See "Discover How Much College Really Costs" for more information.

Step 3: Follow up

After you've submitted your application, be sure to monitor your email and text messages for any items the college may request from you to complete the admission process. Be sure to note the date you submitted your application and any dates that you sent in follow-up information.

Step 4: Watch for a response

Depending on when you apply, it could take several weeks to receive the results of your application. Keep an eye out for any correspondence from colleges via mail and email. If you're accepted, be sure to follow all additional instructions provided by the

college. If you receive a regret notice, don't get discouraged. Try contacting the admission office to find out how close you are to meeting the criteria, and ask for a reconsideration of acceptance. You may be requested to provide additional information, but it will be worth the added follow-up if you're accepted. **Note: If you want to go to a state university, but you don't meet the course and grade requirements, ask your counselor about [right-to-try provisions](#).**

COLLEGE CHOICES

Narrow your college search to schools that you feel would be good choices for you. Use this space to list the schools you may apply to and some important information about each one. You can also visit OKcollegestart.org to help you choose which Oklahoma colleges and universities best meet your needs.

Choice 1

College/University _____

City, State _____

Website _____

Tuition, Room, Board & Fees _____

Major _____

Choice 2

College/University _____

City, State _____

Website _____

Tuition, Room, Board & Fees _____

Major _____

Choice 3

College/University _____

City, State _____

Website _____

Tuition, Room, Board & Fees _____

Major _____

SCHOOL EVALUATION WORK SHEET

If you're still deciding on which college is right for you, fill out this evaluation form using each college's website. You can also visit okcollegestart.org.

School Name			
Internet address			
General Information			
Type of school			
My program of study			
Degrees offered			
Enrollment			
Location			
Admission requirements			
Student-teacher ratio			
Up-to-date facilities and technology?			
Success of previous graduates in my program			
Job placement/career office			
Graduating starting salary in my program			
Will credits transfer to another school?			
Costs			
Tuition and fees			
Room and board			
Books and supplies			
Other expenses			
Financial Aid			
Types of aid available			
Approved for federal & state financial aid programs?			
Required applications			
Deadlines			
Application			
Financial aid			

DISCOVER HOW MUCH COLLEGE REALLY COSTS

College is an investment in your future, for which you should start planning now. Fortunately, the cost of attending an Oklahoma state college or university is among the lowest in the nation, and many sources of financial aid are available to help manage the cost.

As you might imagine, various factors can affect college expenses, including:

- The type of college or university
- The location of the institution you choose
- The number of courses you take
- Your major
- Your personal lifestyle
- The cost of tuition and mandatory fees*

**In addition to tuition and mandatory fees, academic service fees are required for certain courses and services.*

To learn more about estimated costs, tuition and mandatory fees at Oklahoma's public colleges and universities, see [How Much Does College Cost?](#) and [Oklahoma Tuition Breakdown](#) at [OKcollegestart.org](#).

One way to prepare for the cost of college is for you and your parents to begin saving for college as soon as possible, because the more you save, the less money you'll need to find when you start college. A traditional savings account is always a good idea, but there are other options you may want to consider. One option is the Oklahoma 529 College Savings Plan, toward which your parents, relatives or even family friends can set up regular contributions. The account is designated to help you pay college expenses and can be used at any accredited university, college or vocational school nationwide. For more information, visit [OK4Saving.org](#).

Applying for financial aid is a very important step for most students when considering ways to pay for college. There are resources available to guide you through the

application process if you need help or have questions. Visit <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/> for more information.

**2018-2019 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 2018-19 academic year. Costs for room and board and books and supplies are based on Fiscal Year 2019 estimated costs and may be rounded to the nearest dollar. For per-credit-hour rates by institution, visit okcollegestart.org.

Expenses	Research Universities	Regional Universities	Community Colleges	Technical Branches
Tuition	\$5,072	\$5,444	\$3,274	\$4,024
Mandatory Fees	\$3,968	\$1,599	\$1,099	\$991
Average Academic Service Fees	\$1,862	\$565	\$369	\$192
Room & Board *	\$9,525	\$5,825	\$5,621	\$5,804
Books & Supplies	\$984	\$1,134	\$1,305	\$1,500
TOTAL	\$21,411	\$14,566	\$11,669	\$12,511

** Note: Room and Board costs are based on a student living in a traditional dormitory with a roommate and a board plan. The costs represent the preferred room and board plan available on each campus. Many institutions offer a wide variety of room and board plans that may be more or less than the amount reported above.*

WHAT'S NEXT?

Congratulations! You've taken the first BIG step in the process of going to college—you've filled out an application! Below is a list of other important steps you need to take to continue on your path to college.

- Follow up with transcripts and test scores.** Completing an online or paper college application doesn't mean you're finished submitting everything the college requires. It's important to find out what additional information is required from the school(s) that received your application(s). Many schools will want copies of your ACT or SAT scores, as well as an official copy of your high school transcript.

Date completed: _____

- Give the schools time to contact you.** Most colleges will acknowledge the receipt of an admission application. Check with your school counselor to find out when you can expect to hear back from the schools you applied to regarding the status of your application. Also, once you've made a decision on where you want to go, let any other schools where you were accepted know that you are declining their offers of admission.

Date completed: _____

- Build your financial aid plan.** With the Financial Aid Wizard, you can find out how much financial aid you may receive and what you may have to pay out of pocket at the colleges to which you've applied. [Find the FA Wizard at okcollegestart.org](http://okcollegestart.org). If you need help, check with your counselor or talk to a financial aid officer at your school of interest.

Date completed: _____

- Research scholarships and financial aid.** Now that you've applied to college, you need to seriously consider how you will pay for your college education. Make sure you research scholarships and stay on top of scholarship application deadlines. Also attend a financial aid night with your parents, if your school offers one, to learn more about federal and state financial aid programs.

Date completed: _____

- Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1.** The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the application you will use to apply for federal, state, and even some institutional financial aid. To allow the maximum time to compare and consider award offers from colleges and meet application and admission deadlines, you need to sit down with your parents to complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1. Go to [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov) to learn more about the FAFSA and to start your financial aid application.

Please note: You should never have to pay to complete your FAFSA. Be sure you go to FAFSA.gov and not any other website. Other websites will expect payment. Remember that the first F in FAFSA stands for FREE.

Date completed: _____

- Complete on-campus housing forms.** If you think there is a chance that you may live on campus at a college you applied to, be sure to complete the housing forms as soon as they are available. At some schools, dorms fill up quickly, and you don't want to miss out on a spot because you waited too long to turn in your forms.

Date completed: _____

- Sign up for the earliest registration and orientation schedule possible.** Once you have been accepted to college, you will need to register for classes and eventually attend an orientation. Look for registration and orientation dates at your college, and try to sign up for the earliest date available to you so you can get the classes you need or want to take.

Registration date: _____

Enrollment date: _____

These are some of the most important steps you need to take once you've applied to college. For other advice or for more ideas on what you need to do to prepare yourself for your transition to college life, talk to your counselor, parents or other trusted adults whom you know have been through this process themselves. Excellent job—you are on your way to college!