



ONLINE LEARNING HANDBOOK

July 2025

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Welcome

We're so glad you're a part of the Ozark Christian College family. In this handbook, you'll find guidelines and principles to help shape your experience at OCC. We're praying that during your time at Ozark, you'll grow spiritually and in your relationship with God and people. Read this handbook in light of OCC's educational mission and theological distinctives. All applications of these policies are governed by the OCC bylaws, [institutional goals](#), [doctrinal statement](#), and standards of conduct as adopted and amended by our [Board of Trustees](#), who serve as the final interpretive authority on these matters. Any discrepancies should be resolved in favor of these controlling documents of the college, which reserves the right to make decisions to carry out its mission consistent with biblical principles. [OCC Grievance Procedures](#) and [Student Concerns Forms](#) are also available to all students.

Mission Statement

The mission of Ozark Christian College is to train men and women for Christian service as a degree-granting institution of biblical higher education. The vision of Ozark Christian College is to glorify God by evangelizing the lost and edifying Christians worldwide.

The mission of the Digital Learning Department is to promote innovative teaching and learning experiences within the Ozark Christian College community.

Online Student Covenant

When adult students partner with Ozark Christian College to be trained for Christian service, they join both a residential and online community guided by the authority of Scripture and a desire to imitate Christ. This community is conscientious about the pursuit of holy living and honoring the image of God in all humankind. It is also dedicated to nurturing a culture of grace that will facilitate personal and spiritual growth as students develop their God-given talents and callings.

The apostle Paul's instructions to Timothy accurately summarize OCC's student expectations: Be an example to one another, to your families, and to your churches in speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Be devoted to Scripture and to the proclamation of it. Grow the gifts God has given you. Watch your life and doctrine closely. Be diligent in all these matters and persevere in them (1 Tim 4:12-16).

By enrolling at OCC, adult students agree to uphold the values of this community in all of their behaviors, inside and outside the classroom by:

- Abiding by the college's mission, statement of faith, positions on the sanctity of human life, gender, marriage and sexuality, and program policies (1 Pet 2:13).
- Communicating in ways that build one another up (inside or outside the classroom), avoiding discriminatory (including theological, racial, ethnic or national origin, gender, or disability) and offensive language (profanity, vulgarity, inappropriate jokes, obscenity, or general insensitivity and incivility), not lying, not participating in gossip or slander, all the while being attentive to one's tone and attitude (1 Cor 12:12-13:13; Eph 4:29; 5:4; Col 3:8-9; 2 Tim 2:15-16).
- Striving to live holy lives, exercising both wisdom and physical stewardship, not using their freedom in Christ as an excuse for selfish or sinful behaviors, but instead, refraining from the abuse of alcohol, and the use of illegal drugs (including marijuana and narcotic drugs not authorized by a physician) (Gal 5:22-26; Eph 5:15, 17-18; Heb 12:14; 1 Pet 1:15-16).

- Honoring one another through acts of service, encouragement, kindness, patience, forgiveness, trust, humility, mutual edification, respect, compassion, and sympathy (Jn 13:34-35; Rom 12:10-11, 16, 18; 14:19; 1 Cor 13:4-7; Eph 5:1-2; Phil 2:1-4; 1 Pet 2:1, 17; 3:8).
- Participating consistently in corporate worship, Christian service, Bible study, and habits that foster spiritual maturity (Heb 10:19-25; 2 Pet 1:3-11).
- Studying God's word wholeheartedly, striving to accurately understand, apply, and proclaim it (Ez 7:10; Ps. 119; Rom 12:1-2; 2 Tim 2:15; Jas 1:22).
- Pursuing a biblical sexuality, refraining from any form of sexual immorality, pornography, and immodest speech and behavior (Matt 5:27-30; Rom 6:11-14; 1 Cor 6:12-20; Gal 5:22-26; Eph 5:3; Phil 4:8; Col 3:5, 1 Thess 4:1-8).

For more on OCC's online community expectations, consult the [OCC Online Student Conduct Process](#).

I'm Accepted...Now What?

Once you are officially accepted by Ozark Christian College, it's time to get to know the online campus. This includes:

- Setting up your OCC student email
 - Once you are a student, OCC's Information Technology Department will email you an invitation to set up your new **@my.occ.edu** email address. Check your @my.occ.edu email often. You will receive important information from the Digital Learning Department and your instructors through your student email.
- Logging in to the OCC student portal
 - The student portal (my.occ.edu) will be active for you once your application has been processed. As a student, your portal will show you your class schedule, book list, financial aid, and school bill after you've registered for classes. Familiarize yourself with the layout of the portal.
- Logging in to Canvas and completing the Intro course
 - The course "Intro to OCC Online" is your first taste of the online classroom. You must complete this prior to the first week of class. As you work your way through the course, you'll learn how to use Canvas, Ozark's learning management system.
- Completing your FAFSA
 - Make sure your FAFSA is complete at fafsa.gov.
 - The FAFSA is completely free to fill out. If a website asks you to pay for your FAFSA, do not trust it. Do not use any other websites for your FAFSA other than the official government website listed above.
 - Return to your FAFSA each year to update and resubmit it to OCC.
- Asking questions
 - Contact Jeremiah Jones (jones.jeremiah@occ.edu; 417.680.5627) or Jason Donato (donato.jason@occ.edu; 417.626.1217) with any questions or needs.

Start of School Checklist

Here's a checklist to run through before the start of each module.

✓ Register for Class

- We will send an email when each registration period opens. Watch for this email and quickly respond to sign up for an advising time. Your advisor will register you for classes.

✓ Order Books

- Once you have registered for classes, check your portal for your course list. To do this:
- Click on the "Academics" tab.
- Click on "My Course Schedule."
- Make sure the correct term is selected in the dropdown menu at the top of the page.
- Next to each class in your schedule is a small "+" in a box. Click that box to open the booklist for that class.
- You can purchase all your books from the OCC bookstore by emailing your booklist to occbookstore@occ.edu. Include your name, student ID#, and mailing address. They will mail you the books and charge your student account.

- If you buy your books through the OCC bookstore, pay your bookstore bill the same way you would pay your school bill on the portal
- You may also purchase your books elsewhere (print or eBook); just make sure that the editions match.
- Another place to find your book lists is the syllabus for the upcoming course(s), which can be found at occ.edu/olresources.

✓ Pay Your Bill

- Once your school bill is posted, you can view it on the Student Financial Services tab of your my.occ.edu portal. Financial aid will be automatically applied.
- Click “Account Balances/Make a Payment.”
- You will see charges listed for both your account and the bookstore.
- Click “Make a Payment.”
- Enter the amount(s) you would like to pay for each account.
- Fill out the page that opens with your credit/debit card information.
- Click “Pay Now” at the bottom of the page.

✓ Submit Week 1 Assignments by Thursday/Sunday

- Don’t wait too long to get involved in your classes in each module. Log in and complete your first assignment(s) by Thursday of that week. Failure to do so can result in being administratively dropped from the course. (See [Online Attendance Policy](#).)

Tips for Success as an Online Student

Several important factors will help you be successful as an online student.

- Commit to Your Vision
 - Remember why you decided to pursue your bachelor’s degree online. If you experience tough moments throughout the program, your vision will help you press on.
- Create Enough Time
 - An online class means there isn’t a time of day your professor is waiting for you to arrive. The freedom from a class schedule can be challenging for some. Make sure you set aside enough time throughout each week for class. If you don’t have a plan each week, life will slip in and eat up your school time.
- Communicate, Communicate, Communicate
 - Check your student email and Canvas inbox often, as you will receive important information from the college and your professors. When you run into an issue or challenge, don’t hesitate to ask your professor or Jason Donato for help. If you communicate regularly and openly, we can better help you.

Student Services

Library

The Seth Wilson Library is named for OCC’s first academic dean. Library access is 24/7 via email (reflib@occ.edu) or online (occ.edu/library). Electronic resources such as the Christian Periodical Index, Academic Search Premier, ATLA Religion Database, and over 170,000 ebooks are available for research. MOBIUS (a consortium of libraries in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Oklahoma, and Texas) is another option for online students to access books and articles. Perlego Online Library is also available (after registration with your @my.occ.edu email address), providing access to over 900,000 textbooks. (See [Online Tools](#).)

Academic Resource Commons

OCC's Academic Resource Commons (ARC) exists to help all students succeed academically. The ARC offers academic tutoring, writing support, resources, and learning accommodations for students. Tutoring and writing support for all OCC courses are free. You can explore the [ARC's resources on Canvas](#) and set up an online appointment with the ARC at occ.edu/arcappointment.

Idleman Ministry Center

The Ministry Center provides professional assistance to OCC students in the areas of Christian service, internships, and vocational placement as they prepare for a life of ministry. You can find quality internships and receive advice through the job hunting, application, and hiring process. For help finding any of these opportunities, contact the Ministry Center at ministry.center@occ.edu. You can also post ministry jobs, internships, and residency opportunities on the college website by contacting the Ministry Center or visiting the Job Search area of the college website at occ.edu/ministryopenings.

Academic Information

Christian Formation and Service

A valuable part of Christian education is to be continuously formed into the shape of Jesus Christ. Part of this formation process is growing your heart for service. With that in mind, Ozark Christian College requires all students to submit an accountability form to help them grow in these crucial areas. The Christian Formation and Service requirement is:

- ✓ A zero-credit requirement (that means you don't pay for it)
- ✓ To complete each module you take classes
- ✓ Graded (pass/fail)
- ✓ Transcribed (will appear on your transcript)

As a student, you will need to spend one hour each week in Christian formation and one hour each week in service. You are likely already meeting this requirement. This might include worshiping with your local church, serving within the church or in the community, being in a small group, being mentored, or personally practicing spiritual disciplines. In each module, you will be required to complete the Christian Formation and Service requirement. The only "coursework" is to complete a quiz located within the course Christian Formation and Service toward the end of the module.

Academic Integrity

Because we're committed to training men and women for Christian service and to educational excellence, academic integrity is our natural expectation. Compelling evidence of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Chief Academic Officer. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:

- Providing false information regarding the completion of course assignments
- Plagiarism
- Cheating on examinations
- Submitting work that is not your own, whether it was provided by another person or generated by AI tools

The penalties for academic dishonesty are serious. Penalties may include failure of the assignment involved, requirement of additional work, failure of the course, academic probation, suspension from school, or dismissal from school.

Evidence of academic dishonesty must be submitted to the Chief Academic Officer. When there is evidence of academic dishonesty, the college will communicate this to the student via email using

school email addresses, through the campus LMS, or by phone. For more information, see occ.edu/catalog.

Online Attendance Policy

Online courses often demand greater discipline than on-campus courses because they are condensed into eight weeks. Attendance in online courses will be taken on a weekly basis. Students will be expected to actively participate according to the course syllabus throughout the week. Participation typically includes turning in assignments, commenting in the class forum, and communicating with the instructor. In short, make sure you are active in your class throughout the week by the assigned due dates. You do not have to “go to class” every day, but make sure you finish all your work each week. **If you do not participate for seven consecutive days, you will be marked absent.** Students are permitted a maximum of one absence. Absences are not an excuse to turn in late homework. They are there when emergencies arise. As a general rule, always be in contact with your professors. They will understand if a situation outside of your control affects your attendance.

Remember the following regarding absences:

1. If you don't participate within the first seven days of an online course, you will be administratively dropped and receive a 100% tuition refund (less any drop fees). The Digital Learning Department will contact you via your OCC student email account and/or current phone number to assist you prior to this deadline.
2. If you miss twelve consecutive days (beginning on Monday), you can be failed from the class.
3. If you acquire two non-consecutive absences, you will fail the course. For example, if you miss week 3 and week 6, you will fail the course.

For more information, [see page 43 of the OCC Academic Catalog](#).

Academic Standing

Academic Standing is a spectrum of levels you can be placed on based on your grades. Some are positive and others are negative. Read more about the various types of standing on [page 41 of the OCC Academic Catalog](#). Here are brief descriptions:

- **Dean's List:** The student completes at least 12 credit hours in a semester with a GPA of at least 3.670.
- **Academic Honors:** The student earns a cumulative GPA of 3.670 in the semester before graduation.
- **Academic Concern:** The student's previous semester GPA falls below 1.670 for the first 59 hours earned or 2.000 for 60 hours and above.
- **Academic Warning:** The student's institutional GPA falls below 1.670 or 2.000, respectively (as stated above). We strongly recommend that the student does everything possible to temporarily focus more attention on his/her studies if placed on Academic Warning.
- **Academic Suspension:** The student's GPA is still below 1.670 or 2.000 after 1 semester of Academic Warning. The student will not be allowed to enroll in OCC courses for 1 semester.
- **Academic Re-Admittance:** This is for students returning to OCC after being on Academic Suspension. Written evidence that demonstrates the student will achieve academic success must be submitted to the Director of Digital Learning.
- **Academic Probation:** If the student experiences a significant life circumstance during

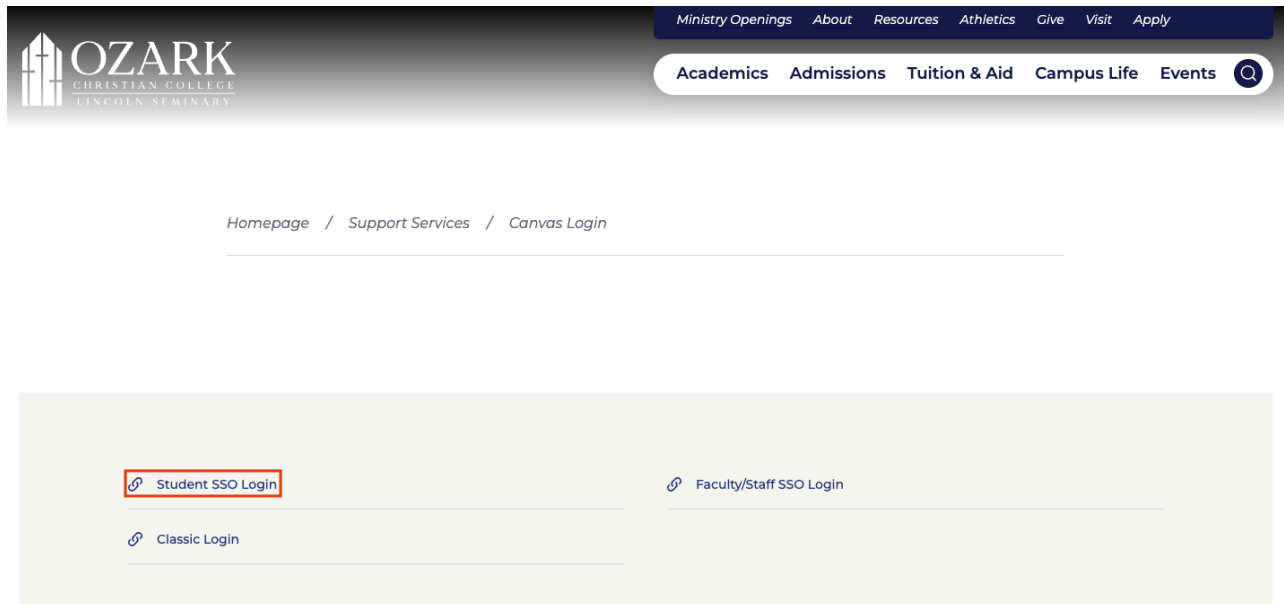
the semester on Academic Warning, he/she may appeal in writing to the Director of Digital Learning. Academic Probation is given after a successful appeal.

- **Disciplinary Suspension:** If a student is suspended for disciplinary reasons within the fifth week of an online module, the student will be withdrawn from school. After the fifth week, all grades will be “F.”

Online Tools

Canvas

Canvas is our digital learning environment. You can access occ.instructure.com from any computer with an internet connection and through the Canvas Student app for your phone or tablet. We recommend using the web version because not all features work in the app. You will watch video lectures, take quizzes, interact with peers, and submit assignments all through Canvas.



Once you're in Canvas, the Dashboard view shows your "favorite" classes as "cards" or as a To Do list. Clicking "Courses" then "All Courses" shows a list of all your enrollments—past, present, and future. Clicking the star next to a course will add it to your Dashboard.

Additional Info is the place to go when you need to report a problem or search the Canvas Guides. Canvas Guides will allow you to go deeper into the features of Canvas. The Student Guides have videos of how to use several key features of Canvas. If you are struggling to grasp a feature, watching these videos can help. You can also get to the guides at community.canvaslms.com/docs/DOC-10701.

Student Portal

The portal at my.occ.edu allows you to:

- pay your bill
- access your financial aid
- see your [class and book list](#)
- view your [unofficial transcript](#)

The portal is primarily used for financial aid, paying your bill, and getting your book list. Log in to the portal using your OCC ID#, not your email address.

The screenshot shows the 'My OCC' portal for Ozark Christian College Lincoln Seminary. The navigation bar includes tabs for HOME, DIRECTORY, ACADEMICS, GRAD STUDENTS, REGISTRAR, APPLICANTS, FACULTY, STUDENT FINANCIAL SVCS, EMPLOYEES, HUMAN RESOURCES, STUDENT EMPLOYMENT, STUDENT LIFE, and MY PAGES. The 'STUDENT FINANCIAL SVCS' tab is selected. The main content area is titled 'Welcome to the Web Portal!' and provides information for employees, students, and faculty. A 'Residential Activity Calendar' is displayed on the right, showing events from June to October 2025. The calendar includes events such as 'High School Boys Basketball Camp (Day 5/5)', 'Junior High Girls Volleyball Camp (Day 1/3)', 'Payment plan signed or full fall payment made', and 'Residence halls open for new students; Module 1 payment due (Module 1 online)'. The Ozark Christian College Lincoln Seminary logo is at the bottom.

The homepage has tabs to make navigation easy. (You won't have as many tabs as shown here.)

See "Order Books" for instructions on finding your book list.

Online Research

Being an online student means getting creative with research methods. There are a variety of ways to complete the research you need for class. The "Tools for Research" page at the top of every class in Canvas has links and login info for several online research options. Our online classes are designed so you can do all your research using your textbooks and the library's online resources. Here are just a few ways you can do research in the online world.

LOCATE

[Locate](#) is our online catalog you can use to look up books in our library or through the MOBIUS network. Access online through the link above or by visiting occ.edu/library.

MOBIUS

[MOBIUS](#) is a consortium of over 230 libraries which OCC is in. If the Seth Wilson Library does not have a resource you need, expand your search and check MOBIUS. If any of our partner libraries have what you're looking for, you can request it and it will be shipped for free to the Seth Wilson Library for you to pick up. You can access MOBIUS through our online catalog with your OCC credentials. If you are not a local student, [check this link](#) for a partner library near you to utilize MOBIUS or even to request books from our own collection.

EBSCO

[EBSCO Discovery Service \(EDS\)](#) is a database with access to thousands of resources that we subscribe to for our students to utilize. There are a few important updates regarding changes to EBSCO features, that we think will be beneficial for our students. We recommend that you use Ebsco Discovery Service (EDS) rather than Ebsco Host, which previously was the only option. Ebsco Discovery still offers a few of the same key features we recommend to our students, such as searching the database by scripture, while also adding, most notably, the ability to search through all of our resources at once, including JSTOR, our own catalog, and partner libraries' collections. This makes the search and discovery process of research much more streamlined, which is why we recommend exclusively using EDS rather than Ebsco Host.

Local Libraries

You can also search for libraries near you. You may even have a theological library in your area that you can use.

Perlego Online Library

OCC online students will also have access to the [Perlego Online library](#), which provides over 900,000 textbooks. The interactive software allows students to highlight and take notes as they read and study. It also has built-in study tools to create references and to search within books. Students can access Perlego from their computer, tablet, or smartphone.

JSTOR

You will have access to [JSTOR](#), a database consisting largely of journal articles, as well as other resources. JSTOR notably contains a majority of peer-reviewed material, as well as primary sources, making this a valuable resource to include in your research. Follow the prompts on the welcome page to register with your institution to gain immediate and free access.

Libby

[Libby](#) is a free app that gives you access to thousands of ebooks and audiobooks. Download Libby on your phone or tablet and register using your OCC ID or library card barcode.

Seminary Now

You will also have access to [Seminary Now](#), a theological platform that offers a variety of biblical, theological, and ministry-related courses from experts. Create your account through the link sent to your OCC email to enjoy free access.

Unauthorized File Sharing

Copyright infringement is the act of exercising, without permission or legal authority, one or more of the exclusive rights granted to the copyright owner under section 106 of the Copyright Act (Title 17 of the United States Code). These rights include the right to reproduce or distribute a copyrighted work. In the

file-sharing context, downloading or uploading substantial parts of a copyrighted work without authority constitutes an infringement.

Penalties for copyright infringement include civil and criminal penalties. In general, anyone found liable for civil copyright infringement may be ordered to pay either actual damages or “statutory” damages affixed at up to \$30,000 per work infringed. For “willful” infringement, a court may award up to \$150,000 per work infringed. A court can, in its discretion, also assess costs and attorneys’ fees. For details, see Title 17, United States Code, Sections 504, 505. Willful copyright infringement can also result in criminal penalties and fines of up to \$150,000 per offense. For more information, please visit the U.S. Copyright Office website at copyright.gov, particularly their FAQs at copyright.gov/help/faq.

Students who engage in illegal downloading or unauthorized file sharing of copyrighted materials, including distribution of music and movies to others through the college’s information technology system, will be subject to disciplinary sanctions, including suspension and dismissal from the college. While the college takes disciplinary action against those who violate copyright law and employs a variety of technology-based deterrents to prevent or reduce such illegal acts, each member of the Ozark community is responsible for complying with laws and policies of use of electronic resources and intellectual property.

The Information Technology (IT) Department may disclose network usage and other usage and other information to legitimate law enforcement agencies or monitoring entities. The college allows downloading of copyrighted material through recognized channels such as Amazon.com, iTunes, and other legal alternatives. A link to legal sources of online content is provided by EDUCAUSE at edUCAUSE.edu/legalcontent.

Important Dates for 2025-2026

[Available at occ.edu/onlinecalendar](http://occ.edu/onlinecalendar)

Fall Registration: April 1-October 4

Fall Mod 1 Registration: April 1-August 9

Fall Mod 1 Payment: August 16

Fall Mod 1: August 19-October 13

Fall Mod 2 Registration: April 1-October 4

Fall Mod 2 Payment: October 11

Fall Mod 2: October 1-December 8

Spring Registration: October 28-February 28

Spring Mod 1 Registration: October 25-January

3 Spring Mod 1 Payment: January 10

Spring Mod 1: January 13-March 9

Spring Mod 2 Registration: October 28-February 28

Spring Mod 2 Payment: March 7

Spring Mod 2: March 10-May 4

Summer Registration: October 28-May 23

Baccalaureate Service: May 1 (Thursday, 9:30 a.m.)

Commencement: May 10 (Saturday, 10:00 a.m.)

Summer Payment: May 30

Summer Mod: June 2-July 27