OU ranks No. 1 in the nation among all public institutions in the number of National Merit Scholars enrolled, with more than 800 National Merit Scholars.

OU is the only public university in U.S. history to ever rank first among both public and private universities in the number of freshman National Merit Scholars.

OU has the academically highest ranked student body at a public university in Oklahoma history.

The 2016 freshman class is the highest academically ranked incoming freshman class in the history of the university. The incoming freshman class has the highest average ACT score, 26.5.

The 2016 freshman class includes 486 students who had perfect 4.0 academic averages in high school.

OU has achieved an all-time record freshman-to-sophomore retention rate of 90 percent, ranking OU among the top universities in the nation. OU is one of only 34 public institutions in the nation currently reporting retention rates of 90 percent or higher.

OU is the only public university in Oklahoma to be included in the Fiske Guide to Colleges, which lists the top 10 percent of all U.S. universities.

OU has produced 29 Rhodes Scholars; no other university in Oklahoma has had more than three.

OU is the only university in the nation, public or private, whose students have won Goldwater, Mitchell, Truman, Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright and National Security Education Program scholarships in the same year.

Three OU students have been named 2016 Goldwater Scholars, placing OU in the top ranks of universities nationally with 51 Goldwater Scholars since the competition began in 1991. The prestigious scholarships are awarded on the basis of potential and intent to pursue research careers in mathematics, the natural science or engineering.

Hester Hall, home of the College of International Studies, was renamed as Farzaneh Hall and the Iranian Studies Programs was renamed as Farzaneh Family Center for Iranian and Persian Gulf Studies in recognition of a gift from the Farzaneh Family Foundation, which is the largest gift from international students to the university in OU history.

With construction underway and move-in set for next fall, OU will become one of the first public universities in the country to build residential colleges for upperclassmen and women, patterned on those at Yale, Harvard, Oxford and Cambridge in England. The living/learning communities will become the cornerstone of the undergraduate experience.

OU was recently awarded the prestigious Davis Cup for the fourth consecutive year in recognition of its record-setting enrollment of United World College International freshmen. OU is the only public university to ever be awarded the Davis Cup.

OU students have achieved a new record for the highest percentage of summer enrollment in the Big 12. Almost 9,000 OU students enrolled in summer classes.

OU continues to break private fundraising records, with more than $2.3 billion in gifts and pledges since 1994, which has provided funding for dramatic capital improvements, as well as an unparalleled increase in faculty endowment and student scholarships.

OU is a leader among all American universities in international exchange and study abroad programs. OU currently offers programs in 82 countries and over 240 cities in six continents. OU is closing in on reaching our four-year goal to increase the number of students studying abroad by 50 percent.

This fall, for the first time in the history of OU College of Medicine in Tulsa, all four years of medical school are offered at the Schusterman Center through the OU-TU School of Community Medicine. The OU-TU School of Community Medicine, a joint effort of the University of Tulsa and OU, is among the nation’s leaders in the growing field of community medicine, which focuses on population-based health outcomes.