

Understanding Postsecondary Campus Types

Oxford Dictionaries offers the following definition of college:

Main Entry: col·lege

Function: noun

An educational institution or establishment, in particular one providing higher education or specialized professional or vocational training.

There are many different types of institutions, which means you have a wide variety of choices. The best type of education for you may be available right here in Oklahoma. Check out OKcollegestart.org and select “College Planning/Explore Postsecondary Schools” to learn about Oklahoma’s colleges and universities. Here are some examples to help with your decision:

Four-Year Universities

- ▶ Offer undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees
- ▶ Include Oklahoma’s research and regional universities and public liberal arts university
- ▶ Examples: University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and University of Central Oklahoma

Community Colleges

- ▶ Take about two years to complete a degree program
- ▶ Are usually less expensive than some other types of colleges
- ▶ Examples: Carl Albert State College and Rose State College

Technical Branches

- ▶ Emphasize education and training in technical fields
- ▶ Examples: Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City

Career Technology Centers

- ▶ Prepare you for a specialized career or trade
- ▶ Offer several certifications, some online
- ▶ Examples: Tri County Technology Center and Tulsa Technology Center

Proprietary Colleges

- ▶ Privately-owned or out-of-state colleges and universities that aren’t supported by state funds
- ▶ Prepare students for direct entry into an occupation or profession
- ▶ Example: Tulsa Welding School

Public Institutions

- ▶ Colleges and universities that operate under the supervision of state governments
- ▶ Offer Associate, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral Degrees
- ▶ Examples: Oklahoma State University and Oklahoma City Community College

Private Institutions

- ▶ Privately-owned accredited colleges and universities that aren’t supported by state funds
- ▶ Offer associate, bachelor’s and/or graduate degrees
- ▶ Examples: Southern Nazarene University and Oklahoma Baptist University

Note that several terms can be used to describe the same college. For example, the University of Tulsa is a four-year, private university.

