**From a financial standpoint, what impact would a scholarship have on your education?**

Financially, a scholarship would help tremendously in cutting back on the amount of student loans I would have otherwise had to take on in order to continue paying for my education here at the University of Oklahoma. I am very aware of the pressure that student loan debt can have once one graduates, and not having to worry about that would help tremendously both before and after I graduate. Additionally, although my parents are aiding in financing my education here, I would like to do all that I can to help contribute equally in that cost through the acquisition of scholarships.

**How have situations in your life influenced your ability to be a successful student at the University of Oklahoma?**

Coming from an extremely supportive family who has always encouraged me to pursue that which interested me, as well as growing up and attending a school district which pushed me at an early age to be successful both inside and out of the classroom is a major reason why I have been so successful at the University of Oklahoma. I know that many would give an arm and a leg to grow up in the fostering environment which I did, and I will always be grateful for the opportunities I’ve had thus far in my academic career. I believe that growing up with the idea to never accept anything but my absolute best, an ideal instilled in me by both my parents and teachers, has been the biggest influence on my ability to be a successful student here at the University of Oklahoma, and is an ideal I plan to carry with me throughout my life.

**Please provide a summary of your honors/awards and a description of your memberships and offices held in honorary, social, and professional organizations and other campus/high school organizations.**

**Awards:**

* STAR Award: Café Express employee award for exceptional teamwork and service
* Auditioned into a spot in the 2014-15 North Texas All Region Band
* Received 1’s on various occasions at the Texas State Solo and Ensemble Competition (both ensembles/solos)
* Top 7% of high school class

**Memberships:**

* Member: National Honors Society
* Member: Honors College
* Member: Big Event Operations Staff
* Vice President/Co-Treasurer: Carroll Mandarin Club
* Leadership Corp: Carroll Dragon Marching Band
* Lead Trumpet: Carroll Dragon Jazz Ensemble
* Drum Major: Carroll Dragon Band

**Describe your higher education and career goals.**

After achieving my bachelors in computer science, I plan to continue my education to achieve my masters in the same field implementing the accelerated BS/MS degree track. Once completing that, I plan to apply at various technology corporations, preferably the leaders in the industry: Microsoft, Google, Apple, and Amazon. If I am unable to find a job working at these companies, I will apply to other technology focused companies and work at building and honing my skills as a computer scientist wherever I happen to end up. My end goal career wise is to work my way up the software development ladder to the upper levels of creation/management for one of the above mentioned companies. In the end, I simply hope that I will find a job in which I will be able to do what I love to do.

**Describe how you are financing your education.**

I am financing my education with the help of my parents, who after going through their own college education and accruing numerous debts knew that they did not want their children to go through the same stress and anxiety that debts can cause. That being said, I am also paying for part of my education through a small number of student loans which I plan to pay off once I graduate from the University of Oklahoma and start my career. Along with my parents help and student loans, I was also awarded several scholarships for my first year at the University of Oklahoma, including the Award of Excellence, the OU Legacy Award, and the Dick & Shirley O’Shields Freshmen Engineering Scholarship.

**List any additional characteristics or circumstances that make you deserving of a scholarship from the University of Oklahoma.**

Starting next semester (Fall 2016), I will no longer be living in the dorms on campus, and will instead be living in an apartment. The extra financial burden of paying a monthly rent would be lessened greatly if I were to receive any sort of scholarships or financial aid, and would be greatly appreciated.

### [Sooner Parents Spring 2016 Scholarship Application](https://ou.academicworks.com/opportunities/131)

**In 300 words or less, if you were to make a brief and memorable speech about your OU experience for a group of high school students, what key 3 points would you include in your message?**

3 points I would include in a speech to potential future University of Oklahoma students would include OU’s electric school spirit, its undoubtable air of academic excellence, and its aura of homeliness and acceptance.

At the University of Oklahoma, every Saturday is a new experience of school spirit, something so thickly steeped into the culture here that one can’t help but feel it immediately when you walk on campus. Many might assume that this is a common thing at any college, yet in my experience non compare. Nothing compares to the sight of 82,000 students, fans, and alumni gathering to show their support for the school that they love.

OU’s academic excellence is something no one would dispute. With the highest number of National Merit Finalists in attendance, high retention rates, and numerous research opportunities, it’s no doubt that anyone looking for a place to stretch their mental muscles and further their educational career, the University of Oklahoma is a clear choice.

Finally, OU’s contagious feeling of homeliness that pervades nearly every student that attends, and aides them in coping with the inevitable sense of home-sickness one experiences when moving to a new place. Not many will have lived away from their family before coming to college, and it is not an easy thing to dull the longing to sleep in your bed at home. And yet, OU does that very thing, creating a fostering environment that is essentially a home away from home for all of those here.

[Sooner Parents John Michael Gore Memorial Essay Scholarship](https://ou.academicworks.com/opportunities/128)

**In 300 words or less, please explain what OU experience has impacted you the most thus far and why?**

One day a year, in the Spring Semester at the University of Oklahoma and at several other universities across the nation, thousands of students and volunteers gather together and spend the day working at various jobsites to improve their respective communities. In order for this event to run as smoothly as possible, various elected members work together to coordinate distribution of supplies and volunteers to specified jobsites. I, along with 60 other members, make up the Big Event Ops staff responsible for all of these things.

Yet it is not the event itself that impacted me the most. It was the comradery, sense of family, and genuine fun I had being a member of this team that will stick with me the most going forward in my college career. Nothing quite compares to walking into a room full of people all focused on the same goal, and in the process of reaching that goal becoming closer as a group. I know that the friends I made through this experience are some who I will stay in close contact with for the remainder of my time here at OU, and possibly once graduating.

The University of Oklahoma does an amazing job at creating an environment that fosters acceptance and community, and joining the Big Event Ops staff made that incredibly clear to me.

### [President's Award for Outstanding Freshman](https://ou.academicworks.com/opportunities/186)

**In 150 words or less, if you were to put together a survival pack for college what would you include in it?**

My Declassified University School Survival Guide would include the following three essential items:

* A mind ready to be molded and infused with knowledge of something you will utilize for the rest of your life. At a university, students learn the skills that they *want* to learn, over subjects that truly interest them personally, rather than repeatedly working integral functions or learning how to write the “perfect” essay year after year.
* Your parent’s phone number, written down, and posted up somewhere you will see it every day. Not many people will always support you in all that you do in your life, yet one’s parents are some of those rare few who will.
* Finally, a sturdy, one-of-a-kind, easy to use coffee thermos. Coffee, the lifeblood of college students, the undisputed champion of concentrated caffeine, deserves a container designed for it, and one not easily forgotten by its user.