



**NOC-OSU Gateway Program:
A Partnership for Access and Efficiency**

The NOC-OSU Gateway Program is an exciting partnership between Northern Oklahoma College (NOC) and Oklahoma State University (OSU) to expand educational opportunities for the citizens of Oklahoma. The program is designed to assist freshman and transfer applicants in qualifying for full admission to OSU, and credits earned through the Gateway Program apply toward OSU bachelors degrees. Gateway students enroll in classes through NOC-Stillwater, have the option to live in OSU housing, and participate with OSU students in a wide range of programs, services and activities on the OSU campus.

NOC-Stillwater serves three types of students: NOC and OSU students who are required to complete remedial courses, NOC students who are not admissible to OSU, and current OSU students who wish to concurrently enroll in NOC's general education courses. NOC-Stillwater provides all remedial coursework not only for NOC students, but also for OSU students who need to remediate high school curriculum or performance deficiencies. Enrollment in remedial courses (composition, reading, math and science) is seamless for OSU students – they enroll in these courses through OSU's student enrollment system. NOC general education courses transfer as equivalent to specific OSU courses and meet general education requirements for both institutions. Courses regularly offered include freshman composition, American history and government, college algebra, introductory sociology and psychology, speech and humanities (see table 1).

A joint committee including faculty representatives from both NOC and OSU meets periodically to ensure that Gateway Program courses have common learning objectives and prepare students well for later OSU courses. The availability of transfer guides and degree requirement sheets and ready access to OSU academic advising offices helps to ensure that Gateway students choose courses that apply to their eventual OSU degree.

Table 1. Courses offered and students enrolled in NOC-Stillwater.

	Fall 2003		Spring 2004	
Courses offered	5 remedial courses		5 remedial courses 9 general education courses	
Students enrolled	<u>NOC</u>	<u>OSU</u>	<u>NOC</u>	<u>OSU</u>
Remedial	48	442	422	235
General education	--	--		57

Admission to Gateway Program

Students who have applied for freshman admission to OSU but do not meet current admission requirements are offered provisional admission through the Gateway Program. Students enter the Gateway Program by enrolling at NOC-Stillwater. Graduates of accredited high schools or other students whose high school class has graduated are eligible to apply for admission to NOC. Students admitted into the NOC-OSU Gateway Program may transfer to OSU after they earn 24 hours of degree credit at NOC and meet OSU's minimum grade point average for admission as a transfer student.

Costs

Students in the NOC-OSU Gateway program pay the same tuition and fees as OSU students. Payment of fees gives students access to the campus transportation system, computer laboratories, Colvin Recreation Center, Student Union, Student Counseling Services, Career Center, Student Health Services, Edmon Low Library and a variety of other programs, services and activities.

NOC-Stillwater students also have the opportunity to purchase the All Sports Ticket, which provides admission to a wide variety of intercollegiate athletic events, including Cowboy football.

Gateway students are eligible to apply for the full range of federal and state financial aid programs. For students who are concurrently enrolled, hours from both NOC and OSU are included in the calculation of total hours. To ensure the student receives the maximum possible eligibility, a financial aid consortium agreement between NOC and OSU has been signed.

Campus Housing and Student Activities

Gateway students are eligible to live in OSU campus housing. Living on campus permits students to enjoy hall-sponsored events, intramural sports, and an atmosphere conducive to studying and making life-long friendships. With over 350 OSU campus organizations, Gateway students have numerous and varied opportunities to meet other students outside the classroom and develop their social and leadership skills. While Gateway students may not participate in the Greek system and a few other activities, ample opportunity for campus involvement is available. This fall Gateway students will be invited to participate in ALPHA orientation activities. ALPHA helps new students make the transition to OSU by offering opportunities to meet other students, learn about the campus, and experience OSU traditions.

Assessment of Student Success

OSU and NOC will assess student academic success in courses taught by NOC faculty and in subsequent courses at OSU, retention of students who complete the Gateway Program, and student perceptions of NOC-Stillwater courses. Assessment methods will include measurement of student achievement in remedial courses, comparison of 2003-2004 data with historic data on the success of OSU students who took similar courses taught by OSU faculty (Table 2), and administration of a telephone survey of student perceptions of the courses. The partnership will be considered a success if the students who take courses taught by NOC faculty pass competency tests at the end of the course; have similar, or better, performance in subsequent OSU courses and retention at OSU than students who took similar courses taught by OSU faculty; and have positive perceptions of the courses. This assessment proposal and annual results will be shared with OSU and NOC administrative leaders and appropriate councils and committees.

Table 2. Pass rates and retention of OSU students who completed remedial courses in 2002 and 2003.

	Fall 2002	Fall 2003
Pass rates for OSU students in remedial courses	61.3%	77.6%
Retention of OSU students who took remedial courses	81.6%	79.4%

In summary, the NOC-OSU Gateway Program provides open access and enhanced efficiency. All students, regardless of high school grades and standardized test scores, are eligible to enroll in the program. The combination of small class sizes and personalized attention offered by NOC-Stillwater faculty and staff, and access to OSU advisers and campus activities will ease the transition to OSU and enhance student success. The Gateway Program enhances efficiency by allowing Northern Oklahoma College and Oklahoma State University to focus on their strengths. NOC faculty teach all remedial courses, work closely with students who need additional time to prepare for university-level coursework, and offer general education courses for OSU students who are not able to enroll in these courses at OSU. OSU will be able to focus more resources on upper division and graduate courses.