



OKLAHOMA
GEAR UP WEEK
okgearup.org



2015 GEAR UP Week Toolkit

Show them what it takes to go to college.

Hold a **GEAR UP Week** at your school to get students thinking about their plans after high school! This event is an opportunity to kick off the year with fun and exciting (yet low-maintenance) activities that encourage a college-going culture in your school and community.

Use these materials during National GEAR UP Week, or anytime that works for you. Choose to do some or all of the activities, or create your own traditions.

GEAR UP Week Daily Activities

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MONDAY: What it Takes to Get to College Wall

TUESDAY: College Gear Day

WEDNESDAY: College Trivia

THURSDAY: Thank You Poster to Congress

FRIDAY: Balloon Release



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Suggested Daily Activities and Tips

MONDAY

What it Takes to Go to College Wall

Have students share their plan for after high school and their academic, professional and personal goals using our fill-in-the-blank Goals Poster. Display the posters prominently in the hallway.

TIP: Take a picture of students by their dreams and deliver copies to your U.S. senators and representative.

Make additional copies to send to your school board, mayor and state elected officials.

Participate in National GEAR UP Week!

Help students find the power in their stories. Encourage them to create a video competition about why college matters; have students write letters to their future selves about what they hope to achieve in school, college and beyond!

TUESDAY

GEAR UP College Gear Day

Encourage students to wear T-shirts from their favorite college. Teachers should wear shirts from their alma mater.

TIP: Take photos and post them on the Oklahoma GEAR UP Facebook page.

WEDNESDAY

College Trivia

Hand out college trivia sheets during lunch or advisory period. Students with the most correct answers receive a special prize.

TIP: Have students work in teams.



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THURSDAY

Thank You to Congress

Spread the word about GEAR UP to your U.S. senators and representative. Encourage students to write a short thank you on the enclosed poster. Give the poster to your education specialist at the end of the week, and we will take care of sending them to your Congressman.

Ten ideas for notes to dignitaries for Oklahoma GEAR UP Week:

Thank you for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP. What has GEAR UP meant to me?

- 1) *I was able to visit a college campus for the first time.*
- 2) *I was able to attend a summer camp on a college campus.*
- 3) *I received free training for the ACT exam.*
- 4) *I took the ACT exam for free.*
- 5) *GEAR UP introduced me to Oklahoma's Promise.*
- 6) *I know what it takes to get into college.*
- 7) *My family attended a financial aid night and learned more about how to pay for college.*
- 8) *GEAR UP helped me apply for college during College Application Week.*
- 9) *The GEAR UP education specialist at my school has really helped me plan for my future.*
- 10) *The GEAR UP website/materials have helped me plan for college.*

TIP: Take photos and make copies to send to your school board, mayor and elected state officials.

FRIDAY

Balloon Release

Students can write their dream, career aspiration, or goals on a balloon (filled with helium) to be released at a coordinated time. Make slips of paper that say "Please post a picture of this balloon on Facebook and tag #OKGEAR UP so we can see where our college messages landed" and put inside the balloons.

This is a great opportunity to invite your local media to highlight what GEAR UP is doing at your school! The media attention can be that "GEAR UP helps students reach their sky-high dreams!" Be sure to take a picture!



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College Trivia

1. In what city is the University of Central Oklahoma located?
 2. At what type of college can you earn an associate degree?
 3. In which athletic conference do the Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma State Cowboys play?
 4. Name three high-demand career fields in Oklahoma.
 5. What is the name of a test you must take to get into the University of Tulsa?
 6. Which public two-year college is located in El Reno, Oklahoma?
 7. The federal financial aid application a college student completes to receive grants, work study and/or student loans is called the _____.
 8. Name two requirements for Oklahoma's Promise.
 9. The average cost of a college textbook is \$40. True or false?
 10. A scholarship that is awarded every year without reapplying as long as the student's GPA stays at a certain level is called a scholarship.
 11. What part of a financial aid award must be paid back?
 12. What is the mascot for Southeastern Oklahoma State University? -
 13. A letter written for a student applying for college admission to put in a good word for them is a .
 14. Name two high school graduation requirements.
 15. Which Oklahoma community college has the most students?
 16. What is the name of a financial aid offer in which the college provides the student a job?
 17. How many public four-year colleges and universities are there in Oklahoma?
 18. What is the mission of Oklahoma GEAR UP?
 19. What is Oklahoma's land grant university?
 20. How much more money does a college graduate make compared to someone who doesn't go to college?
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College Trivia

1. In what city is the University of Central Oklahoma located? - **Edmond**
 2. At what type of college can you earn an associate degree? - **Community College**
 3. In which athletic conference do the Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma State Cowboys play? - **Big 12**
 4. Name three high-demand career fields in Oklahoma. - **Petroleum, health care, education, anything STEM related**
 5. What is the name of a test you must take to get into the University of Tulsa? - **ACT or SAT**
 6. Which public two-year college is located in El Reno, Oklahoma? **Redlands Community College**
 7. The federal financial aid application a college student completes to receive grants, work study and/or student loans is called the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.
 8. Name two requirements for Oklahoma's Promise. - **Take the required classes, make good grades, stay out of trouble**
 9. The average cost of a college textbook is \$40. True or false? - **False - the average is \$300**
 10. A scholarship that is awarded every year without reapplying as long as the student's GPA stays at a certain level is called a **renewable** scholarship.
 11. What part of a financial aid award must be paid back? - **Loan**
 12. What is the mascot for Southeastern Oklahoma State University? - **Savage Storm**
 13. A letter written for a student applying for college admission to put in a good word for them is a **letter of recommendation**.
 14. Name two high school graduation requirements. - **Earn high school credit, Pass state tests or approved alternatives to those tests, complete a culminating project**
 15. Which Oklahoma community college has the most students? - **Oklahoma City Community College**
 16. What is the name of a financial aid offer in which the college provides the student a job? - **Work study**
 17. How many public four-year colleges and universities are there in Oklahoma? - **25**
 18. What is the mission of Oklahoma GEAR UP? - **The mission of the state grant is to help make communities more of a college-bound population by providing activities, services and information to strengthen classroom learning and student achievement, empower educators and community leaders and educate students and families.**
 19. What is Oklahoma's land grant university? - **Oklahoma State University**
 20. How much more money does a college graduate make compared to someone who doesn't go to college? - **\$1 million**
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Announcements

Use the following announcements about GEAR UP Week and getting ready for college during regular announcements or on school TVs.

MONDAY: It's GEAR UP Week! This event will feature college awareness activities every day this week. Begin your dream wall today by writing your academic, professional and personal goals on your homeroom door. Tomorrow is College T-Shirt Tuesday! Wear your favorite college gear. Share your plan for college and career on [facebook.com/okgearup](https://www.facebook.com/okgearup), tweet it with #okgearup or email it to kallison@osrhe.edu or abruce@osrhe.edu.

TUESDAY: Happy GEAR UP Week! What do Garth Brooks, Barry Sanders and the governor of Oklahoma have in common? They all graduated from Oklahoma State University! Where do you want to go to college, and what do you want do? Check out [facebook.com/okgearup](https://www.facebook.com/okgearup) to share your plan for college and career.

WEDNESDAY: Day 3 of GEAR UP Week! Here's a trivia question: What is the mascot of Southeastern Oklahoma State University? Answer this question and many others at College Trivia during lunch today --- winners will receive a special prize! And remember --- "like" the Oklahoma GEAR UP Facebook page to learn more about getting ready for college.

THURSDAY: GEAR UP Week has been awesome! Today, stop by to write a message on the Dream poster describing YOUR plan for the future for a chance to win an iTunes gift card! We will send this poster to the Oklahoma senators and representatives who help make GEAR UP possible.

FRIDAY: Thanks to everyone who has made GEAR UP Week a huge success. We will be announcing the winners of the I Love GEAR UP photo contest later today. Stay tuned! Also, did you know we have a website to help you on your journey to college? Find out more at okcollegestart.org.



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I ♥ GEAR UP

The “**I LOVE GEAR UP**” campaign is a statewide initiative to show just how many people support GEAR UP.

To participate, ask students, families, teachers, administrators, community partners and friends of the program to hold the provided sign, snap a picture and upload to social media sites with the tag **#OKGEARUP**.

Just remember to get signed photo releases for underage participants, and document the names of folks in the photos so we know who to thank for the GEAR UP love!

On Facebook, make sure to tag **#OKGEARUP**, and tweet your photos at **@okgearup**. We'll be checking Instagram, too, so if you tag us on your photos there, we'll find them!



I HAVE A PLAN!

My name:

My academic goal:

My professional goal:

My personal goal:

