



College Prep Basics

A basic step-by-step
guide for college
bound students

Ask Yourself Some Basic Questions



1. Why do you want to go to College? What do you hope to get out of it?

2. What schools are you considering? Discuss what appeals to you about each one. (Use additional note paper to list more schools if needed)
 - School 1

 - School 2

 - School 3

3. Do you think you would be happier at an in-state or out-of-state school? Why?

4. Do you plan to live in a dorm? Why or why not?

5. What aspect of college are you most excited about? Why?

6. What aspect of college are you most nervous about? Why?

7. What types of scholarships are you applying for? Do you think you'll receive any?

8. Are your parents excited for you to go to college? Why or why not?

9. What do you want to study in college? Why? If you're not sure yet, how do you plan to decide?

Basic Checklist



Start Early!!!

- It's never too early to start planning for college
- Don't let the process intimidate you
- Put yourself in a position to choose your college instead of colleges choosing you
- Starting early gives you an advantage over other prospective students

Utilize Free Resources

- Use our local library and ask a librarian
- Use on-line tools and resources such as <https://www.okcollegestart.org/>

Get to Know Your Guidance Counselor

- Ensure that they know who you are at the beginning of each school semester
- Ensure they know that you are a college bound student

Financial Aid Planning

- Fill out FAFSA as early as possible Senior year
- Target and apply for as many Scholarships and Grants as you can
- Avoid student loans as much as possible

ALWAYS Know Your GPA!

- Check your transcripts at least once every quarter (every nine weeks)
- Aim for a 3.0 or higher

Create a College Folder

- Create a portfolio showing your semester grades, student honors, awards, certificates, activities, newspaper articles, and college acceptance letters

Get a Mentor(s)

- Find college graduates and ask for mentorship
- Network / get to know alumni from colleges you are interested in

Basic Checklist Continued



Taking the ACT and/or SAT (Aim for a 20 or Higher ACT Score)

- Study for these tests and take several practice tests in advance
- Utilize the Library's books and on-line resources available for check out
- Be prepared to take your entrance exam tests more than once to improve and maximize your test scores
- Know your testing dates and locations

Letters of Recommendation

- Identify at least 3 people to write letters of recommendation
- Ask a favorite teacher, coach, mentor, guidance counselor, church minister, employer, community leader etc.

Campus Visits and College Fairs

- Attend as many as possible; email or call the colleges that interest you
- These are available both on-line (virtual) and in-person

Keep Track of All Due Dates

- Make a master calendar and note all test dates, fees, deadlines, and application due dates

Ask Questions & Develop Good Study Habits !!!

- Don't be afraid to ask questions
- Be persistent and stay focused on your goal
- Study smart and use your time wisely

For Detailed Checklists See

- https://www.okcollegestart.org/College_Planning/_default.aspx

Oklahoma Specific Resources



College
Planning

- okcollegestart.org

Financial
Aid

- studentaid.gov

529 Savings
Plan

- ok4saving.org

Oklahoma's
Promise

- okhighered.org/okpromise/

Oklahoma
Colleges &
Universities

- okhighered.org/state-system/colleges-universities/list.shtml

Oklahoma
GEAR UP

- okgearup.org

Oklahoma
College
Assistance
Program
(OCAP)

- <https://ocap.org/>

Homework/
Study Aids

- metrolibrary.org/explore/topic/homework-help
- khanacademy.org/

Free Test Preparation Resources



ACT, PSAT,
SAT, CLEP
AP, GED

See Library Reference Books & Materials for check out

Search - catalog.metrolibrary.org

Scholarships
& Grants

Search our catalog -
catalog.metrolibrary.org

Key word **“Scholarships”**

- ✓ okhighered.org/admin-fac/finaidresources/otag.shtml
- ✓ <https://www.metrolibrary.org/find/research-and-learn/databases/topic#education>
- ✓ fastweb.com

Additional Library Resources

Books

- *How to write a winning scholarship essay : 30 essays that won over \$3 million in scholarships*; Shelf Number 378.1056 T1617h7
- *The ultimate guide to America's best colleges 2018 : detailed profiles on academics, student life, campus vibe, athletics, admissions, scholarships, and financial aid*; Shelf Number 378.73 T1617u 2018
- *Get free cash for college* Shelf Number 378.34 T1617g10
- *How to go to college on a shoe string : the insider's guide to grants, scholarships, cheap books, fellowships and other financial aid secrets*; Shelf Number 378.38 OP617h2
- *The College Board scholarship handbook*; 378.34 C6976c 2018
- *HomeScholar guide to college admission and scholarships : homeschool secrets to getting ready, getting in, and getting paid*; Shelf number 371.042 B6149h

DVDs

- *411 on finding college funds: featuring "The money maze"*
- *How am I going to pay for college?*

E-books

- *Scholarships 101 : the real-world guide to getting cash for college*
- *How to pay for college : a library how-to handbook*

Audio

- *Confessions of a scholarship winner : the secrets that helped me win \$500,000 in free money for college : how you can too!*