

# YOUR TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

## HOW TO SUCCEED IN YOUR NEXT BIG CHAPTER

Congratulations! You're almost finished with high school. If you plan to wait until after graduation to start thinking about college, you'd better think again. There are many important steps to take now if you plan to begin college in the fall.

### TAKE THE ACT OR SAT.

Take the ACT or SAT at least once. Take free practice tests at [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org). To register for the next available test, visit: [ACT.org](http://ACT.org) or [SAT.org](http://SAT.org).

### CHOOSE A CAMPUS.

Narrow down your campus choices. Can't decide? Compare colleges at [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) or [NCES.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator](http://NCES.ed.gov/CollegeNavigator).

### FIND FREE MONEY.

Apply for grants and scholarships. Many scholarship deadlines are early in your senior year, so do your research and apply for scholarships now. We encourage seniors to apply for 2-3 scholarships a week!

Remember to apply for scholarships each year you're in college. Eligibility criteria change and new programs are added every year.

Visit [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) and [OKcollegestart.org](http://OKcollegestart.org) to find numerous scholarship opportunities. Both sites offer a variety of scholarships by deadline and by category.

For some great application tips and a list of free scholarship search websites, check out the Scholarship Success Guide in the publications section at [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org).

### FINISH THE FAFSA.

Submit your FAFSA. Go to [FAFSA.gov](http://FAFSA.gov) to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You should complete your FAFSA as soon as your senior year of high school and every year you need financial aid for college. Visit [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) and [StartWithFAFSA.org](http://StartWithFAFSA.org) to find helpful FAFSA completion tools and resources.

IN HIGH SCHOOL	IN COLLEGE
Your time is planned out by others.	You manage your own time.
Parents and teachers help you set priorities.	You set your own priorities.
You're often told what to do and corrected if you get out of line.	You're responsible for your actions and the consequences of your actions.
Classes usually have no more than 35 students.	Some classes may have hundreds of students.
You may study very little and cram just before a test.	For each hour of class time, you may need twice as much study time.
You read shorter assignments that are discussed and enforced in class.	You'll have large reading assignments, many of which won't be discussed in class.
Teachers provide information you missed when you were absent.	Professors expect you to get notes from your classmates when you're absent.
Teachers help you understand what's in the textbook.	Professors may not follow the textbook, and often lecture on other related topics.
Teachers write information on the board for you to copy into your notes.	Professors may only lecture. It's important to take accurate, organized notes.
You're reminded of assignments and due dates.	It's important to check each course syllabus for due dates and test dates.
You take several tests that cover small amounts of material.	You take fewer tests that cover large amounts of material.
You learn facts and skills, and you solve problems similar to those in your textbook.	You learn concepts. You're expected to apply what you've learned to new situations and solve new problems.

## COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

Think of college as an investment in your future. Here's what you can do to ensure your investment yields the greatest return.

### Prioritize

- ▶ Learn to manage your time wisely by prioritizing. Put your classes/homework first, followed by work and extracurricular activities.
- ▶ Don't procrastinate! Study the more difficult subjects first.
- ▶ Stay healthy. Focus on your physical and mental health by making smart food choices, exercising, planning downtime and seeking help if needed.
- ▶ Don't forget down time. Your schedule may get crazy, so be sure to allow yourself adequate time to rest.

### Organize

- ▶ Use a daily planner, either written or electronic, and set reminders to help you stay on track.
- ▶ Review syllabi (a syllabus outlines the content and requirements for a course) often to avoid missing deadlines.
- ▶ Set midterm goals and analyze your progress along the way.
- ▶ Don't give up. Remember that you can overcome fear of failure, emotional blocks and unrealistic expectations by improving your organizational skills.

### Socialize

- ▶ Get to know the campus. Attend an upcoming event.
- ▶ Introduce yourself to your professors. If you're in large classes, you won't be just another face in the crowd.
- ▶ Get involved in at least one student organization.
- ▶ Be careful about overextending yourself; you can enjoy the social benefits of college without losing your focus.
- ▶ If you're away from your family, don't turn down an opportunity to be 'adopted' by a friend's family or someone from a local church.

## NEED MORE INFO?

Visit [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) or call 405.234.4239 or 866.443.7420 (toll free) for more information about planning, preparing and paying for college. "Like" us at [facebook.com/ucango2](https://facebook.com/ucango2) to receive regular scholarship updates.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OCAP

[www.ocap.org](http://www.ocap.org)

Oklahoma Money Matters

[www.OklahomaMoneyMatters.org](http://www.OklahomaMoneyMatters.org)

Ready Set Repay

[www.ReadySetRepay.org](http://www.ReadySetRepay.org)

OKcollegestart

[www.OKcollegestart.org](http://www.OKcollegestart.org)

*UCanGo2 is an initiative of the Oklahoma College Assistance Program, an operating division of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.*

