

# 8TH GRADE CHECKLIST



- Get the skinny on scholarships.** Scholarships are called “free money” because they don’t have to be paid back! They’re given to college students based on financial need, talents or life experience. Your counselor will have information about scholarships available in your area. You can start to apply for scholarships right now if you do some research for eligible programs. “Like” UCanGo2 on Facebook to get regular notices of scholarship opportunities.
- Socialize.** Are you involved in any clubs, special interest or service groups? Find a group that sparks your talents and interests. Keep track of your extracurricular activities and volunteer work for college scholarship applications.

- Save away.** When you get extra money for work, birthdays or holidays, stash some of it away in your savings account for future expenses. See [OklahomaMoneyMatters.org](http://OklahomaMoneyMatters.org) for savings ideas and money management tools.
- Make courses count.** Choose challenging classes that will give you a head start for high school and college. Graduation and college entrance requirements can be found in the Prepare section at [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org).
- Grab a partner.** Ask an adult to help you research your options to see what would fit best with your college plans. See [UCanGo2.org](http://UCanGo2.org) for tips on planning, preparing and paying for college.
- Sign up.** Qualifying students can sign up for the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship program in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to earn free college tuition at an Oklahoma school. More information about eligibility is listed below. Talk to your school counselor or visit [OKPromise.org](http://OKPromise.org) to learn more.

Oklahoma’s Promise is a scholarship program that pays full or partial college tuition at many Oklahoma schools. To see if you might qualify for the program, check every statement below that applies to you and your family.

\_\_\_ My family’s income is \$55,000 or less per year (special income provisions apply to certain adopted children and children in the custody of court-appointed legal guardians).

\_\_\_ I’m in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade (or I’m a homeschooled student who is 13, 14 or 15 years old).

\_\_\_ I’m a resident of Oklahoma.

\_\_\_ I can meet the requirements of the Oklahoma’s Promise program:

- ✓ I’ll graduate from an Oklahoma high school or homeschool education program.
- ✓ I’ll take 17 units of specific college-prep curriculum.
- ✓ I’ll achieve at least a 2.50 GPA both in the curriculum and overall.
- ✓ I’ll attend school regularly.
- ✓ I’ll do my homework.
- ✓ I’ll stay away from drugs and alcohol.
- ✓ I won’t commit criminal or delinquent acts.
- ✓ I’ll meet with a school official to go over my school work and records on a regular basis.
- ✓ I’ll apply for other financial aid during my senior year of high school and every year I am enrolled in college by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- ✓ I’ll take part in Oklahoma’s Promise activities that will help me prepare for college.

If you were able to check all four statements above, be sure to apply for Oklahoma’s Promise while you’re in the 8th, 9th or 10th grade. Check out [OKPromise.org](http://OKPromise.org) for more information.