

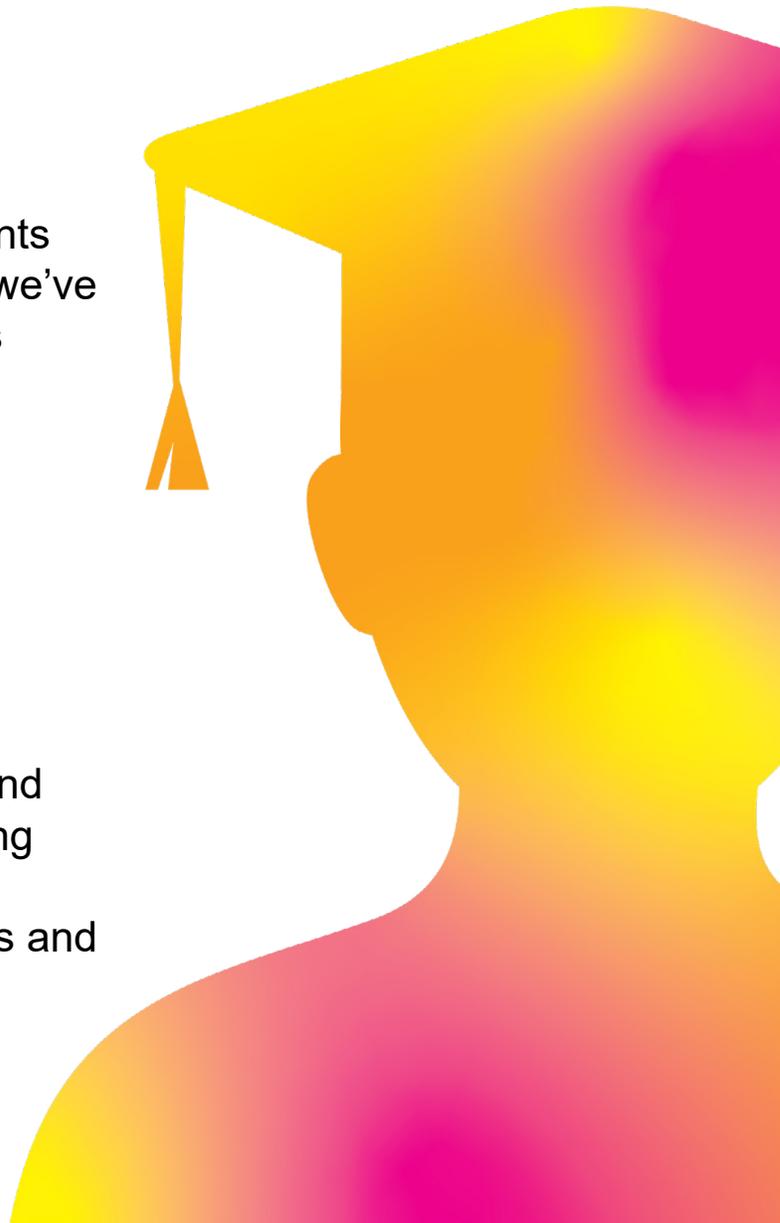


COUNSELOR TALKING POINTS: IDENTIFYING STUDENT PLANS FOR COLLEGE

Engaging middle school students in conversations about their future can be a challenging endeavor. Although your students are far too diverse to be truly categorized, we've identified three common reactions students might have to attending college:

- ▶ I'm going to college!
- ▶ I might go to college.
- ▶ Am I really college material?

Consider using the following sets of talking points to help identify fears, expectations and misconceptions students may face regarding college. The questions provided will help students open up and talk about their wants and needs related to higher education.





I'M GOING TO COLLEGE!

Some students know they'll continue their education after high school. Here are some ideas to assist students in their decision-making process.

- ▶ What are your interests?
- ▶ What do you want to do when you grow up?
- ▶ What kind of college or training are you/your parents looking for?
- ▶ Discuss classes and activities students are currently involved in to see if they're a good fit for their goals. Be ready to suggest any options you believe would support their plans for college.
- ▶ Encourage students to give their parents information about the Oklahoma 529 college savings plan. Have them visit oklahoma529.com to learn more.
- ▶ Discuss eligibility requirements for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship. Encourage students to talk to their parents about the program. More information can be found at okpromise.org.
- ▶ Emphasize the importance of developing good study habits now to help students prepare for more challenging classes in high school.
- ▶ Encourage students to visit OKcollegestart.org, which serves as a one-stop shop for college preparation, including career exploration and planning tools, financial aid and scholarship resources, and more.
- ▶ Advise students to ask questions and gather as much information as possible. UCanGo2.org is a great source of information about planning, preparing and paying for college.

Resources:

- ▶ [OSRHE's Do You Have a Plan for College? booklet, Grades 8-10](#)
- ▶ [Oklahoma 529's college savings plan brochures and forms](#)
- ▶ [Oklahoma's Promise flyer](#)



I MIGHT GO TO COLLEGE.

Some students are considering college after high school, but may be hesitant to make a definitive choice. As their counselor, you can help them identify their concerns and create a more positive impression of higher education.

- ▶ What are your interests?
- ▶ What do you want to do in life?
- ▶ What are your goals after high school?
- ▶ What might keep you from going to college or a career technology center?
- ▶ When is the right time to talk about your education after high school?
- ▶ Discuss eligibility requirements for the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship. Encourage students to talk to their parents about the program, and emphasize that they can enroll in the program in the eighth grade. Encourage them to visit okpromise.org.
- ▶ Encourage students to give their parents information about the Oklahoma 529 college savings plan. Have them visit oklahoma529.com to learn more.
- ▶ Emphasize the importance of developing good study habits now to help students prepare for more challenging classes in high school.
- ▶ Encourage students and parents to visit OKcollegestart.org for college planning information.
- ▶ Advise your students to ask questions and gather as much information as possible. UCanGo2.org is a great source of information about planning, preparing and paying for college.

Resources:

- ▶ [OSRHE's Do You Have a Plan for College? booklet, Grades 8-10](#)
- ▶ [Oklahoma 529's college savings plan brochures and forms](#)
- ▶ [Oklahoma's Promise flyer](#)
- ▶ [Degree vs. On-the-Job Training chart](#)

