



# OKLAHOMA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## GRADUATE STUDENT FINANCIAL POLICIES Effective for the 2021-2022 school year

### I. **Responsible Party**

- If a student is of legal age, he or she is deemed to be the primary party liable for his or her financial obligation.
- It is the student's responsibility to be familiar with the university's financial policies.
- It is the student's responsibility to check their campus email and student box during the school year.
- It is the student's responsibility to notify Oklahoma Christian if there is a change in the student's off-campus mailing address.
- All students must complete an Account Payment Agreement Form each academic year which includes agreeing to our Financial Responsibilities statement.

### II. **Payment on Account**

- Payment in full is due on the first day of the semester for all registered courses (both Term 1 and Term 2 for those in semester programs with 8-week courses.)
- Students may be dropped from classes for non-payment.
- Transcripts or diplomas will not be released unless the student's account is paid in full and all institutional loans are current.
- Students will not be allowed to progress to the next semester until the previous semester's charges are paid in full.

### III. **Payment on Account For International Students**

- Payment in full is due on the first day of the semester for all registered courses (both Term 1 and Term 2 for those in semester programs with 8-week courses.)
  - a. Those students who have not made satisfactory settlement of their full semester will be withdrawn from their Term 2 courses
  - b. Students dropped from their Term 2 will no longer be "in-status" for their U.S. Visa and will be reported to the International Student Advisor.
- Charges may incur throughout the semester. Payment for these charges is due on the last day of the month for which the charge(s) was posted or along with your arranged Installment Payment Plan (IPP) agreement.
- Transcripts or diplomas will not be released unless the student's account is paid in full and all institutional accounts are current.

### IV. **Service Charges**

- There is a monthly service charge of 1.75% of the unpaid balance on all accounts.
- The grace period for all charges is 30 days.

### V. **Account Holds**

- Balance holds are automatically placed on accounts with unpaid balances of \$500 or more. The balance hold withholds access to enrollment changes or future enrollment. In order for the hold to be removed, the account must have a balance lower than \$500 or the student must be successfully enrolled and completing an Installment Payment Plan (IPP).

### VI. **Payment Plans**

- All students are required to complete an Account Payment Agreement Form before classes begin.
- Payment of expenses may be arranged under one (or a combination) of four payment plans:

- **Plan 1** – Cash – Oklahoma Christian accepts cash, check or money order, electronic checks (also known as ACH transfers), American Express, Discover Card, Visa, and MasterCard.
- **Plan 2** – Installment Payment Plan (IPP) – An interest-free monthly payment plan available through the Student Account Online.
- **Plan 3** – Alternative Student Loans – There are a variety of student loans available to students through private lenders. Information can be obtained in the student Financial Services office or at [www.oc.edu/loans](http://www.oc.edu/loans).
- **Plan 4** – Graduate PLUS Loans can be obtained by applying at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). These loans require a credit check. They are available only after a FAFSA is completed and federal unsubsidized loans have been awarded.
- Exceptions must have documented approval in advance from the student Financial Services office.

#### **Payment Plans for International Students**

- All students are required to complete an online Account Payment Agreement Form before classes begin.
- Payment of expenses may be arranged under one (or a combination) of three payment options:
  - **Plan 1** – Cash – Oklahoma Christian accepts cash, check or money order, electronic checks (also known as ACH transfers), American Express, Discover Card, Visa, and MasterCard. International Students may wire funds from their home country using Flywire services at [www.flywire.com/pay/oc](http://www.flywire.com/pay/oc).
  - **Plan 2** – Installment Payment Plan (IPP) – An interest-free monthly payment plan available through the Student Account Online.
  - **Plan 3** – Home Country Loans – If you are receiving an educational loan from your home country please submit a copy of your loan acceptance to the Financial Service graduate counselor.

#### **VII. Statements**

- Monthly e- statement notifications will be sent by email on or around the 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month.

#### **VIII. Meal Plans**

- Students electing a meal plan can do so during the first three weeks of the semester.

#### **IX. Withdraw/Drop Refund Policy**

- Tuition refunds are made to students who officially withdraw from courses that are **11-weeks to 15-weeks in length** or from the University before the fourth week of a semester. Refunds are given as follows:
  - If the withdrawal date is in the **first WEEK**, a 100% refund will be made.
  - If the withdrawal date is in the **second WEEK**, a 75% refund will be made.
  - If the withdrawal date is in the **third WEEK**, a 50% refund will be made.
  - **After the third week, no refunds will be made.**
- Tuition refunds are made to students who officially withdraw from courses that are **seven-weeks to 10 weeks in length** by the second week of class. Refunds are given as follows:
  - If the withdrawal date is within the first **WEEK**, a 100% refund will be made.
  - If the withdrawal date is within the second **WEEK**, a 50% refund will be made.
  - **After the second week, no refunds will be made.**
- Tuition refunds are made to students who officially withdraw from courses that are **one-week to six-weeks in length (including Winter session courses)** by the second day of class. Refunds are given as follows:
  - If the withdrawal date is on the **first DAY**, a 100% refund will be made.
  - If the withdrawal date is on the **second DAY**, a 50% refund will be made.
  - **After the second day, no refunds will be made.**
- If the student drops a course and adds another course at a later time during the 100% refund period, it may result in additional charges. Students should always add and drop a course during the same session to avoid these charges.

- **Students must initiate a Withdrawal Form on MyOC/Services or go by the Office of the Registrar to officially withdraw from the University. The signed and completed form will indicate the official withdrawal date for the student as determined by the Registrar based upon the last date of attendance for the term. A link to the Registrar Office withdrawal process is [here](#).**
- Room and meal plan refunds for students who officially withdraw from the university are made on a pro rata basis, according to the “move out” date. Eagle Bucks are nonrefundable.
- Any student dismissed for unsatisfactory conduct or failure to pay charges as agreed is not eligible for refunds.
- If a student withdraws, his/her scholarships will be prorated by the same percentage as the tuition. For example, if a student receives a \$1000/semester scholarship and receives a 50% tuition refund, then the student may keep 50% of the scholarship.

#### **Title IV Aid and Withdrawals**

- In accordance with federal regulations, Oklahoma Christian is required to calculate the “return of Title IV funds” formula for students who are attending on federal (Title IV) financial aid. For this reason, withdrawing from classes may reduce your financial aid for the current semester.
  - The law specifies how OC must determine the amount of Title IV (federal) program assistance you earn if you withdraw. The Title IV programs covered by this law are Federal Direct Unsubsidized Loans and Grad PLUS Loans.
  - If you withdraw during the period of enrollment, the amount of Title IV program assistance you have earned up to that point is determined by a specific formula. If you received less assistance than the amount you earned, you may be able to receive those additional funds. If you received more assistance than you earned, the excess funds must be returned by the school. The amount of assistance earned is determined on a pro rata basis. For example, if you complete 30% of your period of enrollment, you earn 30% of the assistance you were originally scheduled to receive. Once you have completed more than 60% of the enrollment period, you earn all the assistance you were scheduled to receive for that period.
  - If you did not receive all the funds you earned, you may be due a post-withdrawal disbursement. If the post-withdrawal disbursement includes loan funds, you may choose to decline the loan funds so that you do not incur additional debt. OC may automatically use all or a portion of the post-withdrawal disbursement (including loan funds, if you accept them) for tuition, fees, and room and meal plan charges.
  - If you receive excess Title IV program funds that must be returned, OC must return a portion of the excess equal to the lesser of
    - Your institutional charges multiplied by the unearned percentage of your funds, or
    - The entire amount of excess funds.
  - OC must return this amount even if we do not keep the amount of your Title IV program funds.
  - The requirements for Title IV program funds when you withdraw are separate from the institutional refund policy. Therefore, you may still owe funds to the school to cover unpaid institutional charges. OC may charge you for any Title IV program funds we are required to return.
  - In order to receive all the financial aid awarded, students must be in attendance of their classes; otherwise, the financial aid is unearned. Federal aid recipients who do not attend classes and do not complete any hours for the term will be treated as “unofficial withdrawals” from the university. They will be subject to the Return of Title IV calculation as described above unless they can submit proof to the Assistant Director of Financial Services that they attended their classes for at least 60% of the term.
  - Because not all OC classes take attendance, the OC financial aid administrator will use the midpoint of the semester to process the Return of Title IV funds for “unofficial withdrawals” unless the Assistant Director of Financial Services is able to learn the exact date of the student’s last day of attendance. If the last date of attendance is known, the OC financial aid administrator will use that date instead of the midpoint of the semester.

- Title IV funds are returned to the programs from which the student received aid during the period of enrollment in the following order up to the net amount disbursed from each source.
  - Grad PLUS Loans
  - Unsubsidized Federal Direct loans
- Return of Title IV funds (R2T4) is processed within ten business days of the Financial Services office being notified of the withdrawal based upon the OC Withdrawal Form and all federal funds are returned within ten business days of the R2T4 calculation. Once a student's withdrawal has been processed they will receive a letter and statement showing how the withdrawal affected their financial aid.
- In accordance with the Satisfactory Academic Progress policy, withdrawing may jeopardize future Title IV funding.

**X. Refund Checks/ Credit Balances**

- Refunds will not be issued until a credit balance occurs on the student's account.
- E-Refunds are made to students who have input their banking account and routing numbers into their Student Account Online. Refunds will be processed daily, but it may take up to two to three business days for the student to receive funds if student has not set up an account for e-refunds.

**XI. Bookstore Charges**

- All students are automatically enrolled in the Textbook Butler service through Tree of Life Books.
- Students may be limited to the amount of charges allowed on an individual basis, at the discretion of the student's personal financial counselor.
- Students may only charge to their student account textbooks or class required supplies.
- No clothing, cards, magazines, candy or related items may be charged to the student's account.
- BOOKS IN TUITION - Students wishing to opt of the books in tuition program will receive a credit equal to fifty percent (50%) of the amount charged to OC from Tree of Life books for the cost of books associated with the student's enrolled courses.

**XII. United Dining Eagle Bucks**

- Students may charge Eagle Bucks to their student account during the semester as long as their account is in good standing with the university and the student has shown the ability to pay for these charges.
- Students will not be allowed to charge Eagle Bucks to their account two weeks prior to the scheduled Spring commencement date.

**XIII. Federal Financial Aid**

- Oklahoma Christian University awards financial aid to any student who has eligibility based on an approved method of need analysis. We agree with the federal government, the primary responsibility of educating a student lies with the student and the family. We observe the following general guidelines in packaging financial aid:
  - Scholarships – If we are fortunate to know of the scholarships at the time of packaging, they are included as part of the student's financial award.
  - Federal Guaranteed Student Loans – Federal Direct Unsubsidized student loans are packaged for every eligible student according up to \$20,500 per year, depending on the cost of the student's program.
- Students wishing to be considered for loans from the federal government must complete a Federal Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Once the university receives the FAFSA information, additional paperwork may be required as determined by the Financial Services office. In such cases, the documentation may change the student's financial aid eligibility.
- The deadline to apply for financial aid (institutional and federal) and to turn in the required documentation is last day of class prior to the week of finals. Oklahoma Christian University will make every effort to file federal financial aid after that day; however, there is no guarantee funds will be received.
- All financial aid (institutional and federal) is awarded based on the number of hours for which the student is enrolled.

- The Financial Services office will make adjustments to any award letter due to incorrect data and/or additional financial aid received. The Financial Services office will notify students of any change in their award via email. Students are responsible for checking their OC email address, for such information.
- In accordance with federal regulation, students are required to notify the Financial Services office of any change in outside resources. This may require a revision of the student's award, in which case the Financial Services office will notify the student as previously explained
- In cases where the university becomes aware that a student has received an overpayment or financial aid in excess of the student's eligibility, the university will adjust the student's award rather than referring the overpayment to the Department of Education. If this creates a balance on the student account, the student is responsible for paying the university for the resulting balance.
- Federal financial aid is only to be used for expenses related to the student's educational cost. This may include living expenses.
- Federal regulations require students to maintain satisfactory academic progress toward degree objectives in order to receive financial assistance on a continuing basis. The following requirements reflect these guidelines in keeping with the policies of Oklahoma Christian. .

### **1. Measurable Satisfactory Academic Progress**

#### **A. Hours Completed**

1. For a student receiving financial aid as a full time student, he/she must complete at least 2/3rds or 66.67% of all cumulative credit hours attempted.

The following shall not be considered as credit hours completed:

F—failing grade

Audit—no credit

W—withdrawal

WP—withdrawal passing

I—incomplete

- Because "I" (Incomplete) grades are not counted as hours completed, they may result in a student being placed on financial aid warning or suspension.
- At the conclusion of each semester, the Director of Financial Aid will review the satisfactory academic progress of students who received an "I" (Incomplete) grade. The Director will then make any appropriate adjustments to the financial aid standing for those students receiving a grade change.
- Students placed on financial aid suspension as a result of an "I" (Incomplete) grade should notify the Financial Services immediately after the "I" has been changed to a passing grade. Upon notification, the Director will recalculate the student's financial standing and will determine if the student's financial aid may be reinstated.
- Adjustments will be made to Title IV aid for dropping a course through the third Friday of each semester. After that date, dropped courses resulting in an enrollment status change (example: full-time to half-time), will place a student in financial aid warning/suspension.

#### **B. Grade Point Averages**

Every graduate student receiving federal financial aid must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.

### **2. Financial Aid Warning**

In the event that a student fails to complete the required number of hours or the required GPA, he/she may continue to receive financial aid, but will be placed on financial aid warning for the next semester. As a result, he/she must achieve the following:

**A. Grade Point Average**

The student must achieve the cumulative GPA standard as defined by the student's graduate program. However, if the student does not achieve this standard, we will be forced to place him/her on financial aid suspension.

**B. Hours Completed**

1. For a student receiving financial aid as a full time student, he/she must complete at least 2/3rds or 66.67% of overall credit hours attempted.

**3. Suspension**

If a student has been placed on financial aid warning and fails to meet the terms of the warning (complete appropriate number of hours and/or cumulative GPA standard), he/she will not be considered making satisfactory academic progress and will, therefore, be placed on financial aid suspension. This means immediate termination of financial aid received from all federal aid programs (Federal Direct Loan Program and Grad PLUS). Students in their final semester of their program are exempt if they graduate.

**4. Repeated Courses**

A grade received from a repeated course will replace the pre-existing grade previously earned. Therefore, the previously earned grade will be omitted from the calculation of a student's cumulative GPA (although the previously earned grade will still be reflected on the student's transcript). All repeated courses for courses previously failed will count as hours attempted, and if successfully completed, will count as hours completed within a given semester. All repeated courses for courses not previously failed will not count as hours attempted, and will therefore not count as hours completed within a given semester.

**5. Limitation of Eligibility of Federal Assistance**

The maximum number of hours a graduate student may attempt in order to receive financial aid is 89 graduate credit hours. Any course for which a student receives credit from a regionally accredited institution, including transferred, repeated and remedial coursework are included in this calculation regardless of whether a student received Title IV funding. Grades listed as "I" (Incomplete) or "W" (Withdrawn) are not counted as hours attempted. Students needing to receive Title IV aid for more than 89 graduate hours (i.e. double majors) may appeal to the Financial Services Director.

**6. Reinstatement**

To be reinstated a student must increase his/her cumulative GPA to a 3.0 and demonstrate that he/she has completed the most recent semester successfully (9 hours or more). Then a student may reapply in writing for the reinstatement of his/her federal financial aid.

**7. Appeals**

- A. Any student wishing to appeal financial aid suspension** must complete and submit an appeal form to their PFC *no later than the second week of classes*. This form allows a student to adequately explain the reasons for failure to achieve the minimum academic requirements and a plan to successfully achieve the academic requirements within one semester.
- B. The Assistant Director of Financial Aid will then review the appeal** and with advice from the Financial Aid Committee determine whether the student's appeal will be granted. Typically, a student's first appeal will be granted if the student adequately explains the reasons for failure to achieve the minimum academic requirements and a plan to successfully achieve the academic requirements within one semester. Appeals from students who cannot reasonably increase his/her cumulative 3.0 GPA will not have their appeals approved. The student will be advised in writing of the decision.
- C. Probation** – After a student successfully appeals the suspension of his/her federal aid, that student's federal aid eligibility is by definition on "probation." The probationary period is for one semester, during which the student must complete the required number of hours successfully while increasing or maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA in order to be brought back into "good standing."

**D. Subsequent Appeals** are *not* granted. Students who have been granted a federal aid appeal may only have their federal aid eligibility reinstated by increasing his/her cumulative GPA to the minimum standard and demonstrating that he/she has completed the most recent semester successfully (9 hours or more). Then a student may reapply in writing for the reinstatement of his/her federal financial aid.

**8. Withdrawal from the university**

Students who receive Title IV funding for the semester in which they are withdrawing will be placed on financial aid warning (if you are already on financial aid warning, you will be placed on suspension).

**9. Miscellaneous**

Any student who has previously enrolled in this institution and is not a recipient of Title IV assistance may receive Title IV aid for the first time (when otherwise eligible) under a one-semester warning during which he/she must bring his/her academic standing in conformance with the existing satisfactory progress policy. Further, a student who has not been placed on financial aid warning, but fails all of his/her classes during the semester will automatically be placed on financial aid suspension bypassing the warning status.

**XIV. Institutional Aid**

- Students must apply for admission (accompanied by the fee) through the University before being considered for scholarships.
- Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to continue to receive scholarships.
- Oklahoma Christian employees may not award any institutional dollars (including endowments) to students in their family.
- The Financial Services office will make adjustments to any award letter due to incorrect data and/or additional financial aid received. The Financial Services office will notify students of any change in their award.

**XV. Employer Reimbursement**

- Students wishing to delay payment based on an employer reimbursement financial agreement must first submit the Employer Reimbursement Form. (The Employer Reimbursement Form and be found at [www.oc.edu/forms](http://www.oc.edu/forms).) Failure to complete the Employer Reimbursement Form by the first day of classes will result in the student's account being considered delinquent and therefore subjected to finance charges and possible withdrawal from classes.
- Students are required to pay the non-deferred portion of the bill whether or not the student has completed the course work or have been reimbursed by your employer. Students must pay no later than the first day of classes.
- Oklahoma Christian University reserves the right to conduct random audits, which involve contacting the student's employer about the student's employment status.
- If the student drops a class or withdraw from the University, all payments are due immediately. The University refund policy would then apply.

**XV. Tuition Assistance**

- *Military service members should contact their Educational Services Office (ESO) or counselor within their Military Service prior to enrolling at OC.*
  - A. **OC is in compliance with PL 115-407 Veterans Benefits and Transition Act of 2018 Section 103 and will not have any policy inconsistent with 38 U.S. Code § 3679 (e).**
- For students receiving tuition assistance, any form required by your employer should be copied to Financial Services for each enrolled term (8-week enrollment period) or semester (16-week enrollment period). Most employers have something in place through the Human Resources or Benefits office that can be provided to OC.

- OC Student Financial Services will invoice those employers who require proof of enrollment and costs.

**XVI. Summer Housing**

- Students with outstanding balances of greater than \$500 at the end of the spring semester will not be eligible for summer student housing without the prior approval of the student's Personal Financial Counselor (PFC).
- **Payment for summer housing charges must either be paid in full before the start of the summer sessions, or in regular monthly/weekly payments during the summer sessions. Students are responsible for making these payment arrangements with their Personal Financial Counselor. All summer housing balances must be paid in full at least two weeks prior to the start of the fall semester.**
- 100% of housing charges will be billed to all students who reserve summer housing. If the student qualifies for a housing discount based on student employment at OC, 50% of those charges for that month will be credited to their balance after the criteria (based on numbers of hours worked) for that housing discount have been met.
- **Students are responsible for 100% of housing charges they incur if they do not reach the criteria for receiving a housing discount.**
- Students with summer housing balances will not be allowed to enroll for a future semester until their summer housing account balance is paid in full.
- Summer financial aid must first pay for summer tuition expenses. Additional financial aid may be transferred to the student's summer housing account upon the student's request.