

DESTINATION: COLLEGE



OKSA
Oklahoma Successful
Adulthood Program

FALL SEMESTER



Graduation Verification

It is important to check this at the beginning of each school year, but especially this year. Also, make sure your youth is taking the correct classes for OK Promise, if they are enrolled for the scholarship.



Career Exploration

Is your youth undecided on a career? On the OKSA website, select Resources, and under Employment select "My Next Move," a career interest calculator. It's a user friendly website for youth to start career exploration and only takes about 5 minutes.



College Tours

Most college tours can be scheduled online, and youth should take a minimum of 2 tours during their senior year. Check your youth's school policy on excused absences for college tours, and encourage placement providers to take them!



ACT Test

Encourage youth to take the test more than once. If your youth has accessed both of their fee waivers, youth development funds can cover the cost of the test.



FAFSA

The application opens every year on the 1st of October, and is ALWAYS free. The earlier your youth applies, the better their chance is for receiving additional grants. Specific answers are needed for 2 questions: Question #53: answer Yes, and Question #95: answer 1.



Apply for Colleges

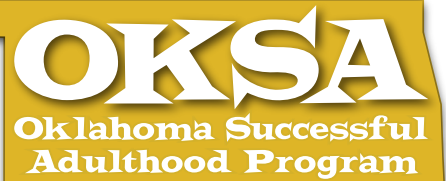
Youth should apply to at least 3-4 colleges. Some schools offer waivers for the application fees once the youth shows they are independent on the FAFSA application. Contact the school to check their requirements.



Scholarships

Have your youth apply for ETV and Tuition Waiver (oksa.ou.edu), the Oklahoma City Community Foundation (occf.org; specifically the Oklahoma Youth with Promise), and FastWeb.com (large database with many scholarships). They will need additional scholarships to ensure all costs are covered.

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SPRING SEMESTER

Housing Plans

If your youth needs to live in the dorms, fill out an application with the school ASAP to help ensure availability. If the school doesn't offer waivers, YD funds can be used for dorm fees and deposits. No dorms? Check early for apartments near the campus as those will fill up fast too.

Orientation

Whether it is a week-long event or just a day, youth will have a better transition to college after attending an orientation. YD funds can help cover the cost of a campus specific orientation, or OKSA has Level Up available in July for new students!

Official Transcript

Every youth will need one of these, regardless of future plans. Some schools might call it an 8-semester transcript, and these usually aren't ready until June. Be sure to request at least two copies, one for the college and one for your youth.

Supplies

As it gets closer to the start of school, YD funds can help with the purchase of dorm/household supplies, laptops, and other supplies needed for school.

Help Your Youth Make a Plan for Summer

- Where will you stay during the summer?
- Have you asked for your official transcript?
- How will you get to school on move-in day?
- Did you call the financial aid office to make sure your money is processed?
- Do you need a laptop, school supplies and/or dorm room/household items?

Alumni Pro Tips!

- When applying for the FAFSA or other scholarships, don't pay for anything. It's a scam!
- Encourage your youth to participate in school activities and clubs/organizations.
- Advocate for your youth's education. You might be the only one they have on their side.
- If phone calls need to be made to campus offices, help your youth make the calls themselves.
- Never assume all of school is paid for – look closely at the costs and awards that are expected.
- Apply early and often for scholarships!

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