

2017 Legislative Agenda

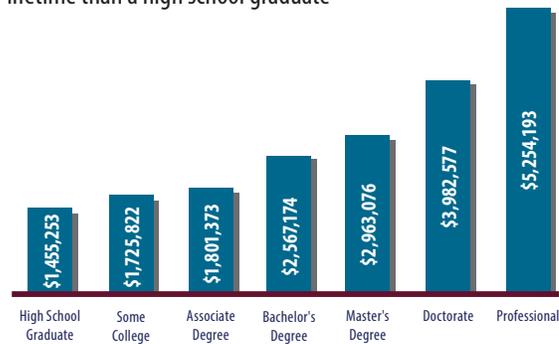
Higher Education: Strengthening Oklahoma's Workforce



The U.S. Chamber of Commerce ranks Oklahoma's system of higher education fifth in the nation in affordability, and the National Center for Education Statistics reports that the average student cost at a four-year public university in Oklahoma is third-lowest in the nation. The Southern Regional Education Board reports that among the 16 member states, Oklahoma's public four-year institutions have the lowest annual tuition and fees for in-state undergraduate students and the third highest increase in the number of degrees and certificates conferred.

Lifetime Earnings

A student with a college degree will earn \$1.1 million more in a lifetime than a high school graduate



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Census Bureau

COMPLETE COLLEGE AMERICA

Progress continues to reach Oklahoma's goal of increasing the number of degrees and certificates earned by 67 percent by 2023.

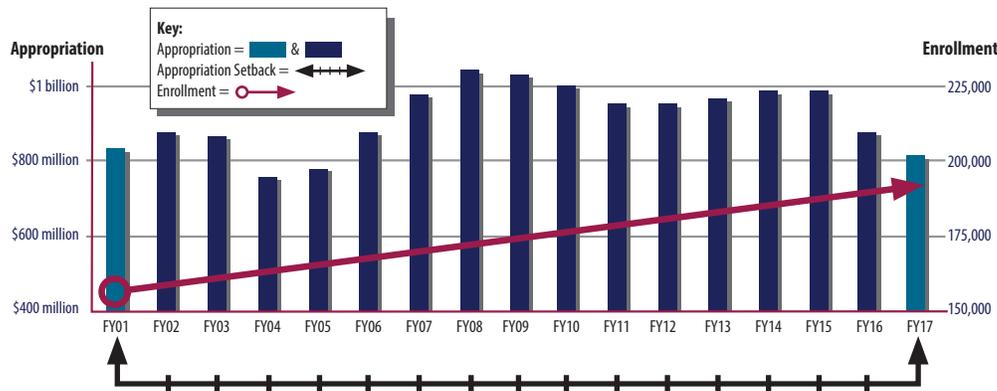
Additional degrees and certificates earned:



In the first four years of the CCA initiative, degrees and certificates earned in Oklahoma increased by 8,462, surpassing the state's benchmark of 6,800.

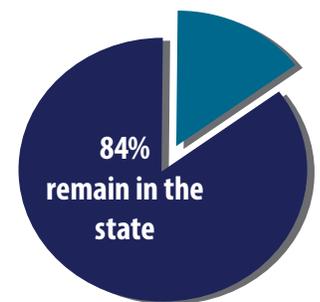
Historic Budget Cuts

State support for Oklahoma's higher education system has been set back almost a full generation. The \$810 million appropriation to public higher education for FY 2017 is \$4.8 million less than the amount appropriated in FY 2001.



Students Who Learn Here Earn Here

Eighty-four percent of Oklahoma residents who graduate with a college degree remain in the state and are employed in the state one year after graduation.



Source: 2016 Employment Outcomes Report

Workforce & Economic Impact of Public Higher Education

Governor Mary Fallin's Oklahoma Works initiative is designed to bridge the skills gap between our current workforce and workforce needs. By 2020, 67 percent of jobs in Oklahoma will require a college degree or additional postsecondary education and training, and 37 percent will require an associate degree, bachelor's degree or higher. Oklahoma higher education links academic programs directly to employment needs in the state's wealth-generating ecosystems, including our top four areas of degree production: business, health occupations, engineering and education. Degree and certificate production in critical STEM disciplines has increased 28 percent over the last five years.

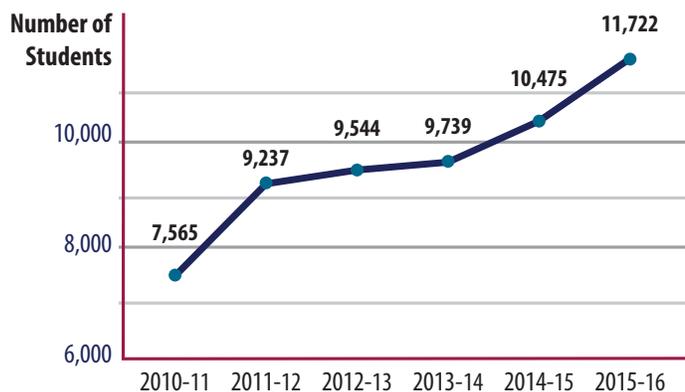


Our public higher education system generates more than **\$9.2 billion** in economic impacts. For every dollar of state appropriations invested in higher education, **\$4.72** is returned to Oklahoma's economy.

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Concurrent Enrollment

The concurrent enrollment program allows outstanding juniors and seniors to earn college credit while still in high school. In 2015-16, there were more than 11,700 student enrollments in concurrent enrollment courses generating more than 103,000 credit hours. The State Regents earmarked \$2.3 million of returned FY 2016 funding to support concurrent enrollment at campuses across the state.



No Weapons on Campus

There is no scenario in which allowing guns on campuses will do anything other than create a more dangerous environment for our students, faculty and visitors. Oklahoma higher education does not oppose the second amendment or gun ownership. Under current law, campus presidents have the discretion to grant exceptions to the weapons ban when an exception is warranted. The current law is working.



In the past nine legislative sessions, bills have either been introduced or discussed that would allow guns on campus. Each attempt has been successfully defeated to date, and ensuring similar legislation does not become law will continue to be a state system priority.

Oklahoma's Promise

The state system of higher education strongly supports keeping the Oklahoma's Promise scholarship, which provides college funding for approximately 18,900 students, intact as an access program. More than 70,000 Oklahoma students have received the scholarship since the program's inception.



Impacts of Historic Budget Cuts to Higher Education

-  faculty and staff positions eliminated, unfilled and furloughed
-  academic programs and courses eliminated
-  reduced funding for scholarships and tuition waivers
-  reduced academic, support, and community services
-  Reduced, suspended and eliminated athletic programs
-  closed learning sites

FY 2018 Budget Need

FY 2017 Appropriation \$810,022,109

FY 2018 Budget Need:

1. Degree Completion Programs and Initiatives	\$122,700,000
a. Instruction and Academic Enterprise Requirements	\$94,200,000
• Includes mandatory fixed costs of \$21,500,000	
b. Facility Renovation/Physical Plant Maintenance	\$18,600,000
c. Institutional Scholarships	\$9,900,000
2. Financial Aid Programs	\$12,700,000
a. Restoration of Scholarship Programs	\$6,300,000
b. Full Funding of Concurrent Enrollment Program	\$6,400,000
3. Capital Requirements	\$11,400,000
a. 2005 Capital Bond Issue Debt Service Payments	\$9,600,000
b. Restoration of Maintenance and Repair Budget Reduction (Section 13 Offset)	\$1,800,000
4. Restoration of Shared Service Programs	\$1,100,000

FY 2018 Total Budget Need \$957,922,109

- \$ Difference from FY 2017 State Appropriations \$147,900,000
- % Difference from FY 2017 State Appropriations 18.3%

Contact

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