



# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CHECKLIST

- Start your scholarship search.** Scholarships are called “free money” because they don’t have to be paid back! They’re given to students based on financial need, talents or life experience. Your counselor will have information about scholarships available in your area. There are scholarships available for middle school students. Visit [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) and [OKcollegestart.org](https://okcollegestart.org) to search for scholarships.
- Socialize.** Are you involved in any clubs, special interest or service groups? Find a group that sparks your talents and interests. Keep track of your extracurricular activities and volunteer work for college scholarship applications.
- Save away.** When you get extra money for work, birthdays or holidays, stash some of it away in your savings account for future college expenses. See [OklahomaMoneyMatters.org](https://oklahomamoneymatters.org) for savings ideas and money management tools.
- Make courses count.** Choose challenging classes that will give you a head start for high school and college. Learn more about graduation and college entrance requirements in the Prepare section for high school students at [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org).
- Grab a partner.** Ask an adult to help you research your options to see what would fit best with your college plans. See [UCanGo2.org](https://ucango2.org) for tips on planning, preparing and paying for college.
- Sign up.** Qualifying students can sign up for the Oklahoma’s Promise scholarship program in the 8th, 9th, 10th or 11th grade. Don’t miss out on this opportunity to earn free college tuition at an Oklahoma college or career technology center. More information about eligibility is listed below. Talk to your school counselor or visit [OKPromise.org](https://okpromise.org) to learn more.

Oklahoma’s Promise is a scholarship program that pays full or partial college tuition at many Oklahoma schools. To see if you might qualify for the program, check every statement below that applies to you and your family.

- My family meets the income requirements outlined at [OKPromise.org](https://okpromise.org) (special income provisions apply to certain adopted children and children in the custody of court-appointed legal guardians).
- I’m in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade (or I’m a homeschooled student who is 13, 14, 15 or 16 years old).
- I’m a resident of Oklahoma.
- I can meet the requirements of the Oklahoma’s Promise program:
  - ✓ I’ll graduate from an Oklahoma high school or homeschool education program.
  - ✓ I’ll take 17 units of specific college-prep curriculum.
  - ✓ I’ll achieve at least a 2.50 GPA both in the curriculum and overall.
  - ✓ I’ll attend school regularly.
  - ✓ I’ll do my homework.
  - ✓ I’ll stay away from drugs and alcohol.
  - ✓ I won’t commit criminal or delinquent acts.
  - ✓ I’ll meet with a school official to go over my school work and records on a regular basis.
  - ✓ I’ll apply for other financial aid during my senior year of high school and every year I am enrolled in college by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
  - ✓ I’ll take part in Oklahoma’s Promise activities that will help me prepare for college.

If you were able to check all four statements above, be sure to apply for Oklahoma’s Promise while you’re in the 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Check out [OKPromise.org](https://okpromise.org) for more information.