



OU's financial aid program:

## Of Diplomas and Dollar Signs

A considerable amount of green stuff—and we don't mean hal-  
lowed, traditional, wall-covering ivy—is expended along the path  
toward graduation. To prevent the cost of an education from bar-  
ring qualified students, colleges have developed financial assist-  
ance programs to ease the monetary burdens. The following is a  
report on the grants, scholarships and loans available at OU and  
the needs for the future.

By RONALD K. GREEN

The G. I. Bill following World War II was responsible for a significant impact on American higher education. It destroyed the myth that only a privileged few could go to college. This revolutionary change in the attitude of the American people about who could attend college was the crux of a problem that began to appear on the horizon along about 1951, when the last of the World War II veterans were graduating. It became very obvious that, although the veterans were gone, this in no way meant that enrollment would decrease, or even level off; quite the opposite, enrollments continued to soar, long before the anticipated onslaught of the booming "baby crop" of the 1940's. One problem faced by the colleges was that scholarship and loan programs, and employment opportunities, had failed to keep pace with the influx of capable students who needed help to attend college. Gone were the free tuition and supply ticket; gone also were the monthly stipends of the veterans which had helped to pay for housing and other auxiliary expenses on the campus, not to mention the money that found its way into the commercial houses surrounding the college communities.

Colleges and universities went to work to develop financial assistance programs. One of the first problems to be surmounted was to re-educate the public to the fact that colleges had to start providing "financial aid" for qualified and deserving students in-

stead of granting scholarships strictly as rewards for scholastic achievement. This has proved to be a long-range educational program, and it is far from being accomplished. The history of education in the United States shows that "scholarships" were originally intended for those qualified students who did not have the money to go to college. In the mid-1800's, a trend developed to give scholarships as an honor, regardless of the financial circumstance of the student, and competition for scholarships became something which only the top 5 percent of our high school graduates could enter into with any hope of success.

As the G.I. Bill of World War II changed attitudes about *who* could attend college, the great technological race begun by a little spheroid called Sputnik provided the impetus for creating national concern toward doing something about providing more financial assistance for college students. Thus was born the National Defense Student Loan Program under the National Defense Education Act of 1958. In the interim, Public Law 550 (the Korean G.I. Bill) provides some assistance, but the number of eligible recipients was not great enough to have an impact on the total financial aid available.

Where do we stand today with regard to how much financial aid is available? For purposes of this discussion, let us confine any further comments to the University of Oklahoma, since the readers of this article

are presumably interested primarily in what OU has to offer. First of all, any financial assistance must be considered in light of what it pays for. We estimate that a single, undergraduate student living in University housing can attend OU for approximately \$1,300 per year, all costs included (excluding, of course, fraternity or sorority membership and operation of an automobile). The average scholarship awarded by the University Scholarship Committee for the 1965-66 academic year was \$297, compared to the national average for *public* institutions of \$408. However, the average annual costs for all public institutions is slightly above \$1,500, compared to OU's \$1,300, so we may state that the average scholarship at OU pays the same proportion of expenses as the average scholarship at any other public institution.

Nationally, about 5 percent of students enrolled in public institutions receive scholarships. When departmental scholarships and scholarships from outside sources are added to those awarded by the University Scholarship Committee, we may estimate that between 5 percent and 6 percent of OU's undergraduates receive some type of scholarship aid.

But scholarships don't tell the entire story. During this same academic year, some 2,200 students at OU will borrow approximately \$1,500,000 from the National Defense and Institutional Loan Funds. Also, about 3,000 students have jobs.

*What is available?* The following is a brief resumé of the types of scholarships, awards, grants, loans, and jobs available on the OU campus, both for entering freshmen and currently enrolled students:

1. University of Oklahoma Scholarships—\$7 per credit hour up to a maximum of \$224 for one year.
2. Alumni Development Fund Scholarships—\$300 to \$800 depending on the need of the student and available funds.
3. Lew Wentz General Service Scholarships—\$500 for the academic year (entail approximately 200 hours of work per semester).
4. National Defense Student Loans—up to \$1,000 per year for an undergraduate, depending on need.
5. Institutional Loans (Lew Wentz Foundation)—up to \$1,000 per year for upper-class students, depending on need.
6. Work-Study Grants—vary with financial need and work skill of the applicant.
7. Federal Educational Opportunity Grants—\$200 to \$800 per year for exceptionally needy students.
8. Student employment—most jobs pay \$.80 to \$1.50 per hour. The goal of the student employment program at OU is to provide the student with an opportunity to pay for room and board.

*How to apply.* A student may be considered for any or all of the above types of aid (except student employment) by submitting a single Application for Financial Assistance to the Director of Financial Aids between February 1 and March 1. In addition, students may be considered for certain other scholarships with special eligibility requirements on the basis of this single application form, and upper-class students are eligible for many departmental scholarships upon applying to their departmental chairmen. Students who desire to work should apply directly to the Employment Supervisor in the Office of Employment Services.

*Who may apply?* Any full-time student with a satisfactory academic record may submit an Application for Financial Assistance. While most

scholarships are awarded on the basis of high academic achievement *and* need, some special scholarships are awarded without regard to need. In general, a student must have a very good scholastic record to qualify for a scholarship, but all students making normal progress in the University have an excellent chance of receiving some type of aid if they need help *and* apply at an early date.

*Recent federal legislation.* At the time of this writing, President Lyndon B. Johnson has just signed the Higher Education Act of 1965. Basically, this Act will provide \$70,000,000 per year for grants of from \$200 to \$800 per year for exceptionally needy students. One effect which this might have is to free some other scholarship monies for superior students who have some (but not great) need. The Act will also provide "guaranteed reduced interest" loans through local banks; through this program, state or private insured programs will offer loans up to \$1,000 per year (a program total of \$5,000) to undergraduates and \$1,500 per year (program total of \$7,500) for graduate students, and the Federal Government will pay the interest on the loan while the student is enrolled for families having annual incomes of less than \$15,000. After the student leaves college, the Government will pay 3 percent of the interest, which may not exceed 6 percent and repayment will begin nine to twelve months after the student leaves college. The only exception to the repayment rule is that it may be deferred for up to three years while the borrower is in the Armed Forces, the Peace Corps, or graduate school. State and nonprofit private programs will be required to insure at least 80 percent of the principal of such loans.

**G**ift scholarships are increasing in number, but prospective college students, *must* realize that greater numbers of highly qualified students are applying for the scholarships, and competition is becoming more intense. Therefore, universities like OU must increasingly turn to other types and combinations of assistance to insure that qualified students will not be barred from the college of their choice because of the lack of financial resources. This is the real goal of a financial aids program. But with this

goal comes the responsibility to recognize the superior student who may not have enough need when compared to other applicants to qualify for scholarship assistance. The University of Oklahoma recognizes these students through its Honors Program, the University Scholars, and the President's Leadership Classes.

One of the great problems connected with providing information about financial assistance for college students is the publicity about unused scholarships. The fact is that scholarships awarded directly by college and universities *do not* go unused. The concept of unused funds is another myth as far as most general scholarship programs of colleges and universities are concerned; it usually refers to the national total of scholarships going unused because of special conditions attached to them. For example, many scholarships have peculiar eligibility restrictions stipulated by the donor, or call for advanced skills in unusual or scarce specialties. Another problem is that, although some students could qualify for many of these scholarships, they do not learn about them until it is too late to apply.

The hub of activity regarding financial assistance for OU students is the University Financial Aids Office and its director, Charles R. Galbraith. Mr. Galbraith is vitally interested in identifying those capable and deserving students who must receive help in order to attend the University. He is proud of the fact that, although we will probably never have enough gift scholarships for all qualified students, *OU is one of the few institutions in the United States which can state that all qualified students will receive some type of assistance, primarily because we have a large institutional loan program to supplement other sources.*

Complete information about OU's financial aid program may be obtained by writing to the Director of Financial Aids, The University of Oklahoma, Norman. The student should also check with his high school counselor about special scholarships offered by local civic and service organizations, industrial firms, and outside agencies such as the National Merit Scholarship Corporation.

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