Congratulations on your admission to the University of Oklahoma! As a new Sooner, you may wonder what the next steps are in joining your new family. Here are some helpful tips as you begin your academic journey – Boomer Sooner!

**GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE**

The Graduate College is committed to the success of each of OU’s more than 4,000 advanced degree students. Within the OU community of learners, you will find the support to explore your mind’s potential and connect with others who have similar aspirations. As many have discovered, an advanced degree from the University of Oklahoma will take you higher than you could ever imagine.

In your studies as a graduate student, you must satisfy the requirements of both the Graduate College and the academic unit in which you pursue your degree. The Graduate Council and the Graduate Dean oversee the individual academic units that offer the master’s and/or doctoral degree to ensure uniformity of standards and procedures in keeping with the principles of graduate education. Each academic unit is responsible for designing and delivering the advanced degrees offered by that academic unit.

The Graduate Liaison for each academic unit serves as a link to the Graduate College, assisting students with the academic and policy requirements of advanced study. While your academic development occurs within and is directed by your academic unit, the policies of the Graduate College govern the courses of study for all OU graduate students; it is the Graduate Dean who ultimately makes the final determination on the graduate status of all students, from admission to graduation. Visit the Graduate College online at ou.edu/gradweb.

**Graduate Student Life** exists to connect, equip, and encourage graduate students at the University of Oklahoma. Whether it is a cookout on the lawn, game night in the Graduate Student Life Center, or a healthy living workshop, GSL is here for you. Our programs are designed to meet the personal, professional, and community needs of OU’s graduate population. More information can be found at ou.edu/gradweb/gsl.

**VIBRANT COMMUNITY**

**Norman, OK** is a classic college town centered on OU students. It is a safe, welcoming place with a variety of activities, including an eclectic local music scene, two world-class museums and more than 25 festivals each year.

**Oklahoma City** is located about 30 minutes away from Norman. Home to the tallest adventure park in the world, the NBA Thunder and great internship/job opportunities, our students enjoy all that OKC has to offer.

**Living on campus** is one of the best ways to experience OU to the fullest and as a graduate student, you will thoroughly enjoy the conveniences and comforts available to you! At our on-campus apartment complex, Traditions Square, you have access to the largest assortment of amenities and services, plus you are able to use scholarships and financial aid to pay for your housing, which is charged to your Bursar account. Visit ou.edu/housingandfood to explore the options.

**ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE**

Our world-class facilities rival those of the private industry and OU has achieved the Carnegie Foundation’s highest tier of research activity classification. There are countless opportunities for experiential learning that will set you up for career success. Visit ou.edu/go2/facilities for more information.
YOUR SOONER TO DO LIST

☐ SET UP YOUR OUNet ACCOUNT: Your OUNet Account is your key to accessing OU technology resources such as email, enrollment, grades, course materials, computer labs and OU Libraries resources. Many OU offices will only communicate with you via your official OU email account. Please check it regularly.

Set yours up today:
1. Go to account.ou.edu.
2. Click “I’m New to OU” and enter either your SSN or 4+4 and date of birth to set up your account. Your 4+4 is your OUNet ID and it consists of the first four letters of your last name and the last four digits of your OU ID number.
3. Enter an account recovery (non-OU) email address where OU IT can send password reset information in case you lose or forget your password.
4. Enter your cell phone number in the “Receive Text Messages” box to be notified of campus emergencies.
5. Change your email alias. OU IT will automatically set up your email address as First.MI.Last-1@ou.edu, but you can change this by visiting the Email Alias menu on the Account page.

Visit getconnected.ou.edu or call (405) 325-HELP if you need help.

☐ ACCESS YOUR OZONE PORTAL: oZONE is OU’s student portal. Designed to give current OU students personalized access to campus resources like enrollment, Financial Aid and more, oZONE allows you to customize what you see and do based on your personal preferences and interests. To access the oZONE portal, go to ozone.ou.edu. You will be asked for your OUNet ID and password. For more information on oZONE, visit ou.edu/portal.

☐ SUBMIT HOUSING CONTRACT: If you are interested in living on campus, visit ou.edu/housingandfood to complete your housing contract, which will be available beginning in early October. Email housinginfo@ou.edu if you have questions.

☐ APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID: Numerous opportunities for financial aid are available at OU. To maximize your options for covering your cost to attend OU, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1 and before March 1. For more detailed information, visit financialaid.ou.edu.

☐ REVIEW IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS: As you prepare to attend OU, you need to be aware of the State of Oklahoma immunization requirements: two immunizations for measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) and three immunizations for Hepatitis B. For details about completing the Certification of Compliance, visit immunization.ou.edu.

☐ COMPLETE MANDATORY TRAINING & TESTING:

Sexual Misconduct: Prior to enrollment, all University students are required to successfully complete the mandatory online training located at onpoint.ou.edu. Federal law and Regent policy mandate compliance with this training and the University’s Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination and Harassment Policy at ou.edu/eoo. You will need to login with your OUNet ID and password.

English Assistance Program (if applicable): The state of Oklahoma requires certification for any non-native speaker of English who has contact with students in an instructional capacity. To meet this requirement, the English Assessment Program administers language proficiency tests leading to Certification of Proficiency in English. Go to ou.edu/gradweb/EAP for more information.

Teaching Assistant Training (if applicable): This training is for all new OU teaching assistants whose duties will include any contact with students. This workshop will help your transition into the university teaching community and enhance teaching effectiveness. Visit ou.edu/cte for more information and to register for TA training. In addition, you may be required to attend a departmental TA training program. Consult your department for details.

☐ ENROLL IN YOUR CLASSES: Before enrolling in classes, you need to contact your department academic adviser or assigned faculty/staff representative. To locate contact information for your adviser, please visit your academic college website (to find your college website, visit ou.edu/gradweb) or review the contact information listed in the enclosed letter from your college of interest. You can enroll online at ozone.ou.edu.

☐ GET YOUR SOONER CARD: The Sooner Card is the official OU identification card. With the Sooner Card, students access campus services, designated campus buildings and select events. Students will need to show a driver’s license, military ID card or passport and present $15 to purchase the Sooner Card in the Oklahoma Memorial Student Union, Room 127. The Sooner Card is valid for the entire period that a student attends the university. Learn more about the Sooner Card at ou.edu/soonercard.

☐ FINALIZE ADMISSION: If you were admitted with coursework or a degree in progress, please arrange to have an official transcript sent to:

OU OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS
1000 ASP AVENUE, ROOM 127
NORMAN, OK 73019

Visit ou.edu/admissions or call (405) 325-6765 for more information.

☐ ATTEND THE GRADUATE RECEPTION: All incoming graduate students are encouraged to attend the annual Graduate Student Welcome Reception and Resource Fair, an event that provides students with information on campus services, university life and community resources. More information can be found at ou.edu/gradweb.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who is my OU representative? Clay Wesley is available to help connect you to important university resources. Contact him at claywesley@ou.edu.

How will I pay tuition? The Office of the Bursar functions as the OU central billing service center by providing monthly billing statements of tuition, fees, room and board and other charges incurred by students. Paying your bill in full by the 15th of each month will ensure that you avoid additional charges, such as late payment fees and service charges. The quickest way to make your payment is to pay electronically at pay.ou.edu.

How will I receive my scholarships or financial aid? The Bursar Office also processes and disburses all federal and institutional funds to the student’s bursar account and refunds any overpayment. Visit bursar.ou.edu for more information.

Can I see OU’s campus? We always recommend visiting in person! Contact our Graduate Student Ambassadors at gcsa@ou.edu for a tour of our beautiful campus! If you would like to see OU from a distance, though, check out our virtual tour at ou.edu/go2/virtualtour to see a 360° view of many spots on our campus!

Where can I purchase a computer or tablet? Visit the OU IT Store at 329 W. Boyd on Historic Campus Corner or the One University Store in the Oklahoma Memorial Union for academic discounts on computers, software, accessories and more. Find more information at facebook.com/OUITStore.

Where will I live? On-campus apartments are available for interested graduate students. Visit ou.edu/housingandfood to learn more. To explore off-campus housing options in Norman, visit apartmentfinder.com.

Where will I eat? Visit ou.edu/housingandfood for details about campus restaurants and meal plans.

Will I be safe? Our students feel very safe across campus. View the current Sooner Safety report at ou.edu/oupd/safety.pdf.

Where do I buy a parking pass? OU student parking permits are available at ou.edu/parking.

Do I need to bring a car? There are numerous transportation options available if you decide not to bring a car. Visit ridecart.com for bus information and enterprise carshare.com for information on our campus car-sharing program available by the day or by the hour.

How do I find my way around campus? Visit our Google-integrated campus map at ou.edu/map to take a virtual tour of campus.

Where can I find an academic calendar? Visit ou.edu/admissions and click on “Academic Calendars.”

How do I get tickets to athletic events? Before school starts each fall, you will receive information on how to order football and/or men’s basketball tickets. Learn more at soonersports.com.

Where can I buy books? To purchase your textbooks from the University Bookstore, visit oklahoma.bkstr.com.

Will I have to buy books? OU Libraries provides selected textbooks on reserve that can be checked out free of charge. Visit libraries.ou.edu/textbooks for more information.

What orientations should I attend? Many departments at OU host individual orientation programs along with the Graduate College Graduate Student Orientation. For more information, contact your academic department.

What if I need disability assistance? The OU Disability Resource Center provides accommodations for students on an individual basis dependent on the need for services including advocacy, architectural accessibility, alternative testing, interpretation, real-time captioning and note-taking services. Visit drc.ou.edu for more information.

Where can I find more information? The Graduate College Bulletin offers general information on graduate programs and policies. Specific program information is available upon request. Visit ou.edu/gradweb/gcbulletin to get the online version of this document. You can also find information on many resources for graduate students in the Graduate Student Handbook. Go to ou.edu/gradweb/student_resources to access the online version of the handbook.