National GEAR UP Week is a chance to highlight GEAR UP’s positive impact in your community.

It’s a time to engage all your stakeholders (students, school faculty and staff, parents, community partners, elected officials and media), share accomplishments and encourage involvement with your services to students and families.

Hold a GEAR UP Week at your school to kick off the year with activities that encourage a college-going culture in your school and community. Use these materials during National GEAR UP Week or any time that works for you. This toolkit has ideas designed to get the word out about GEAR UP and the importance of going to college.

Remember to share your events on social media and with Oklahoma GEAR UP staff so we can help celebrate around the state (and country)!

Use these hashtags on social media: #GEARUPworks and #IheartGEARUP

Oklahoma GEAR UP’s social media sites:

@OklahomaGEARUP  @okGearUp       @okgearup
**ACTIVITIES**

### KEY
- **Orange**: Student activity
- **Blue**: Staff activity
- **Green**: All activity

### FAMILY NIGHT
Host a virtual family event during GEAR UP week to get more information out about Oklahoma GEAR UP.

### SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS
Include fun facts about college in the daily announcements or on school televisions. Examples are included in this packet.

### COLLEGE SPIRIT DAY
Have faculty, staff and students wear college gear or colors.

Have students write anything college-related on the sidewalks using chalk.

Have college reps available virtually during lunch to talk to students.

### COLLEGE APPLICATION DAY
Host a college application day for your seniors.

It can ensure that all students have the opportunity to receive hands-on assistance as they take the first big step toward continuing their education.

### MEDIA OUTREACH
Inform local radio stations, television stations and newspapers about GEAR UP Week. A sample press release is included in this packet.

Highlight an event taking place at your school.

### “I WENT TO COLLEGE” SIGNS
Have teachers, counselors and other school staff complete “I Went to College” signs and hang the signs next to their doors. A ready-to-use template is included.

### CONTACT YOUR LEADERS
Thank your Congressional delegates for supporting GEAR UP by having students sign the enclosed poster. Please give it to your GEAR UP school specialist, and we will take care of mailing it.

Get GEAR UP on your school board’s agenda.

Host a forum for professors, recruiters, or even the president, from your local college.

### COLLEGE TRIVIA
Give out college trivia sheets during lunch or advisory. Students with the most correct answers may receive a prize. An example of a trivia sheet with the answers is included.
Invite a guest speaker from the community to share their educational journey and why college is important. Reach out to past GEAR UP Iowa students and have them share their experiences with GEAR UP and college life.

Have students and teachers decorate their homeroom or advisory classroom doors with the college of their choice.

Send students out to businesses in the community to share information about the positive impact GEAR UP has on their lives. Ask them to hang the enclosed poster to show their support.

Cover a classroom or hallway wall with paper and write “Our GEAR UP Dreams” across the center. Ask students to write their academic, professional and personal goals on the wall.

Send a picture of your students next to the sign to your Congressional delegation.

Have students reach out to a college of their choice and request materials. Open the materials as a class or group and share the received information.

Also, have students fill out a college match worksheet and share their findings with their classmates.

Help students find the power in their stories. Create a school-wide #IHeartGEARUP campaign on social media; 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!

Let us know what your school is planning and how we can help! Contact your GEAR UP school specialist with questions, updates or comments.

The U.S. Department of Education awarded Oklahoma with a state GEAR UP grant totaling $20.5 million in 1999. The grant was supplemented with a one-year extension of $4.4 million in 2004. Oklahoma received additional GEAR UP grants totaling $20.8 million in 2005 and $34.9 million in 2011. In September 2017, the State Regents were awarded a fourth, consecutive GEAR UP grant in the amount of $24 million over the next seven years.
MONDAY
Good morning, students - it’s GEAR UP Week! This week will feature college awareness activities to help prepare and educate you about the possibilities following high school graduation. Get involved and ask questions - college is for YOU! Be sure to post photos on Facebook and Twitter of GEAR UP Week activities and check out what other schools are doing by using #OKGEARUP. Here is a summary of this week’s activities:
   Monday -
   Tuesday -
   Wednesday -
   Thursday -
   Friday -

TUESDAY
It’s Day 2 of National GEAR UP Week! Today we are (insert Tuesday’s activity). Did you know that there are 25 public colleges and universities located in Oklahoma? We have 2 research universities, 10 regional universities, 1 public liberal arts university, and 12 community colleges. You can learn what these types of schools mean by visiting OKcollegestart.org.

WEDNESDAY
We’re halfway through the week and we’ve already had a lot of fun. Don’t forget to participate in _______ that is happening today. Today’s 411 is brought to you by the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA for short. This is a FREE application for you to apply for college student aid. There are three types of federal student aid: grants, loans and work-study. Visit fafsa.ed.gov to learn more. Seniors, don’t forget the FAFSA application for college next year opens on October 1.

THURSDAY
Happy Thursday everyone! Today we have lined up ________ for National GEAR UP Week. Still unsure if college is right for you? According to CollegeBoard, bachelor’s degree recipients tend to earn about 66% more during their career life than a high school graduate.

FRIDAY
The end to National GEAR UP Week is here. Thank you for participating in this week’s activities. Congratulations to our (insert # of students) seniors who have applied to college this week! As we’re wrapping up, do not forget you can visit OKcollegestart.org to view college planning checklists for 7th - 12th grade to keep you on track for your college goals.
OKLAHOMA GEAR UP
COLLEGE MATCH WORKSHEET

Fill out the worksheet below and compare your options to find the best fit for you. The following resources can aid you in finding this information:

OKCOLLEGESTART.ORG: offers detailed information about all Oklahoma colleges and universities.

COLLEGE WEBSITES: visit the college website you are researching for more information.

NAME OF COLLEGE: ____________________________

DOES THIS COLLEGE OFFER MY MAJOR/AREA OF STUDY? IS THIS COLLEGE ACCREDITED?
○ yes ○ no ○ yes ○ no

LOCATION: ____________________________ APPLICATION DEADLINE(S): ____________________________

FOCUS: ○ trade/career ○ 2-year ○ 4-year TYPE: ○ public ○ private, not-for-profit ○ private, for-profit

TOTAL # OF STUDENTS ____________________________ AVG. # OF FRESHMAN STUDENTS: ____________________________

AVG. % OF STUDENTS WHO RETURN 2ND YEAR: ______ AVG. 4-YEAR GRADUATION RATE: ____________________________

% OF APPLICANTS ADMITTED ANNUALLY: __________ AVG. ACT/SAT SCORES OF ADMITTED STUDENTS: ______

AVG. GPA OF ADMITTED STUDENTS: __________ IN-STATE TUITION AND FEES $ __________

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING AVAILABLE: ○ yes ○ no OUT-OF-STATE TUITION AND FEES $ __________

SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED BY THIS COLLEGE THAT I MIGHT RECEIVE AND THEIR DEADLINES: ____________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

ACTIVITIES/SERVICES OR OTHER ASPECTS OF CAMPUS THAT INTEREST ME: ____________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________________________

HAVE I VISITED THE CAMPUS?
○ Yes ○ No

HOW LIKELY AM I TO GO HERE?
○ Very likely ○ Likely ○ Not likely ○ Definitely not likely
I WENT TO COLLEGE. ASK ME HOW.

Name:______________________________

College:_________________________________________________________________

Degree:_________________________________________________________________

You CAN attend college! GEAR UP can help you get there!
1. In what city is the University of Central Oklahoma located?
2. At what type of college can you earn an associate degree?
3. What is the oldest institution of higher education in Oklahoma?
4. What university has a state of the art animation department that has graduates working with Disney and Pixar films?
5. What is the name of a test you must take to be admitted into college?
6. Which public two-year college is located in El Reno, Okla.?
7. The federal financial aid application a college student completes to receive grants, work study and/or student loans is called the ____________.
8. What college did Carrie Underwood graduate from?
9. Name a college that has a rodeo team.
10. What university was once named the Oklahoma Military Academy?
11. What part of a financial aid award must be paid back?
12. What is the mascot for Southeastern Oklahoma State University?
13. Which college in Oklahoma has graduated the most Miss Americas?
14. What is the program that allows 8th, 9th, or 10th grade students from families with an income of $55,000 or less to earn a college tuition scholarship?
15. Which Oklahoma community college has the most students?
16. How many Native American languages are taught at OU?
17. How many public colleges and universities are there in Oklahoma?
18. What date does the FAFSA application open for students?
19. What is Oklahoma’s land grant university?
20. What is the only public liberal arts university in Oklahoma?
21. What is the program that allows juniors and seniors to earn college credit while still in high school?
College Trivia Questions
- Answers -

1. Edmond
2. Community College
3. Bacone College
4. Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU)
5. ACT or SAT
6. Redlands Community College (RCC)
7. Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
8. Northeastern State University (NSU)
9. Oklahoma Panhandle State University (OPSU), Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), Connors State College (CSC), Oklahoma State University (OSU), Western Oklahoma State College (WOSC), Northwestern Oklahoma State University (NWOSU), Southeastern Oklahoma State University (SEOSU), Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College (NEO) - Some other colleges have rodeo student organizations
10. Rogers State University (RSU)
11. Loan
12. Savage Storm
13. Oklahoma City University (Jane Jayroe ‘67, Susan Powell ‘81, Shawntel Smith ‘96)
14. Oklahoma’s Promise
15. Oklahoma City Community College (OCCC)
16. 4 (Cherokee, Choctaw, Creek, Kiowa; More than any other college in the country)
17. 25
18. October 1 (Apply as soon as possible)
19. Oklahoma State University (OSU)
20. University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO)
21. Concurrent Enrollment
Congressman Cole,

THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Congressman Hern,
THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Congressman Bice, THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Congressman Lucas,

THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Congressman Mullin, THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Senator Inhofe, THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
Senator Lankford,

THANK YOU for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP!
DID YOU KNOW

- 41 majors
- 50 student organizations
- $65 million in scholarships, grants, and financial aid
- 4-year regional university
- cameron.edu/futureaggies
- Your name, class of

admission tip
Apply early and follow up supporting documents. The admission application opens the door to the college process and allows you to apply for scholarships, register for classes, and attend orientation. Don’t delay, apply today!
DID YOU KNOW

$10.9

Carl Albert State College

27 majors

20 student organizations

2-year community college

CarlAlbert.edu/admissions

YOUR NAME, Class of __________

carlalbert.edu/admissions

admission tip

Be sure to read all instructions on the application and bring required documents when you come to enroll.
Be proactive to make sure all deadlines are met and all necessary documents are turned in by using the college checklist! Please visit www.connorsstate.edu/recruit for checklist.
East Central University is an academic-driven university. Be sure to study hard and pay close attention to your ACT test and scores.
DID YOU KNOW

$9.1 million

46 majors

eastern oklahoma state college

26 student organizations

admission tip

Start the admission process by completing the online Admission Application. All necessary admission/enrollment information can be found on Eastern’s website. If you can’t find what you are looking for, contact any member of the staff. We are all here to assist you and help make this a wonderful experience for you.
Before you step onto campus for your first semester, take part in Lion Camp. Lion Camp helps prepare you for college to make the transition from high school to college a positive experience.
DID YOU KNOW

$14.5 million

scholarships, grants, financial aid

MSC
MURRAY STATE COLLEGE

50 majors

murray state college

2-year community college

25 student organizations

admission tip

Our faculty, staff and administration are all dedicated to ensure that from Murray State College, our students can go anywhere.
DID YOU KNOW

$2.4+ million annual scholarships

40 majors

northeastern
oklahoma a&m college

2-year community college

40+ student organizations

neo.edu/admissions

YOUR NAME Class of

admission tip

Fill out your FAFSA early, apply to the college early, apply for scholarships early and keep in mind that NEO gives a free dorm room to Oklahoma Promise Students.
Attending our two-day orientation program is one of the best ways to start making friends, get great tips on how to have a successful (and fun!) time in college, and makes it easy for you to get involved on campus.
DID YOU KNOW

$20 million

scholarships, grants, financial aid

NOC

northern Oklahoma college

47 majors

2-year community college

2-year
community college

noc.edu/future-students

YOUR NAME Class of

30+ student organizations

admission tip

Do not let someone tell you that you aren’t smart enough or financially able to attend college. If you want to get a degree, you can! NOC is an affordable, 2-year college with small class sizes, low costs, and provides a great transition to a 4-year university or right into the workforce.
A tip would be to not stress and make decisions based off of one attribute. Picking a college is like buying a new pair of pants, you might like the way they look, but they might not be the right fit for you. Find a school that is the right fit for you.
DID YOU KNOW

Oklahoma City Community College

61 majors

29 student organizations

$34+ million in scholarships, grants, and financial aid

Apply and submit your transcripts early so that you can complete your admissions process as soon as possible.
It’s never too late to enroll in college. Oklahoma Panhandle State University wants to work with you no matter your circumstances.
At Oklahoma State University, we encourage all students to apply. Through our comprehensive review process, we look beyond your GPA and test score to see what experiences have shaped you and what drives you to be successful. We consider many factors: essay responses, leadership experiences, community involvement, letters of recommendation, the creative supplement, GPA and test score. Tell us about yourself and don’t ever count yourself out. The road to being a Cowboy starts with applying!
DID YOU KNOW

$3 million non-federal aid given to students

19 majors

2-year community college

11 student organizations

redlandscc.edu/admissions

YOUR NAME, Class of _____

admission tip

Apply now and enroll early – get the classes you want with the best schedule for your lifestyle.
DID YOU KNOW

- $30.4 million in scholarships, grants, and financial aid
- Rogers State University
- 71 majors
- 4-year regional university
- rsu.edu/admissions
- 35 student organizations
- Your name, Class of _____

admission tip

Take the ACT early and learn how to study.
DID YOU KNOW

400+ scholarships

ROSE STATE COLLEGE

60+ majors

2-year community college

40 student organizations

admission tip

Know yourself and know your schedule. Know what days and times you can make classes and think of what careers you might be interested in pursuing after college. Help us help you by being as prepared as possible!
DID YOU KNOW

$10.5 million

24 majors

2-year community college

10 student organizations

DID YOU KNOW

Students should always be aware of important administrative dates, especially for drop and withdraw dates in addition to enrollment deadlines.
DID YOU KNOW

Southeastern Oklahoma State University

- 60 majors
- 4-year regional university
- 70 student organizations
- $4+ million scholarships, grants, financial aid
- se.edu/future-students

admission tip

Don’t hesitate to ask questions concerning the admission process.
Apply early. Be sure to send in your updated transcripts/ACT scores as they become available. Be aware of scholarship deadlines. And, be sure to check your email inbox often for information concerning your admissions & enrollment.
DID YOU KNOW

100+ majors

60+ student organizations

2-year community college

$62 million scholarships, grants, financial aid

tulsa community college

tulsacc.edu/admissions-aid

admission tip

Know when scholarship deadlines are so that you can prioritize which ones to fill out first.
DID YOU KNOW

$214 million scholarships, grants, financial aid

170+ majors

the university of Oklahoma

4-year research university

ou.edu/content/admissions

400+ student organizations

admission tip

Academics is important so show up and participate in every class. Also, get involved in student organizations to meet new people and gain new skills.
DID YOU KNOW

$101.5 million

scholarships, grants, financial aid

university of Central Oklahoma

116 majors

uco.edu/admissions-aid

YOUR NAME, Class of

200+ student organizations

4-year regional university

admission tip

There are many resources on campus to help you be successful: Financial Aid, Tutoring, Testing Services, Disability Support Services Wellness, and Career Services to name a few.
If you have questions or concerns about college, talk with your academic counselor when they arise. They can help you earlier before the problem gets bigger.
DID YOU KNOW

$5.8 million

Western Oklahoma State College

20 majors

2-year community college

wosc.edu/admissions

20 student organizations

Your NAME, Class of

admission tip

At Western Oklahoma State College, there is not an application fee charged to you until you enroll in classes. Don’t hesitate to apply to WOSC because it’s free to apply!