**Award Information**

The Bridging the Gap Scholarship is funded through a generous grant from the George Kaiser Family Foundation. It provides scholarships to TCC students interested in pursuing a certificate and/or degree in the field of child development.

The scholarship pays tuition, fees and books (less a $10 per credit hour co-pay to be paid by the scholar) for courses toward specific certificates/degrees. It also reimburses for academic related expenses including background checks, food handler’s cards, and TB tests.

**Certificate and Degree programs funded by Bridging the Gap include:**

- Child Development Associate certificate (CDA)
- Child Development Certificate of Mastery
- Infant/Toddler Certificate of Mastery
- Associate of Applied Science degree with Infant/Toddler option
- Early Childhood Education Associate of Science degree with transfer option to OU-Tulsa

Applicants must be Oklahoma residents and do not qualify for the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care scholarship. Priority goes to students that meet the minimum GPA requirements. However, there is a probationary entry status for those with lower GPAs.

Unique to this scholarship is the personal assistance that all scholars receive during their time in the program. Scholars work with a personal advisor, mentor, and program assistant to help them successfully complete their educational goals and transition to the next step in becoming an early childhood professional.

**Application Deadlines**

Fall: June 1st  
Spring: November 1st

Any completed applications received after the deadline will be reviewed the following semester.
George Kaiser Family Foundation Bridging the Gap Scholarship
Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must:
- Be a resident of Oklahoma
- Not qualify for the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care Scholarship Program
- Meet the following minimum entering Grade Point Average (GPA) Requirements for Full Admission*:
  - No Previous College/University Credit: 2.0 GPA
  - Previous College/University Credit, Majoring in CDA/Certificate of Mastery: 2.0 GPA
  - Previous College/University Credit, Majoring in AAS Infant/Toddler Option: 2.0 GPA
  - Previous College/University Credit, Majoring in AS Early Childhood Education OU Transfer: 2.5 GPA
  
  * See application for specific details on students with low-entering GPAs.
- Complete/graduate with one (or more) of the certificates and/or degrees that the scholarship covers.
  - Childhood Development Associate certificate (CDA)
    This program provides students with an introduction to the physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of infants and young children. Courses address the CDA competencies designed to prepare students for a position in either an infant-toddler or preschool program or a family childhood care program. Bridging the Gap pays for the assessment fee for the CDA National Credential. Students obtaining this certificate are required to already be working with children, as some of the assignments must be completed in a classroom, center, and/or family child care program.
  - Certificate of Mastery
    This program is designed to meet the requirements of the R.E.W.A.R.D. Oklahoma Supplemental Scale. There are two options for obtaining the Certificate of Mastery. Option 1: Students have completed the 9 credit hours of CDA coursework, English Comprehension I, and 6 hours of approved Child Development courses OR Option 2: Students have completed English Comprehension I and 15 hours of approved Child Development courses.
  - Infant Toddler Certificate of Mastery
    This program is designed to meet the requirements of the R.E.W.A.R.D. Oklahoma Supplemental Scale. This certificate will automatically be obtained upon completion of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS): Infant/Toddler Option degree.
  - Associate of Applied Science (AAS): Infant/Toddler Option
    This program is designed to prepare students to work with infants and toddlers. Courses focus on the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, and language development of children birth to three years of age. Students learn developmentally appropriate program design and activities for infants and toddlers. Students gain practical knowledge and skills necessary for effective communication, nurturing, and facilitating optional development for infants and toddlers. This degree plan does not directly transfer to a four-year-university.
  - Associate of Science (AS): Early Childhood Education, OU Transfer
    This program is for students who want to teach infants to third graders. It is designed to seamlessly transfer to the University of Oklahoma. It is the general education coursework required for a degree from OU in Early Childhood Education. Upon completion of the AS degree, students must apply to be admitted to OU and work on coursework to receive a Bachelor degree and certification/license to teach. A grade of “C” or better is required in all coursework in this degree and students must maintain a 2.75 GPA in order to be admitted to OU.
George Kaiser Family Foundation Bridging the Gap Scholarship Application

**Application Deadlines**
Fall: June 1st  
Spring: November 1st

**Return Completed Application, Essay, and Copy of Transcript to:**
Bridging the Gap Scholarship  
Tulsa Community College- West Campus  
7505 W. 41st Street  
Tulsa, OK 74107

| Date of application: _______________________ | I wish to begin: □ Fall □ Spring Year ____________ |
| Certificate/Degree (check all that apply): |
| □ CDA □ Certificate of Mastery □ AAS Infant/Toddler □ AS Early Childhood Education (OU transfer) |

Are you currently a TCC student or have you ever been admitted to TCC? □ Yes □ No  
Campus Wide ID: ____________________________

**Contact Information**

| Name (First, Middle, Last): ____________________________________________ |
| Other Name(s) Used: ____________________________________________________ |
| Social Security Number: ________________________________________________ |
| Mailing address: _______________________________________________________ |
| County of Residence: ________________________________ Home Phone: __________________ |
| Email: _______________________________________________________________ |
| Cell Phone: ___________________________________________________________ |

**Educational Status**

I am currently (check one):

□ Attending High School

School (City/State): _____________________________________________________

Years Attended: _____________ Anticipated Graduation Date: _______________ GPA __________

□ Attending Technical School/College/University

School (City/State): _____________________________________________________

Years Attended: _____________ Anticipated Graduation Date: _______________ GPA __________

□ Not in School

Last School Attended (City/State): _______________________________________

Years Attended: _____________ Graduation Date: _______________ GPA/GED Score __________
Eligibility

I: (check all that apply):

☐ I currently work with children:

Center/School: __________________________________________________________

Number of Hours Worked Per Week: _____ Pay Per Hour: ___________ Star Rating: ______

Is the center DHS or tribal licensed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Does the center have 10% or more DHS subsidized children? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ I currently participate in the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care scholarship program.

Name of Scholar Coordinator: _____________________________________________

☐ I previously participated in the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care scholarship program.

Semesters/Years Participated: ____________ Name of Scholar Coordinator: _____________

Essay

Please submit a two (2) page typed, double spaced essay on the following topic. Be sure that your name is in the top right corner of each page.

*Explain why you are interested in becoming an early childhood professional. Include your career goals, academic goals, the ages of children with whom you would like to work, training in the field, and any other information that shows your interest.*

Low-Entering Grade Point Average

Bridging the Gap has the following minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) requirements:

- With no previous college/university credit, entering GPA of 2.0
- With previous college/university credit, entering GPA of 2.0 (CDA, Certificate of Mastery, AAS Infant/Toddler)
- With previous college/university credit, entering GPA of 2.5 (AS OU Early Childhood Education Transfer)

If your GPA is below the minimum requirements, please attach a typed document explaining the reasons for your poor academic performance and specific steps/plan for addressing the problem.

Demographic Information (optional)

Date of Birth: ____________________________

Race/Ethnicity:

☐ African American/Black
☐ American Indian/Alaskan Native
☐ Asian
☐ Caucasian/White (non-Hispanic/Latino)
☐ Hispanic/Latino
☐ Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander

Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Is English your first language?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, please list your native language(s):

______________________________________________________________

You will receive an email confirming receipt of this application. If you have not received an email within one week of submission, please contact our office at (918) 595-8090.
George Kaiser Family Foundation Bridging the Gap Scholarship

Application Checklist

☐ Submit the application form, essay, and copy of all transcripts to the Bridging the Gap Scholarship Office by mail or in person. Include the additional low-entering GPA document if your Grade Point Average is below minimum requirements. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Please make photocopies/digital copies of everything that you turn in.

☐ You will receive an email confirming receipt of your application. If you have not received an email within one week of submission, please contact our office at (918) 595-8090.

☐ Complete a TCC application online at www.tulsacc.edu and submit an official transcript to the West Campus Registrar’s Office.

☐ Complete a FAFSA application form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.

☐ Submit your ACT scores or take the COMPASS at any TCC advising office. The COMPASS will determine your course placement in developmental (remedial) or college level courses.

☐ Wait to hear from the scholarship committee to determine if you are a finalist. Finalist will be asked to participate in a group interview. This invitation may be done by email, telephone, or mail. Be sure you put accurate and legible contact information on your application form.

☐ Wait to hear from the scholarship committee to determine if you are offered the scholarship. All applicants will be notified by mail of award or denial.

☐ If awarded the scholarship, submit a signed State of Commitment form by the deadline stated in your award letter.

☐ If awarded the scholarship, meet with your Program Director for an individual advisement meeting and enroll in a minimum of 6 credit hours/ maximum of 12 credit hours during the fall and spring semesters. (Summer semesters are optional.)

☐ If awarded the scholarship, attend New Scholar Orientation and a Study Skills workshop prior to your first semester in the program.

Application Deadlines

Fall: June 1st    Spring: November 1st

Any completed applications received after the deadline will be reviewed the following semester.