The University of Oklahoma Mission Statement

The mission of the University of Oklahoma is to provide the best possible educational experience for our students through excellence in teaching, research and creative activity, and service to the state and society. In 1890, 17 years before Oklahoma became a state, the University of Oklahoma was founded upon authority of an act of the first legislature of the Territory of Oklahoma. This act stated the purpose of the university was “to provide the means of acquiring a thorough knowledge of the various branches of learning connected with scientific, industrial and professional pursuits.”

Students were accepted for the first time in the fall of 1892, and the first two graduates received the degree of pharmaceutical chemist in 1896. Two years later the first two Bachelor of Arts degrees were awarded. The first master’s degree was conferred in 1900, the first doctor of medicine degree in 1911 and the first doctoral degree in 1929. Today more than 210,312 degrees have been granted by the University of Oklahoma.

The University of Oklahoma is a doctoral degree-granting research university serving the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. The Norman campus serves as home to all of the university’s academic programs except health-related fields. Both the Norman and Health Sciences Center colleges offer programs at the Schusterman Center, the site of OU-Tulsa. The OU Health Sciences Center, which is located in Oklahoma City, is one of only four comprehensive academic health centers in the nation with seven professional colleges. OU enrolls more than 30,000 students, has more than 2,600 full-time faculty members, and has 21 colleges offering 163 majors at the baccalaureate level, 157 majors at the master’s level, 81 majors at the doctoral level, 28 majors at the doctoral professional level, and 28 graduate certificates. The university’s annual operating budget is more than $1.5 billion.

Oklahoma State System of Higher Education

The university, as a part of the public educational system of the state, established by legislative action and supported by legislative appropriations made annually, places emphasis on sound scholarship, good citizenship and duties of the individual to the community and the commonwealth.

By constitutional enactment, the governance of the university is vested in the regents of the University of Oklahoma, a board consisting of seven members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the state Senate. Each member is appointed to serve for seven years, except when appointed to fill an unexpired term, and is subject to removal from office only as provided by law for the removal of officers not liable to impeachment.
The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the University Regents approve the requirements for admission, graduation, the degrees offered, the fees and expenses. The two regent boards reserve the right to change these requirements.

University Governance

Each college, except University College, has its own faculty, consisting of the dean and the members of the faculty who teach courses in the college. The faculties set the requirements for graduation for the several schools and colleges and recommend to the president that he or she confer degrees on those students who have completed these requirements. The dean of each college is its executive officer.

The general faculty of the University of Oklahoma, Norman campus, is composed of all faculty members with regular appointments. The Norman Campus Faculty Senate, comprised of 50 members apportioned among the general faculty and the faculties of the colleges, is the legislative group of the general faculty whose recommendations are subject to review by the faculty and approval by the president.

Accreditation of the University

The University of Oklahoma is regionally accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, the Higher Learning Commission. The highest level of college work offered is the doctoral degree. The address for the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Higher Learning Commission is 30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400, Chicago, Illinois 60602-2504. Telephone: 1-800-621-7440.

1. In accordance with 8 VAC 40-31-30 of the State Council of Higher Education, Commonwealth of Virginia, the following information is provided:

2. Each course or degree, diploma or certificate program offered by the University of Oklahoma in Virginia is approved by the Oklahoma Board of Regents;
   a. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have granted approval for the University of Oklahoma to:
      b. Offer courses or degree, diploma or certificate programs at the level for which credit is being awarded for those courses or programs in Virginia;
      c. Offer courses or degree programs outside the state of Oklahoma;
      d. Offer each course or degree, diploma or certificate program being offered in Virginia by the University of Oklahoma; and
      e. Any credit earned for coursework offered by the University of Oklahoma in Virginia can be transferred to the University of Oklahoma’s principal location outside Virginia as part of an existing degree, diploma or certificate program offered by the University of Oklahoma.
What Advantages Does the University of Oklahoma Offer to Students?

- OU offers you the opportunity to earn your degree from a quality educational institution with excellent faculty in two years or less while maintaining a full-time job.
- You will receive high-level instruction from internationally known OU faculty, distinguished adjunct scholars and dedicated staff members.
- Your degree will be recognized both nationally and internationally.
- State-of-the-art teaching approaches provide the most rewarding learning experience available for students who have attained life experience, focus and maturity.
- You will receive quality instruction through the intensive teaching format, which includes advanced class preparation, a one-week or two weekend class session and additional post-coursework. This accelerated learning method was pioneered by the University of Oklahoma’s Outreach programs.
- You can choose an OU degree program from locations worldwide.
- As an OU student, you have online access to the University’s Bizzell Memorial Library where you can request articles and books 24 hours a day.
- As a busy professional, our programs will provide you with the flexibility you need by offering selected online courses, independent directed readings and other distributed learning technologies.

Regulations in this brochure are current only at the time of publication and are subject to change. The university reserves the right to modify any statement as necessitated by university or state action. The University of Oklahoma Outreach is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. Outreach and the university provide a range of special services for those with disabilities. If you anticipate a need for some of these services, please contact Advanced Programs. The University of Oklahoma is an equal opportunity institution.