



2026-2027 OSRHE Rising Scholars Award

Important Information (In-State Automatic Qualifiers and Institutional Nominees)

Please review this information sheet before accepting the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) Rising Scholar Award and again as you plan your enrollment each semester. If, after reviewing this information, you have any questions, please contact us by email at finaid@okstate.edu, by phone at 405-744-6604 or in person in 119 Student Union.

About this Award:

- There are two parts to your award: a cash scholarship (amount specified on your award notice) funded by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education (OSRHE) and a tuition waiver scholarship funded by Oklahoma State University.
- One-half of the cash award will be credited to your OSU Bursar account each fall and spring semester.
- OSU will waive all in-state tuition charges for in-state Rising Scholars each fall and spring semester. This will appear as a direct reduction on your OSU Bursar account (see "Tuition Waiver Award Duration and Limitations," below).
- You must enroll as a degree-seeking student in at least 12 credit hours per semester (fall/spring) to receive the Rising Scholar Award (cash and tuition waiver), **and** you must also meet the annual "Renewal Requirements," below.
- You must begin using your scholarship the first semester it's available and use it continuously every fall and spring semester it's available, with no breaks in attendance at OSU, or it will be rescinded (see "Deferment").
- If you attend OSU only one fall or spring semester during any academic year of eligibility for this award, you'll receive no more than one-half of this scholarship's value that academic year.

Coordination with Other Aid and Cost of Attendance:

- ***Recipients cannot exceed cost of attendance when combining their Rising Scholar cash award with other scholarships and aid. The Rising Scholar cash award may be reduced if additional grants and scholarships are received and exceed OSU's in-state cost of attendance.***
- Students should enroll in at least 12 degree-applicable hours each semester to maximize this scholarship, as enrolling in fewer than 12 hours that count toward your degree can reduce your cost of attendance and may limit the amount of scholarship funding you receive.

OSU Tuition Waiver Award Duration and Limitations:

- The tuition waiver portion of this award waives the tuition portion of the block rate only, not fees.
- You're eligible for only one tuition waiver scholarship per semester (see "Coordination with Other Aid," below).
- The tuition waiver scholarship may be received for a total of five years (see "Renewal Requirements").
- The tuition waiver scholarship may be used in undergraduate and, in certain circumstances, graduate school at OSU. Please contact our office for information regarding eligibility while taking graduate courses.

OSRHE Cash Award Duration and Limitations:

- The OSRHE Cash Award may be received for a total of four years (see "Renewal Requirements").
- In some cases, the cash award may be extended beyond four years. OSRHE determines whether to allow you a fifth year of cash eligibility. Please contact our office during your senior year for help in making your request to the OSRHE.
- **The OSRHE Cash annual award amounts are subject to change and are dependent upon OSRHE's funding availability.**

Summer Eligibility:

- The OSU tuition waiver is normally available for fall and spring semester only; however Rising Scholars who receive approval from OSRHE to receive the cash award for summer also receive a tuition waiver scholarship that term.
- If you wish to receive part of your OSRHE cash award during the summer, you must contact the Oklahoma State Regents for approval prior to enrolling in OSU summer courses.
- If you use a portion of your eligibility in a summer term, your total award amount will be reduced by the amount of scholarship you received in the summer.

Locked Tuition and Tuition Scholarships:

- First-time, full-time, in-state students have the option to choose between the standard variable tuition rate (subject to change each fall) versus a locked tuition rate that will be guaranteed to remain the same, for up to four consecutive years. **However, per Oklahoma Regents for Higher Education policy, students who receive tuition waivers don't have the option of choosing the locked tuition rate.**

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Changes in Award Amount:

- If you're initially awarded as an "Institutional Nominee" and you meet the requirements for designation as an "Automatic Qualifier" [by achieving National Merit Finalist status or by earning the required score across the English, Math and Reading skill areas from an ACT superscore, national, district-choice state (DCST), or state-funded test] by the date specified by OSRHE, your cash award would increase.
- If, between now and the beginning of school, your admission status or academic credentials change because of new information, OSU reserves the right to retract this scholarship as only fully admissible, degree-seeking students in good academic standing are eligible for the award.

Deferment:

- In general, you must use your Rising Scholar Award continuously every fall and spring semester it's available; however, you may be eligible for a deferment in some cases.
- An approved deferment request lets you leave OSU for a time and retain your scholarship when you return, provided that you met the terms of the deferment. Deferments are not automatic.
- You must request deferment of your cash award directly from OSRHE; however, we encourage you to contact the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid for guidance on the process.
- You can request a deferment of the OSU tuition waiver by completing the [Request for Scholarship Deferment Form](#).
- You must meet the scholarship retention criteria, including GPA and hours earned (one-half of the required hours if here only one term that year), before you leave to be eligible for a deferment.

Cash Award Renewal Requirements:

- **You must earn 24 hours each academic year and achieve a 3.25 cumulative graduation/retention grade point average (GPA) to retain the OSRHE cash award. There is no probationary period.**
- A check will be made at the end of the spring semester to determine whether you've met the criteria for renewal of your cash award for the following year.
- OSRHE doesn't contact you if you fail to meet the cash award renewal requirement and there is no appeal process for the OSRHE cash award.
- Your cash award will cease until you satisfy the OSRHE requirements to repair your eligibility.
- If you don't satisfy the OSRHE's repair requirements *within the next academic year*, any future OSRHE cash award eligibility will be permanently lost.

Tuition Waiver Award Renewal Requirements:

- **You must enroll full-time each fall and spring and achieve a 2.00 cumulative graduation/retention grade point average (GPA) to retain the tuition waiver portion of your award. There is no probationary period.**
- A check will be made at the end of the spring semester to determine whether you've met the criteria for renewal of your tuition waiver scholarship for the following year.
- If you fail to enroll full-time each semester and maintain the required 2.00 cumulative graduation/retention GPA, you'll receive a letter and/or email from this office soon after the end of the spring semester with information regarding repair/appeal options.
- You must successfully appeal or repair your eligibility before the start of the immediately following school year or your tuition waiver scholarship will be permanently rescinded.

Renewal Requirement Information for both Cash and Tuition Waiver Awards:

- You must earn credit hours at OSU, during the fall and spring semesters, for them to count toward your scholarship renewal requirements. For example, taking an online course during the fall semester at another institution will not count toward those hours needed for renewal.
- If you attend OSU only one fall or spring semester in any year of eligibility, you'll receive no more than one-half of your scholarship's value that year and you must earn at least one-half of your required number of credit hours as well as attain the required GPA to renew your award for the following year (provided you have eligibility remaining).
- It's your responsibility to keep your postal and email address information current in the OSU Self-Service System at my.okstate.edu.