

Where Do I Go?

Researching Institutions and Programs

College isn't one-size-fits-all. You'll need to do a little research to decide which institution is the best fit for you academically, socially and financially.

Researching colleges isn't like researching your term paper. Of course, you'll want to get as many facts as possible (cost, size, location, etc.) but don't rely on facts alone. Choosing a college or technical school is a personal and emotional decision, too.

Ready to discover a place that'll prepare you for a successful future? Let's get started!

You're Just Not My Type (Of School)

Oklahoma has many types of postsecondary schools (schools that offer certificates, degrees and training beyond high school). To decide what's right for you, it's important to understand the different types of schools available and what they have to offer. Review the information on the next page to learn how school types differ.



Understanding Postsecondary School Types

Oxford Dictionaries offers the following definition of college:

Main Entry: col·lege

Function: noun

An educational institution or establishment, in particular one providing higher education or specialized professional or vocational training.

There are many different types of colleges and schools in general, which means you have a wide variety of choices. The best type of education for you may be available right here in Oklahoma. Check out OKcollegestart.org and select “College Planning/Explore Postsecondary Schools” to learn about Oklahoma’s colleges and universities. Here are some examples to help with your decision:

Four-Year Universities

- ▶ Offer undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees
- ▶ Include Oklahoma’s research and regional universities and public liberal arts university
- ▶ Examples: Northeastern State University and Southwestern Oklahoma State University

Community Colleges

- ▶ Take about two years to complete a degree program
- ▶ Are usually less expensive than some other types of colleges
- ▶ Examples: Seminole State College and College of the Muscogee Nation

Technical Branches

- ▶ Emphasize education and training in technical fields
- ▶ Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City

Technology Centers

- ▶ Prepare you for a specialized career or trade
- ▶ Offer several certifications, some online
- ▶ Examples: Gordon Cooper Technology Center and Tri County Technology Center

Proprietary Schools

- ▶ Privately-owned or out-of-state colleges and universities that aren’t supported by state funds
- ▶ Prepare students for direct entry into an occupation or profession
- ▶ Example: Tulsa Welding School

Public Schools

- ▶ Colleges and universities that operate under the supervision of state governments
- ▶ Offer Associate, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral Degrees
- ▶ Examples: Oklahoma State University and Rose State College

Private Schools

- ▶ Privately-owned accredited colleges and universities that aren’t supported by state funds
- ▶ Offer associate, bachelor’s and/or graduate degrees
- ▶ Examples: Southern Nazarene University and Randall University

Note that several terms can be used to describe the same school.
For example, the University of Oklahoma is a four-year, public university.

