

Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education

Oklahoma High School ACE (Achieving Classroom Excellence) Graduation Requirements and Eligibility for College Student Financial Aid

Current state law requires 2012 Oklahoma public high school seniors to meet certain curriculum and testing requirements to graduate from high school. Students who fail to meet both the curriculum and testing requirements will not graduate from high school. Failure to graduate from high school will significantly limit a student's eligibility for both state and federal financial aid for college.

Oklahoma's Promise Scholarship

Oklahoma public school students must graduate from high school to be eligible for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship. Students who otherwise complete the Oklahoma's Promise program requirements but do not graduate from high school will not be eligible for the award.

Federal Student Financial Aid

Due to recent federal legislation, effective July 1, 2012, students enrolling for the first time in postsecondary education will not be eligible for federal student financial aid (Pell Grants, federal work study, federal student loans, etc.) unless the student has a high school diploma or its equivalent (e.g., GED) or meets certain homeschool requirements. Oklahoma public school students that do not graduate from high school will not be eligible for federal student financial aid unless they have achieved a recognized equivalent such as the GED.

Oklahoma Tuition Aid Grant (OTAG)

Eligibility for the OTAG award requires that the student also be eligible for the federal Pell Grant. Consequently, a student that does not graduate high school and therefore is not eligible for the federal Pell Grant is also not eligible for the OTAG award.

Other Scholarships

Many other institutional* or private scholarship programs require the student to be a high school graduate to be eligible for an award. Students should check the requirements of each program.

*(e.g., Tulsa Achieves at Tulsa Community College; OKC-GO at Oklahoma City Community College; Ticket to Rose at Rose State College; etc.)

For more information:

ACE Graduation Requirements – Oklahoma State Department of Education
<http://sde.state.ok.us/Curriculum/ACE/default.html>

Recent Federal Student Financial Aid Changes –U.S. Department of Education:
<http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpccletters/GEN1201.html> (informational letter to financial aid officers dated January 18, 2012; additional guidance from the USDE is expected in the near future)

Information current as of February 24, 2012.