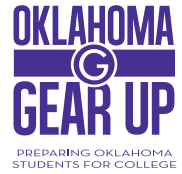




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GEAR UP WEEK
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2014 GEAR UP Week Toolkit

Show them what it takes to go to college.

Hold a **GEAR UP Week** at your school to get students thinking about their plans after high school! This event is an opportunity to kick off the year with fun and exciting (yet low-maintenance) activities that encourage a college-going culture in your school and community.

Use these materials during National GEAR UP Week, or anytime that works for you. This packet has everything you need — **instructions, posters, announcements, etc.** — to put on a week of programs designed to get the word out about GEAR UP and promote the importance of going on to college. Choose to do some or all of the activities, or create your own traditions.

GEAR UP Week Daily Activities

MONDAY: Dream Wall

TUESDAY: College Gear Day

WEDNESDAY: College Trivia

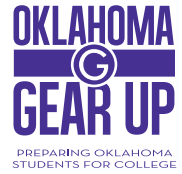
THURSDAY: Postcards and Gift Card Giveaway

FRIDAY: I Love GEAR UP Photo Contest Winners Announced





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Suggested Daily Activities and Tips

MONDAY

GEAR UP Dream Wall

Create a GEAR UP Dream Wall. Cover the wall of a classroom with butcher paper and place a large National GEAR UP Week logo in the center with “Our GEAR UP Dreams” written underneath. Have students write their academic, professional and personal goals on the wall.

TIP: Take a picture of students by their dreams and deliver copies to your U.S. senators and representative. Make additional copies to send to your school board, mayor and state elected officials.

TUESDAY

GEAR UP College Gear Day

Encourage students to wear T-shirts from their favorite college. Teachers should wear shirts from their alma mater.

TIP: Take photos and post them on the Oklahoma GEAR UP Facebook page.

Participate in National GEAR UP Week!

Take a picture in front of your dream wall and post it to your favorite social media site. Include the hashtag **#GEARUPWeek** with your school name and state.

WEDNESDAY

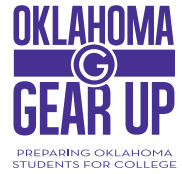
College Trivia

Hand out college trivia sheets during lunch or advisory period. Students with the most correct answers receive a special prize.

TIP: Have students work in teams.



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THURSDAY

Postcards & Gift Card Giveaway

Spread the word about GEAR UP to your U.S. senators and representative. Encourage students to write a short postcard (we'll send color copies to your school) about their plans for education.

Turn in your postcard for a chance to win a \$20 iTunes gift card. We'll give away one card per school site. We'll take care of the mailing! Just send the postcards using the self-addressed mailer included in this kit.

Ten ideas for personalized postcards to dignitaries for Oklahoma GEAR UP Week:

Thank you for supporting Oklahoma GEAR UP. What has GEAR UP meant to me?

- 1) *I was able to visit a college campus for the first time.*
- 2) *I was able to attend a summer leadership and science camp on a college campus.*
- 3) *I received free training for the ACT exam.*
- 4) *I took the ACT exam for free.*
- 5) *GEAR UP introduced me to Oklahoma's Promise.*
- 6) *I know what it takes to get into college.*
- 7) *My family attended financial aid nights at my school and learned more about how to pay for college.*
- 8) *GEAR UP helped me apply for college during College Application Week.*
- 9) *The GEAR UP education specialist at my school has really helped me plan for my future.*
- 10) *The GEAR UP website/materials have helped me plan for college.*

TIP: Make copies to send to your school board, mayor and elected state officials.

FRIDAY

I Love GEAR UP Photo Contest Winners Announced

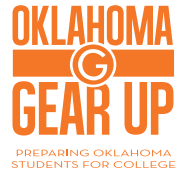
Announce the winners of the I Love GEAR UP photo contest and submit their pictures online at [facebook.com/okgearup](https://www.facebook.com/okgearup), or email kallison@osrhe.edu or abruce@osrhe.edu.

TIP: Invite an elected official and/or local news reporter to help judge!

Let us know what you're planning and how we can help. Email us at kallison@osrhe.edu or abruce@osrhe.edu.



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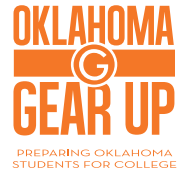


College Trivia

1. In what city is the University of Central Oklahoma located?
 2. At what type of college can you earn an associate degree?
 3. In which athletic conference do the Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma State Cowboys play?
 4. Name three high-demand career fields in Oklahoma.
 5. What is the name of a test you must take to get into the University of Tulsa?
 6. Which public two-year college is located in El Reno, Oklahoma? **R**
 7. The federal financial aid application a college student completes to receive grants, work study and/or student loans is called the _____.
 8. Name two requirements for Oklahoma's Promise.
 9. The average cost of a college textbook is \$40. True or false?
 10. A scholarship that is awarded every year without reapplying as long as the student's GPA stays at a certain level is called a _____ scholarship.
 11. What part of a financial aid award must be paid back?
 12. What is the mascot for Southeastern Oklahoma State University? -
 13. A letter written for a student applying for college admission to put in a good word for them is a _____.
 14. Name two high school graduation requirements.
 15. Which Oklahoma community college has the most students?
 16. What is the name of a financial aid offer in which the college provides the student a job?
 17. How many public four-year colleges and universities are there in Oklahoma?
 18. What is the mission of Oklahoma GEAR UP?
 19. What is Oklahoma's land grant university?
 20. How much more money does a college graduate make compared to someone who doesn't go to college?
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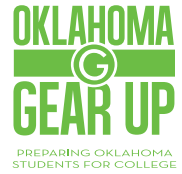


College Trivia

1. In what city is the University of Central Oklahoma located? - **Edmond**
 2. At what type of college can you earn an associate degree? - **Community College**
 3. In which athletic conference do the Oklahoma Sooners and Oklahoma State Cowboys play? - **Big 12**
 4. Name three high-demand career fields in Oklahoma. - **Petroleum, health care, education, anything STEM related**
 5. What is the name of a test you must take to get into the University of Tulsa? - **ACT or SAT**
 6. Which public two-year college is located in El Reno, Oklahoma? **Redlands Community College**
 7. The federal financial aid application a college student completes to receive grants, work study and/or student loans is called the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**.
 8. Name two requirements for Oklahoma's Promise. - **Take the required classes, make good grades, stay out of trouble**
 9. The average cost of a college textbook is \$40. True or false? - **False - the average is \$300**
 10. A scholarship that is awarded every year without reapplying as long as the student's GPA stays at a certain level is called a **renewable** scholarship.
 11. What part of a financial aid award must be paid back? - **Loan**
 12. What is the mascot for Southeastern Oklahoma State University? - **Savage Storm**
 13. A letter written for a student applying for college admission to put in a good word for them is a **letter of recommendation**.
 14. Name two high school graduation requirements. - **Earn high school credit, Pass state tests or approved alternatives to those tests, complete a culminating project**
 15. Which Oklahoma community college has the most students? - **Oklahoma City Community College**
 16. What is the name of a financial aid offer in which the college provides the student a job? - **Work study**
 17. How many public four-year colleges and universities are there in Oklahoma? - **25**
 18. What is the mission of Oklahoma GEAR UP? - **The mission of the state grant is to help make communities more of a college-bound population by providing activities, services and information to strengthen classroom learning and student achievement, empower educators and community leaders and educate students and families.**
 19. What is Oklahoma's land grant university? - **Oklahoma State University**
 20. How much more money does a college graduate make compared to someone who doesn't go to college? - **\$1 million**
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Announcements

Use the following announcements about GEAR UP Week and getting ready for college during regular announcements or on school TVs.

MONDAY: It's GEAR UP Week! This event will feature college awareness activities every day this week. Begin your dream wall today by writing your academic, professional and personal goals on your homeroom door. Tomorrow is College T-Shirt Tuesday! Wear your favorite college gear. Share your plan for college and career on facebook.com/okgearup, or email it to kallison@osrhe.edu or abruce@osrhe.edu.

TUESDAY: Happy GEAR UP Week! What do Garth Brooks, Barry Sanders and the governor of Oklahoma have in common? They all graduated from Oklahoma State University! Where do you want to go to school, and what do you want do? Check out facebook.com/okgearup to share your plan for college and career.

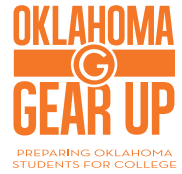
WEDNESDAY: Day 3 of GEAR UP Week! Here's a trivia question: What is the mascot of Southeastern Oklahoma State University? Answer this question and many others at College Trivia during lunch today – winners will receive a special prize! And remember – “like” the Oklahoma GEAR UP Facebook page to learn more about getting ready for college.

THURSDAY: GEAR UP Week has been awesome! Today, stop by to fill out a postcard describing YOUR plan for the future for a chance to win an iTunes gift card! We will send these to the Oklahoma senators and representatives who help make GEAR UP possible.

FRIDAY: Thanks to everyone who has made GEAR UP Week a huge success. We will be announcing the winners of the I Love GEAR UP photo contest later today. Stay tuned! Also, did you know we have a website to help you on your journey to college? Find out more at okcollegestart.org.



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I GEAR UP

The “I **GEAR UP**” campaign is a statewide initiative to show just how many people support GEAR UP.

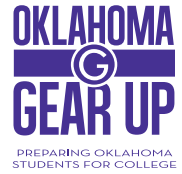
To participate, ask students, families, teachers, administrators, community partners and friends of the program to hold the provided sign, snap a picture and upload to social media sites with the tag **#OKGEARUP**.

Just remember to get signed photo releases for underage participants, and document the names of folks in the photos so we know who to thank for the GEAR UP love!

On Facebook, make sure to tag **#OKGEARUP**, and tweet your photos at **@okgearup**. We'll be checking Instagram, too, so if you tag us on your photos there, we'll find them!



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2014 GEAR UP

What it takes.

This bag serves a dual purpose as a group activity. Have students write down one idea each about what they think it takes to get to college and put those ideas in the bag. Then, discuss other ideas as a group and continue adding them. At the end, highlight how much work those pieces of paper represent and emphasize the importance of having a plan to get to college.

