

Understanding Postsecondary School Types



Oxford Dictionaries offers the following definition of college:

Main Entry: col-lege

Function: *noun*

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

There are many different types of colleges and schools in general, which means that 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 click on “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 Central Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University

Community Colleges

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

Technical Branches

- Emphasize education and training in technical fields
- Oklahoma State University Institute of Technology and Oklahoma State University-Oklahoma City are Oklahoma’s technical branches

Technology Centers

- Prepare you for a specialized career or trade
- Offer several certifications, some online
- Examples: Moore Norman Technology Center and Mid-America Technology Center

Proprietary Schools

- 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
- Examples: Spartan College of Aeronautics and Technology and DeVry University

Private Schools

- Privately-owned accredited colleges and universities that aren’t supported by state funds
- Offer associate, bachelor’s and/or graduate degrees
- Examples: Oklahoma City University and The University of Tulsa

Note that several terms can be used to describe the same school. For example, the University of Oklahoma is a four-year, public university.