



INSPIRED TO TEACH

Frequently Asked Questions

APPLICATION/ENROLLMENT

Q. When/How do I apply for the program?

A. Eligible applicants will need to apply through their institution's "Inspired to Teach" Program Coordinator. The Coordinator will assist with eligibility confirmation for each applicant.

Q. I'm an adult student who never completed a degree and plan to go back to school. Can I apply for this program?

A. Yes, as long as you graduated from an Oklahoma high school and meet all other eligibility criteria, you can apply and participate in this program.

Q. What if I haven't declared a teacher education major yet—can I still apply?

A. No, students must declare a teacher education major prior to applying and enrolling in "Inspired to Teach."

Q. I'm enrolled at a two-year institution. Can I apply for this program?

A. Your institution must have an approved articulation agreement on file with the four-year institution at which you plan to complete your teacher education degree. The articulation agreement must also be on file with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. If the articulation agreement is in place and you've declared a pre-education major, you can apply and participate in "Inspired to Teach" at an Oklahoma two-year institution.

Q. Do I need to fill out the FAFSA?

A. Completing the federal student aid application (FAFSA) is not a requirement for this scholarship. However, your institution may require you to complete a FAFSA application before disbursing aid. Check with your financial aid office for more information.

Q. How will I know if I am accepted into the program?

A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will send you confirmation of enrollment, along with an award notification each semester you remain eligible for the scholarship portion of the program.

SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENT

Q. When will I receive the scholarship?

A. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will send funds to your institution each fall and spring semester after enrollment has been confirmed for the semester.

Q. Do I have to re-apply each semester?

A. Participants currently receiving the scholarship do not need to reapply for the program each semester. The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education will work directly with the "Inspired to Teach" Program Coordinator at your institution to confirm eligibility for all continuing students.

Q. What if I'm not enrolled full-time?

A. Participants must be enrolled full-time (a minimum of 12 hours) to receive the scholarship. The only exceptions to this requirement are for participants completing their student teaching internship or students with an approved accommodation on file with the institution's disability services office. If you are enrolled part-time for any other reason, you will not receive a scholarship payment for the semester and have one semester to get back into program compliance.

Q. What happens if I no longer meet the GPA and/or SAP requirement?

A. Participants that fall below the 2.5 GPA requirement and/or are no longer meeting satisfactory academic progress (SAP) requirements at their institution will not receive a scholarship payment for the semester they fall out of compliance. You have one semester to get back into compliance to remain in the program.

Q. How is my award amount calculated?

A. The scholarship funds are based on hours. Eligible students will receive scholarship awards based on the following scale:

- i. Full-time Enrollment: \$1,000 (must show hours enrolled if new undergraduate – minimum of 24 hours)
- ii. Full-time Enrollment: \$1,000 (minimum of 24/maximum of 47 hours earned)
- iii. Full-time Enrollment: \$1,000 (minimum of 48/maximum of 89 hours earned)
- iv. Full-time Enrollment: \$2,500 (minimum of 90 hours earned)
- v. Students can receive a maximum of \$5,500 in total scholarship awards. **Students will not be eligible for multiple awards in an academic year.**
- vi. Students who have earned less than 90 credit hours, but have received \$3,000 in scholarship funding, will not be eligible for the final scholarship allotment of \$2,500 until their final academic year of study.
- vii. Students who have earned 90 or more credit hours, but still have more than one academic year remaining to complete the teacher education degree, may receive the \$2,500 award in the final academic year during a semester (fall and/or spring disbursement) designated by, and at the discretion of, the institution. Upon receiving the \$2,500 award, students will not be eligible for any of the scholarship awards granted under 90 credit hours.

Q. I'm a current "Inspired to Teach" participant, but I'm planning to transfer to another institution. Can I still participate in the program?

- A. Yes, as long as you are transferring to an eligible "Inspired to Teach" institution, you can continue to participate in the program. You will need to complete an "Inspired to Teach" application for your new institution as a transfer student.

Q. Will I have to pay back the award if I change my major?

- A. There is currently no requirement that would require repayment of award(s) when participants are no longer in compliance with the program. You will simply not receive future scholarship and/or employment incentive payments once you change your major.

Q. I'm graduating in December, will I still be eligible for the \$2,500 payment?

- A. Yes, fall graduates can qualify for the full \$2,500 payment.

EMPLOYMENT INCENTIVE COMPONENT

Q. How do I receive the employment incentive?

- A. You will need to submit documentation to confirm your eligibility in the employment incentive portion of the program, including the Employment Compliance Form, the Participant Contact Update Form (if applicable), and a copy of your Oklahoma teaching certificate.

Q. When will I receive my first incentive payment?

- A. Eligible participants will receive their first employment incentive payment shortly after completing their first year of teaching. If you begin teaching in the spring semester, you will be eligible after completing the following fall semester.

Q. What if it takes me some time to secure a teaching contract? Will I lose eligibility?

- A. You have up to 13 months after completing your teaching degree to secure a teaching contract and remain eligible for the employment incentive portion of the program.

GENERAL

Q. Can I participate in both "Inspired to Teach" and the Teacher Shortage Employment Incentive Program (TSEIP)?

- A. Yes, eligible math or science education majors who plan to teach secondary math and/or science in an Oklahoma public school can participate in both "Inspired to Teach" and TSEIP.

Q. I recently graduated, but just found out about "Inspired to Teach." Can I still apply for this program?

- A. No. Applicants must enroll and participate in "Inspired to Teach" prior to completing their teacher preparation degree program.

Q. Can I receive "Inspired to Teach" and Oklahoma's Promise (or other state scholarships/grants)?

- A. Yes, "Inspired to Teach" can be received in combination with other state or federal aid. However, you will want to speak with your institution's financial aid office to make sure you are not exceeding the federal cost of attendance requirement.

Q. Is the Future Teacher Scholarship (FTS) still an active scholarship?

- A. FTS is no longer an active program. The new Oklahoma Future Teacher Scholarship and Employment Incentive Program ("Inspired to Teach") has replaced it and is a completely different program with different requirements.