

1 Program and to qualify for an award ~~which includes payment of an~~
2 ~~amount equivalent to resident tuition or other tuition~~ pursuant to
3 Section 2604 of this title for the first semester or other academic
4 unit of postsecondary enrollment, a student shall:

5 1. Be a resident of this state or be enrolled in a school
6 district located in this state that serves students who reside in
7 both this state and an adjacent state pursuant to a contract as
8 authorized in Section 5-117.1 of this title;

9 2. Be a United States citizen or lawfully present in the United
10 States. A student who is not a United States citizen or lawfully
11 present in the United States shall not be eligible to participate in
12 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an
13 award notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3242 of this title.
14 The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any student who
15 was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to
16 the end of the 2006-2007 school year;

17 3. Have a record of satisfactory compliance with agreements
18 executed pursuant to Section 2605 of this title;

19 4. a. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
20 from a high school accredited by the State Board of
21 Education, or the Oklahoma School of Science and
22 Mathematics with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
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1 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
2 grades nine through twelve,

3 b. have graduated within the previous three (3) years
4 from a high school not accredited by the State Board
5 of Education with a minimum 2.5 cumulative grade point
6 average on a 4.0 scale for all work attempted in
7 grades nine through twelve and have achieved a
8 composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, or

9 c. have satisfactorily completed within the previous
10 three (3) years an educational program that was
11 provided through a means other than a public or
12 private school and have achieved a composite score of
13 22 or higher on the ACT test;

14 5. Have completed the curricular requirements for admission to
15 an institution within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education
16 and one additional unit or set of competencies in a course that
17 meets college admission requirements. The curriculum requirements
18 shall include two units or sets of competencies in foreign or non-
19 English language or technology courses that meet the college
20 admission requirements and one unit or set of competencies of a fine
21 arts course. Students shall also have attained a 2.5 grade point
22 average in the core curriculum courses. Students who attended a
23 high school which did not offer all the core curriculum courses or

1 students who were educated by other means and were not offered all
2 the core curriculum courses shall be allowed to satisfy this
3 curriculum requirement by participating in a program approved by the
4 State Regents for remediation of high school curricular
5 deficiencies;

6 6. Have satisfied admission standards as determined by the
7 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-time-entering
8 students for the appropriate type of institution, or, if attending a
9 private institution, have satisfied admission standards as
10 determined by the private institution. No student participating in
11 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be admitted into
12 an institution of higher education by special admission standards;

13 7. Have secured admission to, and enrolled in, an institution
14 which is a member of The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education,
15 a postsecondary vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
16 duly approved cooperative agreement between a technology center
17 school and an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
18 Education, or a private institution of higher learning located
19 within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this
20 title; and

21 8. a. have established financial need according to the
22 provisions of subsection D of Section 2605 of this
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- 1 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education,
- 3 b. if the student was adopted between birth and twelve
4 (12) years of age while in the permanent custody of
5 the Department of Human Services, in the court-ordered
6 custody of a licensed private nonprofit child-placing
7 agency, or federally recognized Indian tribe, as
8 defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare Act, have
9 established financial need according to the provisions
10 of paragraph 1 of subsection E of Section 2605 of this
11 title and standards and provisions promulgated by the
12 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, or
- 13 c. if the student was adopted between thirteen (13) and
14 seventeen (17) years of age while in the permanent
15 custody of the Department of Human Services, in the
16 court-ordered custody of a licensed private nonprofit
17 child-placing agency, or federally recognized Indian
18 tribe, as defined by the federal Indian Child Welfare
19 Act, have established financial need according to the
20 provisions of paragraph 2 of subsection E of Section
21 2605 of this title and standards and provisions
22 promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
23 Education.

1 B. 1. A student shall be eligible to participate in the
2 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program and to qualify for an award
3 ~~which includes payment of an amount equivalent to resident tuition~~
4 ~~or other tuition~~ pursuant to Section 2604 of this title for the
5 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment if
6 the student meets all of the following criteria:

7 a. is a child of any person killed after January 1, 2000,
8 in the line of duty in any branch of the United States
9 Armed Forces or who died after January 1, 2000, as a
10 result of an injury sustained while in the line of
11 duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces
12 and the person who was killed or died filed an
13 individual or joint Oklahoma income tax return for the
14 tax year prior to the year during which the person was
15 killed or died,

16 b. is a resident of this state or is enrolled in a school
17 district located in this state that serves students
18 who reside in both this state and an adjacent state
19 pursuant to a contract as authorized in Section 5-
20 117.1 of this title,

21 c. enrolls in an institution within The Oklahoma State
22 System of Higher Education prior to reaching the age
23 of twenty-one (21),

- 1 d. has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
2 Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education for first-
3 time-entering students for the appropriate type of
4 institution, or, if attending a private institution,
5 has satisfied admission standards as determined by the
6 private institution. No student participating in the
7 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program shall be
8 admitted into an institution of higher education by
9 special admission standards,
- 10 e. has secured admission to, and enrolled in, an
11 institution which is a member of The Oklahoma State
12 System of Higher Education, a postsecondary
13 vocational-technical program offered pursuant to a
14 duly approved cooperative agreement between a
15 technology center school and an institution of The
16 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education, or a
17 private institution of higher learning located within
18 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of
19 this title, and
- 20 f. executes an agreement pursuant to subsection C of
21 Section 2605 of this title.
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1 2. A student who is eligible to participate in the program
2 pursuant to this subsection shall not be required to meet the
3 eligibility requirements set forth in subsection A of this section.

4 C. To retain eligibility while pursuing the program of higher
5 learning in which enrolled, the student shall:

6 1. Achieve a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a
7 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken through the student's
8 sophomore year and achieve a minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a
9 4.0 scale or its equivalent for courses taken during the student's
10 junior year and thereafter. The provisions of this paragraph shall
11 not apply to any student who has received an Oklahoma Higher
12 Learning Access Program benefit award prior to the 2010-2011 school
13 year;

14 2. Maintain good academic standing and satisfactory academic
15 progress according to standards of the Oklahoma State Regents for
16 Higher Education;

17 3. Maintain satisfactory academic progress as required for
18 eligibility for federal Title IV student financial aid programs.
19 The provisions of this paragraph shall become effective for the
20 2012-2013 school year;

21 4. Comply with the standards related to maintenance of
22 eligibility as promulgated by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
23 Education; and

1 5. Refrain from conduct that leads to expulsion or suspension
2 of more than one semester from an institution of higher education.
3 A student who violates the provisions of this paragraph shall
4 permanently lose eligibility for program benefits. The provisions
5 of this paragraph shall become effective January 1, 2008.

6 D. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the
7 State Board of Career and Technology Education shall promulgate
8 rules relating to maintenance of eligibility under this act by a
9 student.

10 E. It is the intent of the Legislature that students in the
11 ninth grade for the 1992-93 school year who are determined to be
12 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access students pursuant to this
13 act shall be the first students eligible for benefits from the
14 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund.

15 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education are
16 authorized to study, develop and propose criteria for determining
17 award eligibility based upon the completion of seven (7) semesters
18 of high school coursework by a student.

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2011, Section 2604, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 2604. A. 1. Subject to the availability of funds, an
22 amount equivalent to the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which an
23 eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student is

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1 obligated at an institution of The Oklahoma State System of Higher
2 Education shall be awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher
3 Learning Access Trust Fund. The provisions of this paragraph shall
4 apply to any student who was enrolled in the Oklahoma Higher
5 Learning Access Program prior to the beginning of the 2013-2014
6 school year.

7 2. Subject to the availability of funds, for any eligible
8 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled in the
9 program after the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the award
10 that any eligible student enrolled at an institution in The Oklahoma
11 State System of Higher Education is entitled to shall be determined
12 as follows:

13 a. one hundred percent (100%) of an amount equivalent to
14 the nonguaranteed resident tuition for which the
15 student is obligated at an institution in The Oklahoma
16 State System of Higher Education if, at the time the
17 student begins postsecondary education and prior to
18 receiving any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
19 benefit award, the federal adjusted gross income of
20 the student's parent(s) is less than Fifty Thousand
21 Dollars (\$50,000.00) per year,

22 b. ninety percent (90%) of an amount equivalent to the
23 nonguaranteed resident tuition for which the student

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1 is obligated at an institution in The Oklahoma State
2 System of Higher Education if, at the time the student
3 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving
4 any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit
5 award, the federal adjusted gross income of the
6 student's parent(s) is more than Fifty Thousand
7 Dollars (\$50,000.00) per year but less than Sixty
8 Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year,

9 c. eighty percent (80%) of an amount equivalent to the
10 nonguaranteed resident tuition for which the student
11 is obligated at an institution in The Oklahoma State
12 System of Higher Education if, at the time the student
13 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving
14 any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit
15 award, the federal adjusted gross income of the
16 student's parent(s) is more than Sixty Thousand
17 Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year but less than Seventy
18 Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per year,

19 d. seventy percent (70%) of an amount equivalent to the
20 nonguaranteed resident tuition for which the student
21 is obligated at an institution in The Oklahoma State
22 System of Higher Education if, at the time the student
23 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving

1 any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit
2 award, the federal adjusted gross income of the
3 student's parent(s) is more than Seventy Thousand
4 Dollars (\$70,000.00) per year but less than Eighty
5 Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) per year,

6 e. sixty percent (60%) of an amount equivalent to the
7 nonguaranteed resident tuition for which the student
8 is obligated at an institution in The Oklahoma State
9 System of Higher Education if, at the time the student
10 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving
11 any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit
12 award, the federal adjusted gross income of the
13 student's parent(s) is more than Eighty Thousand
14 Dollars (\$80,000.00) per year but less than Ninety
15 Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per year, or

16 f. fifty percent (50%) of an amount equivalent to the
17 nonguaranteed resident tuition for which the student
18 is obligated at an institution in The Oklahoma State
19 System of Higher Education if, at the time the student
20 begins postsecondary education and prior to receiving
21 any Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit
22 award, the federal adjusted gross income of the
23 student's parent(s) is more than Ninety Thousand

1 Dollars (\$90,000.00) per year but less than One
2 Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) per year.

3 3. Awards made to an eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
4 Program student pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection shall be
5 awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust
6 Fund.

7 B. 1. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible
8 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled in the
9 Program prior to the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, and who
10 is enrolled at a private institution of higher learning located
11 within this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this
12 title, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall award
13 from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an amount
14 equivalent to the amount of resident tuition for which the student
15 would be eligible if the student were enrolled in a comparable
16 program at a comparable institution of The Oklahoma State System of
17 Higher Education.

18 2. Subject to the availability of funds, for each eligible
19 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled in the
20 Program after the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, and who is
21 enrolled at a private institution of higher learning located within
22 this state and accredited pursuant to Section 4103 of this title,
23 the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education shall award by

1 allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund an
2 amount as determined pursuant to paragraph 2 of subsection A of this
3 section for which the student would be eligible if the student were
4 enrolled in a comparable program at a comparable institution within
5 The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

6 3. Comparability shall be determined by the State Regents.

7 C. 1. Subject to the availability of funds, an amount
8 equivalent to the tuition for any eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning
9 Access Program student enrolled in a public postsecondary
10 vocational-technical program or course for the purpose set forth in
11 Section 2602 of this title shall be awarded by allocation from the
12 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust Fund. Provided, such
13 allocation shall not exceed the amount a student would have received
14 for comparable enrollment at a two-year institution within The
15 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education. The provisions of this
16 paragraph shall apply to any student who was enrolled in the
17 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program prior to the beginning of
18 the 2013-2014 school year.

19 2. Subject to the availability of funds, for any eligible
20 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program student enrolled in the
21 Program after the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, the amount
22 of award an eligible student enrolled in a public postsecondary
23 vocational-technical program or course, for the purpose set forth in

1 Section 2602 of this title, is entitled to shall be determined as
2 follows:

3 a. one hundred percent (100%) of an amount equivalent to
4 the tuition for which the student is obligated at a
5 public postsecondary vocational-technical program or
6 course if, at the time the student begins
7 postsecondary education and prior to receiving any
8 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefit award,
9 the federal adjusted gross income of the student's
10 parent(s) is less than Fifty Thousand Dollars
11 (\$50,000.00) per year,

12 b. ninety percent (90%) of an amount equivalent to the
13 tuition for which the student is obligated at a public
14 postsecondary vocational-technical program or course
15 if, at the time the student begins postsecondary
16 education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher
17 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal
18 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) is
19 more than Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) per year
20 but less than Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per
21 year,

22 c. eighty percent (80%) of an amount equivalent to the
23 tuition for which the student is obligated at a public

1 postsecondary vocational-technical program or course
2 if, at the time the student begins postsecondary
3 education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher
4 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal
5 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) is
6 more than Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000.00) per year
7 but less than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00)
8 per year,

9 d. seventy percent (70%) of an amount equivalent to the
10 tuition for which the student is obligated at a public
11 postsecondary vocational-technical program or course
12 if, at the time the student begins postsecondary
13 education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher
14 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal
15 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) is
16 more than Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000.00) per
17 year but less than Eighty Thousand Dollars
18 (\$80,000.00) per year,

19 e. sixty percent (60%) of an amount equivalent to the
20 tuition for which the student is obligated at a public
21 postsecondary vocational-technical program or course
22 if, at the time the student begins postsecondary
23 education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher

1 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal
2 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) is
3 more than Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$80,000.00) per
4 year but less than Ninety Thousand Dollars
5 (\$90,000.00) per year, or

6 f. fifty percent (50%) of an amount equivalent to the
7 tuition for which the student is obligated at a public
8 postsecondary vocational-technical program or course
9 if, at the time the student begins postsecondary
10 education and prior to receiving any Oklahoma Higher
11 Learning Access Program benefit award, the federal
12 adjusted gross income of the student's parent(s) is
13 more than Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$90,000.00) per
14 year but less than One Hundred Thousand Dollars
15 (\$100,000.00) per year.

16 3. Awards made to an eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
17 Program student pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection shall be
18 awarded by allocation from the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Trust
19 Fund.

20 4. Allocations made pursuant to paragraph 2 of this subsection
21 shall not exceed the amount a student would have received for
22 comparable enrollment at a two-year institution within The Oklahoma
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1 State System of Higher Education as set forth in paragraph 2 of
2 subsection A of this section.

3 D. 1. An award allowed by this section shall not be allowed
4 for courses or other postsecondary units taken in excess of the
5 requirements for completion of a baccalaureate program or taken more
6 than five (5) years after the student's first semester of
7 postsecondary enrollment. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher
8 Education may award the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
9 benefits for courses of postsecondary units taken more than five (5)
10 years after the student's first semester of postsecondary enrollment
11 only in hardship circumstances; ~~provided, however, no.~~ No Oklahoma
12 Higher Learning Access Program participant may receive benefits
13 beyond a cumulative time period of five (5) years.

14 2. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may award
15 the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program benefits for a student's
16 first semester or other academic unit of postsecondary enrollment
17 taken more than three (3) years after the student graduates from
18 high school or completes an educational program equivalent to high
19 school graduation as authorized in subsection A of Section 2603 of
20 this title or after the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age
21 as authorized in subsection B of Section 2603 of this title if the
22 student is a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, the
23 Reserve Corps of the Armed Forces of the United States, or the

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1 Oklahoma National Guard, and is ordered to active duty or active
2 duty for special work or training and due to the duty commitment the
3 student is unable to enroll prior to the end of the three-year
4 period or before the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.
5 The period shall be extended by the length of the term of duty.

6 3. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may
7 establish a maximum limit on the number of courses or other
8 postsecondary units to which Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
9 benefits will apply.

10 4. An award for eligible Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
11 Program students enrolled in cooperative programs pursuant to
12 agreements between technology center schools and institutions of The
13 Oklahoma State System of Higher Education shall be satisfied for
14 both vocational-technical and college work in which enrolled
15 pursuant to such cooperative program.

16 E. Benefits awarded under the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access
17 Program shall be awarded to all eligible applicants without any
18 limitation on the number of awards in any year other than the amount
19 of funds available for the program and the number of eligible
20 applicants. Subject to the provisions of subsection F of this
21 section, if funds are not sufficient to provide awards for all
22 eligible applicants, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education
23 shall make awards on the basis of need. Provided, the Oklahoma

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1 State Regents for Higher Education shall take into consideration
2 other grants and scholarships received by an eligible applicant when
3 making awards.

4 F. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education may, at the
5 time an award is made on behalf of an Oklahoma Higher Learning
6 Access Program student, set aside in the Oklahoma Higher Learning
7 Access Trust Fund funds for the full commitment made to such Higher
8 Learning Access Program student. For all academic years, students
9 who have previously received awards under the provisions of the
10 Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Act, ~~Section 2601 et seq. of this~~
11 ~~title,~~ and who have continued at all times to fulfill the
12 requirements for eligibility to receive awards provided pursuant to
13 this program shall be given an absolute priority for continued
14 financial support by the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program
15 superior to any students who are applying for ~~such~~ benefits for the
16 first time.

17 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective November 1, 2012.

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19 COMMITTEE REPORT BY: COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND BUDGET, dated
20 02/23/2012 - DO PASS, As Coauthored.

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