SPONSORING AGENCIES

Sponsoring Agencies are agencies outside of the Federal Government and the Educational Institution who agree to assist students with their educational expenses. Examples of these agencies include Indian Tribes, The Department of Veteran Affairs, The Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, and even some employers may agree to be a sponsor. The sponsors listed below are organizations that a student may contact for information and eligibility requirements.

Students should be aware of application deadlines and respond promptly to a sponsor’s request for additional information or documentation. All assistance from all sources must be documented in a student’s financial aid file. Therefore, students must notify the Financial Aid Office when they receive notification of an award from a sponsoring agency. The sponsoring agency will typically remit funds directly to the school on behalf of the student upon receipt of an invoice from the school.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- Veterans Benefits
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Workforce Oklahoma

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Applicants should contact their tribal agency for information and an application packet. The Financial aid office will complete the financial needs analysis form and can assist students, if needed, with other required paperwork. Contact the Financial Aid Office upon receipt of an award letter. These awards must be documented in the student’s financial aid file.

Chickasaw Nation  (580) 421-7711  www.chickasaw.net/Services
Choctaw Nation     (800) 522-6170  www.choctawnation.com/services/education
Find your Tribe’s website at www.usa.gov/Government/Tribal-Sites

Department of Veteran Affairs
GI Bills provide educational assistance to Service Members, Veterans and their dependents. Numerous benefits are available for advancement of education and skills. Veteran Affairs determines eligibility. The Financial Aid Office certifies enrollment. Most educational benefits are paid as a monthly stipend. Students enrolled in approved and accredited programs for certification at SOTC are eligible for assistance under these VA Educational Benefits.
To learn about these GI Bills and benefits or to start an application, log on to www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/index.asp.

Students may call 1-888-442-4551 to contact the Department of Veteran Affairs or 1-800-827-1000 to contact Regional Office in Muskogee.

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

Vocational Rehabilitation is a service that assists eligible individuals with physical or mental disabilities to prepare for gainful employment through education and training. It is usually offered through State Government agencies. There is also a Federal program for disabled Veterans. The financial aid office can assist students with paperwork.

For more information log onto https://okrehab.org or call 800-845-8476. The local office is located at 333 W. Main in Ardmore or call 580-226-1808.

**Workforce Oklahoma**

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 is a Federal program of assistance which supersedes the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) and amends other acts to create a new comprehensive workforce investment system. It is intended to provide quality training and employment services to eligible individuals. Services are provided through One-Stop Career Centers. Adults who are economically disadvantaged, dislocated or unemployed may qualify for this program.

To learn more about the WIA Program log on to www.doleta.gov or www.oesc.state.ok.us/WIA-info.shtm. The Ardmore Workforce Center is located at 2421 Autumn Run, Suite B. For more information, contact the Case Manager for the Ardmore area, at (580) 223-3291.