

University of Oklahoma (OU) Sooner Works Program & Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Partnership

What is this program?

The program is a four-year certificate program for students with an intellectual or developmental disability (IDD) offering a college experience to prepare participants for competitive employment and independent living through a combination of coursework and career exploration:

1. Academics
2. Independent living
3. Socialization/social skills
4. Career development/career readiness

The goal of the Sooner Works program is for students to live independently and discover competitive integrated employment in the career field of their choice upon the completion of the four-year program. Specialized sessions are designed to help students in the Sooner Works Program reach their full potential. These sessions are not for credit and will include topics focused on each student's chosen area of concentration, which will help determine class choice and internship location. Sessions may include Introduction to OU, writing comprehension, personal finance, interpersonal communication and career path planning.

Who can get services from DRS for this program?

The OU Sooner Works Program services are for participants, as pre-authorized by DRS counselors.

The program participants shall be eligible transition-aged students who are:

1. DRS clients with an individual plan for employment (IPE); and
2. 18- to 24-years-old.

Are there work experience opportunities?

Yes, the OU Sooner Works Program offers paid internships/work experiences (paid through DRS at the federal minimum wage hourly rate) for each DRS participant. It provides 6 to 15 hours per week for a maximum of 10 weeks each fall semester and 10 weeks each spring semester.

1. Reimbursements to OU for the wages and benefits OU pays per participant in paid internships/work experiences where OU is the employer. This portion is exempt from any basic living requirements/financial status determination.
2. Reimbursements to OU for their reimbursements to non-OU employers for wages and benefits those employers pay per participant in paid internships/work experiences. This portion is exempt from any basic living requirements/financial status determination.

What can DRS provide for assistance for tuition?

DRS agrees to assist DRS participants with:

1. Up to \$3,000 per semester per participant for tuition and room and board; This is based on basic living requirements/ financial status determination. This could vary from participants and is not promised to every participant.
2. This amount is the set state allowable rate and there are no additional allocations for books or meal plans. There is no residency requirement for sponsorship if you are a current DRS client and meet the financial guidelines.



The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA



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Northeastern State University (NSU) Riverhawks Scholar Program & Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS) Partnership

What is this program?

The program is a four-year, post-secondary certificate program for students with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities. It focuses on the following four areas:

1. Academics
2. Independent living
3. Socialization/social skills
4. Career development/career readiness

The goal of the RiverHawks Scholar program is for students to live independently and discover competitive integrated employment in the career field of their choice upon the completion of the four-year program. Specialized sessions are designed to help students in the RiverHawks Scholar Program reach their full potential. These sessions are not for credit and will include topics focused on each student's chosen area of concentration, which will help determine class choice and internship location. Sessions may include Introduction to NSU, writing comprehension, personal finance, interpersonal communication and career path planning.

Who can get services from DRS for this program?

The NSU RiverHawks Scholar Program services are for participants, as pre-authorized by DRS counselors. The Program participants shall be eligible transition-aged students who are:

1. DRS clients with an individual plan for employment (IPE); and
2. 18- to 24-years-old.

Are there work experience opportunities?

NSU Riverhawks Scholar Program offers paid internships/work experiences (paid through DRS at the federal minimum wage hourly rate) for each DRS participant. It provides six to 15 hours per week for a maximum of 10 weeks each fall semester and 10 weeks each spring semester.

1. Reimbursements to NSU for the wages and benefits NSU pays per participant in paid internships/work experiences where NSU is the employer. This portion is exempt from any basic living requirements/financial status determination.
2. Reimbursements to NSU for their reimbursements to non-NSU employers for wages and benefits those employers pay per participant in paid internships/work experiences. This portion is exempt from any basic living requirements/financial status determination.

What CAN DRS provide for assistance for tuition?

DRS agrees to assist DRS participants with:

1. Up to \$3,000 per semester per participant for tuition and room and board. This is based on basic living requirements/financial status determination. This could vary from participants and is not promised to every participant.
2. This amount is the set state allowable rate and there are no additional allocations for books or meal plans. There is no residency requirement for sponsorship if you are a current DRS client and meet the financial guidelines.



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DRS Pub. #21-15 Print Date: November 2021
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