

FAQs

Who is Eligible to Receive Funding?

Eligible students must:

- Be currently enrolled at Oakton College
- Be officially listed as pursuing a transfer degree
- Plan to attend an eligible transfer visit or event
- Be registered or confirmed to attend the visit or event, when registration is required
- Have **not previously received S.O.A.R. funding**

Students may receive S.O.A.R. funding only once during their entire time at Oakton College.

Eligible students will receive an email when the application window is open

What Types of Visits or Events Are Eligible?

- Eligible activities may include:
- Campus tours
- Accepted-student programs
- New-student orientation
- Transfer-student events
- Academic department or program visits
- Housing tours
- Other approved transfer-related campus activities

Are International Students Eligible for Funding?

Yes, if they meet the eligibility criteria listed above.

How Much Funding Is Available?

Eligible students may receive support for approved expenses up to the following amounts:

- **Public transportation or rideshare:** Up to \$25
- **Gas:** Up to \$50
- **Train, bus, airfare, or other travel expenses:** Up to \$75
- **Overnight accommodations:** Up to \$150

Students generally receive funding from one category. Travel and overnight accommodations may be combined when needed for an approved extended-distance visit.

Funding amounts are maximums and are not guaranteed. Awards are based on the approved request and available S.O.A.R. funds.

I Received an Email, What is the Process to Receive Funding?

Eligible students who receive the S.O.A.R. email communication should:

- **Step 1:** Register or RSVP for the approved college or university visit or event, if registration is required.
- **Step 2:** Complete the S.O.A.R. Application Form.
- **Step 3:** Upload the registration or RSVP confirmation as a PDF as part of the application.
- **Step 4:** Watch your Oakton email for a funding decision and any additional instructions.

Registration verification should include the student's name, college or university, event or visit name, and event date.

If the college or university does not require registration, indicate that on the application. College Transitions may request another form of documentation.

How Long Does It Take for Applications to Be Processed?

Complete applications will be reviewed weekly and processed within **5–7 business days** after the application and required documentation are received.

Applications will not be reviewed or processed on weekends or College holidays.

Is There a Deadline?

Yes. Students must submit their application and required documentation **two weeks before the scheduled visit or event**. Applications received after that date will

Application periods and deadlines may be established each semester based on available funding and the academic calendar.

Students should not make nonrefundable purchases or reservations until they receive written approval for S.O.A.R. funding.

Does Applying Guarantee Funding?

No. Completing an application does not guarantee funding.

College Transitions will review eligibility, the proposed visit, requested expenses, required documentation, and available program funds before making a funding decision.

What If My Plans Change or I Cannot Attend?

Students should email **soar@oakton.edu** as soon as possible if their plans change or they are unable to attend an approved visit or event.

College Transitions may confirm attendance with the college or university after the event. If a student receives funding and does not attend without notifying College Transitions, that may be considered if the student applies for other limited funding opportunities in the future.

Who Should We Contact with Questions?

If you have any questions or need support in navigating the S.O.A.R. process, please contact us via email at **soar@oakton.edu**.