

# Types of Colleges



Webster's Dictionary offers the following definition of college:

## **Main Entry: col-lege**

Function: *noun*

1: College is an independent institution of higher learning offering instruction, usually in a professional, vocational or technical field.

There are many different types of colleges and schools in general, which means that you have a wide variety of choices. The best type of education for you may be available right here in Oklahoma. Check out [www.OKcollegestart.org](http://www.OKcollegestart.org) and click on "College Planning/Explore Postsecondary Schools" to learn about Oklahoma's public 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: Rogers State University and University of Central Oklahoma

## **Community Colleges**

- Take about two years to complete a degree program
- Are usually less expensive than some other types of colleges
- Examples: Redlands Community College and Tulsa Community College

## **Technical Branches**

- Emphasize education and training in technical fields
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and Oklahoma State University - Oklahoma City are Oklahoma's technical branches

## **Technology Centers**

- Prepare you for a specialized career or trade
- Offer several certifications, some online
- Examples: Kiamichi Technology Center and Red River 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
- Examples: Vatterott College and Oklahoma School of Photography

## **Private Schools**

- Privately-owned accredited colleges and universities that aren't supported by state funds
- Offer associate, bachelor's and/or graduate degrees
- Examples: Oklahoma City University and Saint Gregory's University

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