



OPPORTUNITY ORANGE SCHOLARS

College of Education and Human Sciences

Admissions and Application Information

2025-2026 ACADEMIC YEAR



OPPORTUNITY ORANGE SCHOLARS

Admissions Criteria

Opportunity Orange Scholars is an individualized two-year, residential, non-degree certificate program at Oklahoma State University for students with a primary or secondary diagnosis of intellectual disability. We accept students between the ages of 18 and 26. Transfer credits from other colleges or postsecondary programs do not apply.

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements to apply for Opportunity Orange Scholars:

- Are 18 to 26 years of age by the first day of the fall semester of admission.
- Have a diagnosis of intellectual disability and do not meet the criteria as a degree-seeking student.*
- Personal desire to gain necessary skills for self-determination, interdependent living, community engagement, and employment.
- Ability to identify basic support needs.
- Self-manage daily activities including medication. **

* The program adheres to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) definition of intellectual disability as “a disability characterized by significant limitations both in intellectual functioning and in adaptive behavior as expressed in conceptual, social, and practical adaptive skills. This disability originates before the age of 22.” Evidence of significant limitations in intellectual and cognitive functioning and adaptive behavior must be provided in the form of a psychoeducational evaluation, the most recent Individualized Education Plan (IEP), and/or a formal letter from a licensed professional with expertise in intellectual disability assessment.

****IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Opportunity Orange Scholars does not provide 24/7 supervision for students. Parents and Applicants must trust scholars can make safe decisions without 24/7 supervision and structured programming on evenings and weekends. The safety of our students drives every decision made by our staff. A student may be dismissed from the program if, in the professional opinion of our staff, the student is displaying behavior that could endanger themselves or someone else.*

If you do NOT meet the above criteria AND if you have a high school diploma with at least a 3.0 GPA and/or an ACT score of 21 or better, admission as a degree-seeking student at Oklahoma State University may be a better option for you.

Application Process

How to Apply

- Applicants must apply for admission through the [Opportunity Orange Scholars](#) website. Students do not complete a traditional OSU admissions application.
- Completed application and all requested materials must be submitted by November 15th to be considered for Fall 2025 admissions.
- Incomplete application packets will not be considered.
- Applicants will receive an automated email confirmation of receipt of their application.

Current application materials are only valid for the current application period (2025 - 2026). Applicants who are not accepted for the current academic period will be required to submit a new application each year should they decide to reapply in the future.

Application Checklist

- Online Opportunity Orange Scholars Student Application**

DUE NOVEMBER 15, 2024.

- Non-refundable \$40 application fee**

- Uploaded ONE application video**

- Applicants are asked to submit ONE video of themselves answering some of the application questions. Videos do not have to be professionally made. An uploaded video from your computer or cell phone is just fine. Videos should NOT exceed more than 6 minutes. Please answer the following questions during your video:
 - **Introduction** -- *Why are you interested in applying for Opportunity Orange Scholars? (2) What excites you most about being a college student at OSU?*
 - **Living away from home** -- *If selected to be a student in Opportunity Orange Scholars, you will live on campus away from home. (1) What do you think would be the best part of about living away from home and your family if you go to OSU? (2) What do you think will be the hardest part about living away from home and your family?*

- Provided contact information for THREE recommendations****

- **Academic recommendation:** Someone who can speak to your educational and social experiences in school (for example: a teacher, school counselor, guidance counselor, principal, etc.)
- **Employment/Volunteer recommendation:** Someone who can speak to your experiences as an employee at work and/or during volunteer activities.
- **Social/character recommendation:** Someone who can speak to your character, social skills, and ability to manage behaviors (e.g., coach, clergy, coworker, etc.).

**A recommendation form will be sent to each reference via email. Applications are not considered complete until we have received all three online recommendation forms. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your references have received and submitted their forms before the due date. We do NOT accept written letters of recommendation/support in place of required recommendation forms.

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- High-school transcript OR equivalent documentation of school experiences**
- Most recent Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**
- Psychoeducational Evaluation** (completed within the last 3 years)
- Proof of diagnosis** (ex: most recent psychoeducational evaluation, signed letter from licensed clinical professional, etc.) - OOS requires documentation that lists a primary or secondary diagnosis of intellectual disability to meet admission criteria
- Letter(s) of Guardianship, if applicable** (for example: court order for appointment guardian, letters of guardianship, etc.) - If applicants are their own guardian, no paperwork is required.

Application Timeline - What to Expect

- **All applications (including supporting documents and recommendation forms) are due November 15th.**
 - Review of complete applications begins the last week of November.
 - Select candidates are invited to an interview with the Opportunity Orange Scholars admissions committee in early January 2025.
 - Students will be notified by **February 2025** about admission to the program.
 - Five to eight students will be admitted to begin study in the Fall 2025 semester.
 - Acceptance and admission into Opportunity Orange Scholars is selective. Meeting basic admission criteria does not guarantee acceptance into the program.
 - Accepted Scholars will be required to attend orientation in-person Summer 2025. Detailed Complete orientation information will be provided upon acceptance.
 - First day of fall semester: **August 18, 2025.**
-

BEGIN APPLICATION (button/link - reroutes to online application)

Please complete your application by following these steps:

- Create a new account.
 - Answer all of the questions on the application
 - Upload all of the required support documents and video.
 - Provide recommendation contact information.
 - Pay the application fee.
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**OPPORTUNITY
ORANGE SCHOLARS**

OOS 2025-2026 APPLICATION

Thank you for considering our program!

Admissions Criteria

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You must meet all of the following requirements to apply for Opportunity Orange Scholars:

- Are 18 to 26 years of age by the first day of the fall 2025 semester of admission.
- Have a diagnosis of intellectual disability and do not meet the criteria as a degree-seeking student.*
- Personal desire to gain necessary skills for self-determination, interdependent living, community engagement, and employment.
- Ability to identify basic support needs.
- Self-manage daily activities including medication. **

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****IMPORTANT NOTE:** *Opportunity Orange Scholars does not provide 24/7 supervision for students. Parents and Applicants must trust scholars can make safe decisions without 24/7 supervision and structured programming on evenings and weekends. The safety of our students drives every decision made by our staff. A student may be dismissed from the program if, in the professional opinion of our staff, the student is displaying behavior that could endanger themselves or someone else.*

Application Process

ALL APPLICATIONS ARE DUE ON NOVEMBER 15, 2024!

Opportunity Orange Scholars WILL NOT review your application until all THREE recommendation forms have been received. References should *not* be family members. References may be contacted by Opportunity Orange Scholars to ask more about your ability and desire to be successful in college. Listing any information that is false or incorrect on this application is not allowed.

- All of your application materials will be destroyed immediately after final decisions are made if your application is not accepted.
 - Please submit ALL of your information in the online application portal.
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- Admission to Opportunity Orange Scholars is selective. Meeting basic requirements does not guarantee admission to the program

STUDENT INFORMATION (text box)

1. First Name
2. Middle Initial
3. Last Name
4. Preferred Name
5. Age
6. Student Date of Birth
7. Student Phone Number
8. Student Email Address
9. Student's Primary Diagnosis
10. Student's Secondary Diagnosis, if applicable
11. Address
12. City
13. State
14. Zip Code
15. Email Address

SUPPORT SERVICES

16. If you are 18 or older, do you have a legal guardian?
Note: Having a legal guardian does not exclude you from applying for OOS.
 - Yes
 - No
 - N/A I am currently under the age of 18
17. If 'yes', please list the name of your guardian(s)? _____
18. What is your relationship to your guardian(s)? _____

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19. What type of guardianship does your guardian have:
- General Guardianship - A "general" guardian has full legal responsibility for you and your property.
 - Limited Guardianship - A "limited" guardian has limited legal responsibility for you and/or your property.
20. Do you receive services through Developmental Disabilities Services (DDS) in Oklahoma?
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know.
21. Are you a client of Oklahoma's Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)?
- Yes
 - No
 - I don't know

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FAMILY INFORMATION

22. Who do you currently live with?

- Both parents
- Mother
- Father
- Sibling(s)
- Guardian(s)
- Other: _____

Family/Guardian/Emergency Contact #1:

- 23. Relationship to Student
- 24. First Name
- 25. Last Name
- 26. Home Phone
- 27. Cell Phone
- 28. Address
- 29. City
- 30. State
- 31. Zip Code
- 32. Occupation/Employer
- 33. Work Phone
- 34. Email Address

Family/Guardian/Emergency Contact #2:

- 35. Relationship to Student
- 36. First Name
- 37. Last Name
- 38. Home Phone
- 39. Cell Phone
- 40. Address
- 41. City
- 42. State
- 43. Zip Code
- 44. Occupation/Employer
- 45. Work Phone
- 46. Email Address

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Education History

47. High School Information: Please list the information for any high school you have ever attended in the table below.

This does not apply to me. I did not attend high school.

Name of High School	Location (City, State)	Grades Attended	What years did you attend each high school?	Did you graduate? What type of diploma or certificate did you receive, if so?
			_____ to _____	
			_____ to _____	
			_____ to _____	

48. College or University Information: Please list the information for any college you have ever attended in the table below.

This does not apply to me. I have never attended college.

Name of College/ University	Location (City, State)	What years did you attend the university?	What classes did you take?
		_____ to _____	
		_____ to _____	

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49. Other Education or Training: Please list the information for any other educational or training programs (besides high school or college) you have ever attended in the table below (for example, *Project SEARCH*).

This does not apply to me. I did not attend any other training program or school.

Name of School/Program	Location (City, State)	What years did you attend this school/program?	Did you graduate? What type of diploma, certificate, or credentials did you receive, if so?
		_____to _____	
		_____to _____	
		_____to _____	

50. Did/do you participate in any teams, clubs, or other activities during high school?

- Yes
- No

51. If 'yes,' please list the types of teams, clubs, or activities you were involved with during high school?

52. Do you participate in any community organizations or programs (examples: religious organizations, member of a group fitness club, band)?

- Yes
- No

53. If 'yes,' please list the community organizations or programs you were involved in?

Employment History

54. Have you ever had a job? This may include any jobs where you were paid or not paid, any jobs through your school, or any training or internships.

Note: Employment experience is NOT a requirement to apply for OOS.

- Yes
 No

If 'yes,' please provide the information for your two (2) most recent employers below:

55. Employer #1

Company Name	Location (City, State)	What was your supervisor's name?	Supervisor's Phone Number AND Email	What was your job title?	When did you work here?
					From _____ to _____

56. What were you responsible for at this job?

57. How did you find/get this job?

58. What type of employment was this job?

- Paid employment
 (drop down, if selected)
 ○ How much money did you make per hour? _____
 Internship
 Volunteer

59. Why did you leave this job?

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60. **Employer #2**

Company Name	Location (City, State)	What was your supervisor's name?	Supervisor's Phone Number AND Email	What was your job title?	When did you work here?
					From _____ to _____

61. What were you responsible for at this job?

62. How did you find/get this job?

63. What type of employment was this job?

- Paid employment
- (drop down, if selected)
 - How much money did you make per hour? _____
- Internship
- Volunteer

64. Why did you leave this job?

65. Describe any volunteer experiences you have had:

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STUDENT QUESTIONNAIRE

This section will help us learn more about you and your goals. The section is broken down into two parts: (1) video responses and (2) short answer questions.

Section 1: Video Response

You will be asked to submit ONE (1) video of yourself answering TWO (2) prompts/questions. Your video does not have to be professionally made. You will create your video in our application system, and will have the chance to make a practice video.

*Your video should be **NO MORE THAN 6 MINUTES EACH** in length.*

66. VIDEO RESPONSE - Introduction Video

- *Prompt #1: Why are you interested in applying for Opportunity Orange scholars, and what excites you about being a college student at OSU?*
- *Prompt #2: If selected to be a student in Opportunity Orange scholars, you will live on campus away from home. What do you think would be the best part about living away from home and your family if you go to OSU, and what do you think will be the hardest?*

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Section 2: Short Answer Questions

This section includes THREE (3) questions to help us learn more about you and your goals.

You should answer each essay question on your own, using your own skills and words. Decisions about admission to the OOS program are not based on grammar and spelling.

It is important that YOU complete your own application. It may be helpful to type your responses in a Word document first, and then copy/paste the text into the application.

Please be sure to answer ALL three questions. Your answers should be brief.

Please answer each of the following questions in FIFTY (50) words or less.

67. **Question 1:** How did you learn about Opportunity Orange Scholars? (50 words max)

68. **Question 2:** What would be a job you would like to have one day and how do you think Opportunity Orange Scholars can help prepare you for that? (50 words max)

69. **Question 3:** If you were selected to participate in Opportunity Orange Scholars, what would be TWO (2) goals that you would like to work on while in the program? (50 words max)

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Medical Independence

70. Do you currently take medications, daily or when needed, independently?

Yes

No

71. Do you currently have any non-medication medical support needs (for example dietary restrictions, extreme food allergies)?

Yes

No

If yes, please describe what supports you currently use to stay healthy? (We do not need to know specific diagnoses or medications).

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Release and Exchange of Information

All of the written and submitted documentation to confirm a disability and to plan for appropriate services provided within this application will be kept confidential by Opportunity Orange Scholars and Oklahoma State University. However, it may be necessary for Opportunity Orange Scholars to exchange some information about you with other individuals on a need-to-know basis. This exchange will occur only with your written permission.

72. I, _____(type name), give my permission to exchange information about me and my application with offices/individuals checked below:

- My previous school
- My previous employer/supervisor
- My parent(s)/guardian(s)
- My references
- Oklahoma Department of Vocational Rehabilitation
- Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Services
- Oklahoma State University partnering offices/departments

- If 'yes' to Q16 (legal guardian):
Consent of Legal Guardian

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

Recommendation Forms

You must submit the contact information for THREE (3) references. These must include: (1) academic recommendation, (1) employment recommendation, and (1) character recommendation. See below for more details.

Once you have submitted your application, each of your references will be sent online recommendation forms by email. Recommendation forms should be completed by *non-family members* who have known you for *at least two years*.

** Your application will NOT be considered complete until we have received all three online recommendation forms from your references. It is YOUR responsibility to ensure your references receive and submit their forms before the due date. We do NOT accept written letters of recommendation/support in place of required recommendation forms.

73. **Academic Recommendation** - *someone who can tell us about your educational and social experiences in school (for example: a teacher, school counselor, guidance counselor, principal, etc.)*

Name (First, Last)	
Position/Company	
Address: City, State	
How do you know this person?	
How long have you known this person?	
Email address	
Phone Number	

74. **Employment/Volunteer Recommendation** - *someone who can tell us about your experiences as an employee at work and during volunteer activities.*

Name (First, Last)	
Position/Company	
Address: City, State	
How do you know this person?	
How long have you known this person?	
Email address	
Phone Number	

75. **Social/Character Recommendation** - *someone who can tell us about your character, social skills, and ability to manage behaviors (e.g., pastor, coach, coworker, *teacher*, etc.).*

Name (First, Last)	
Position/Company	
Address: City, State	
How do you know this person?	
How long have you known this person?	
Email address	
Phone Number	

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76. I, _____, agree as part of the application process, to waive my right to access the student recommendation forms. This means I will NOT have access to any of the recommendation forms.

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name if you agree: _____

- If 'yes' to Q16 (legal guardian):
Consent of Legal Guardian
In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

77. We all need help and support sometimes. Who helped you complete this application? _____

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Conduct Information

Oklahoma State University is committed to a safe and ethical academic environment for all members of our community. As someone who is interested in applying to become a student at OSU, you are required to answer these following questions. Please be honest when answering. Answering 'Yes' to any question does not mean you cannot apply to the OOS program. However, it does mean your application will have to be reviewed by the Office of Student Support and Conduct.

If you have questions or need clarification about your responses below, please contact the Office of Student Support and Conduct at 405-744-5470 or email the Opportunity Orange Scholars program at ooscholars@okstate.edu.

Additional information about OSU's Student Code of Conduct, click [here](#).

78. Have you ever been suspended or expelled from any school as a result of a non-academic issue?

No

Yes

If 'yes', please tell us more about that experience:

79. Do you have any pending felony charges?

No

Yes

80. Have you been convicted, plead guilty, plead no contest, or accepted a deferred judgment to any criminal felony charges?

No

Yes

81. Are you required to register your name and home address with any local or state law enforcement agency (for example, as a registered sex offender)?

No

Yes

Certification

I understand that this application is for admission to the Opportunity Orange Scholars program at Oklahoma State University and that by submitting an application today, I am not guaranteed a spot in the program. This application is only valid for the 2025-2026 term. This is not an application for admission as a degree-seeking, undergraduate freshman. I understand and agree that I will be bound by the program's regulations concerning application deadline dates and admission requirements.

I certify the information given in this application is complete and correct. All of the information, videos, essay responses, and documents submitted are my own. I understand that I may have support with my application but that I am to answer the questions about myself to the best of my ability. I certify that the information I have provided is accurate, and I understand that if I were to submit information that was untrue, inaccurate, or misrepresented the ideas, writings, or words of someone else within this application, that my application could be denied.

If accepted into the program, I promise to fulfill all financial obligations to the institution which I may incur and hereby agree to abide by the policies of the Oklahoma Board of Regents and the rules and regulations of the university. Should any of the information in my application change prior to my enrollment at the university, I will immediately notify Opportunity Orange Scholars.

I give permission to any high school, university or college I have attended to provide enrollment and/or grade information if requested by Opportunity Orange Scholars and/or Oklahoma State University.

I understand the fee I submit with this application cannot be refunded.

I understand that as a student at Oklahoma State University, photography or video may be taken of me when in public spaces, attending campus events or in the classroom and could be used for University marketing and promotional purposes. I agree that any photograph or video that includes my face, voice, and appearance will become the property of OSU, and I will receive no financial payments for those materials.

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name if you agree: _____

- If 'yes' to Q16 (legal guardian):
Consent of Legal Guardian

In place of your signature, please type your full legal name:

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UPLOAD SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- High-school transcript OR equivalent documentation of school experiences**
 - Most recent Individualized Education Plan (IEP)**
 - Psychoeducational Evaluation** (completed within the last 3 years)
 - Proof of diagnosis** (ex: most recent psychoeducational evaluation, signed letter from licensed clinical professional, etc.) - OOS requires documentation that lists a primary or secondary diagnosis of intellectual disability to meet admission criteria
 - Letter(s) of Guardianship, if applicable** (for example: court order for appointment guardian, letters of guardianship, etc.) - If applicants are their own guardian, no paperwork is required.
-

APPLICATION FEE

- **Non-refundable \$40 application fee**
 - (Submit credit card/electronic check information)
-

Please be sure to double check that you have answered all of the questions and have submitted all supporting documents and files, including:

- Complete Application
 - Video
 - Name and email of Recommendation #1
 - Name and email of Recommendation #2
 - Name and email of Recommendation #3
 - High-school transcript or documentation of prior schooling
 - Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
 - Psychoeducational Evaluation
 - Proof of Guardianship, if applicable
 - Application fee
-

I AM READY TO SUBMIT MY APPLICATION!!

AUTOMATIC RESPONSE:

Thank you for your interest in Opportunity Orange Scholars! Your application has now been successfully submitted.

Our review of applications will begin the last week of November and you should hear from one of our team members, if selected for an interview, in late December.