



## ***What is FOCUS / Educational Talent Search?***

The Talent Search Program (FOCUS) identifies qualified youths with potential for education at the postsecondary level and encourages them to complete secondary school and undertake a program of postsecondary education.

Seminole State College's **FOCUS / Educational Talent Search Program**, which has been assisting students in this area since 1991, is a **free** academic enrichment program you can join at your school. It is part of the **TRiO** Programs, which are funded by the U.S. Department of Education. During the school year your FOCUS / Talent Search Advisor will visit your school and meet with participants either in groups or individually.

## ***What happens in the FOCUS / Educational Talent Search meetings?***

Your FOCUS / Talent Search Advisors conduct workshops and activities that provide you with valuable information—but in fun ways. Not only do you learn about college, careers, study skills, and life skills, you improve your interpersonal skills by interacting with others.

***How can FOCUS / Educational Talent Search help me? FOCUS / Educational Talent Search can provide you with the tools you need for a successful education and career. What if you ...***

**Need help with a class?** *FOCUS / Educational Talent Search* will provide connections to high quality academic tutoring services.

**Don't know how to study?** *FOCUS / Educational Talent Search* will show you how to develop good study habits you'll use for years to come.

**Are unsure about how to apply for college?** *FOCUS / Educational Talent Search* can help you with the application process.

**Don't know how you will pay for college?** *FOCUS / Educational Talent Search* will assist you in finding sources of financial aid.

**Are confused about what career you want to pursue?** *FOCUS / Educational Talent Search* can help you match your interests and abilities with a career that's right for you!

***Here are some examples of the great FOCUS workshops you can expect at your school:***

***Ask A College Student!*** Find out how to succeed in college from actual college students!

***Find YOUR Best Career!*** Make the most money AND have the most rewarding career!

***Operation Lifestyle:*** How much money will you need in the future?

***This Is A Test!*** How to conquer fears about testing!

***On Your Way to Great Grades*** Do these things to be successful in school!

***ACT Strategies*** Practical hints and tips for succeeding with the ACT!

***The Path to College*** Find out exactly how to get to college!

## ***How can I join FOCUS / Educational Talent Search?***

Return this form to your school counselor, our office in Room 109 of SSC's Scott Bldg., or mail directly to:

**FOCUS / Educational Talent Search, Seminole State College, P.O. Box 351, Seminole, OK 74868**

**Please feel free to call (405) 382-9703 if you have any questions.** We look forward to hearing from you!

**Mary Ann Hill – Director, Deedra Eldredge, Carol Parker, Damaris Haney, Janet Farrow, Deena Murray,– Advisors**



# FOCUS / Educational Talent Search Application

The following information must be provided by a **parent** or **guardian** only with whom the student lives.

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Middle

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_ Birth date \_\_\_\_\_

(required)

month, day, year

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Email \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Parent daytime / cell number \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Citizen: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (If no, please provide documentation of permanent residency)

School \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic Background: \_\_\_\_\_ African American \_\_\_\_\_ Asian \_\_\_\_\_ White

\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic \_\_\_\_\_ American Indian (Tribe) \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

With which **adults** does the student live? (Please check **all that apply** and provide names)

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural Mother Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural Father Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Step Mother Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Step Father Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Guardian(s) Name \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people residing in household \_\_\_\_\_ Is student a ward of the state? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the names of other students in the household who participate in FOCUS / Educational Talent Search? \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any other federal program (i.e. Upward Bound, Gear Up) in which the student participates.  
\_\_\_\_\_

Father's Educational Background

High School Attended but did not receive diploma \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ GED \_\_\_\_\_

2 Year College Attended but did not receive degree \_\_\_\_\_ Received degree \_\_\_\_\_

4 Year College Attended but did not receive degree \_\_\_\_\_ Received degree \_\_\_\_\_

Father/Male Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a guardian, have you legally adopted the student? \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Educational Background

High School Attended but did not receive diploma \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated \_\_\_\_\_ GED \_\_\_\_\_

2 Year College Attended but did not receive degree \_\_\_\_\_ Received degree \_\_\_\_\_

4 Year College Attended but did not receive degree \_\_\_\_\_ Received degree \_\_\_\_\_

Mother/Female Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Place of employment \_\_\_\_\_

If you are a guardian, have you legally adopted the student? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please note: The application cannot be processed without the following required information:**

- **Were parents required to file a 2015 income tax return? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_** If you checked **Yes**, please enter the amount of **taxable income** (income after deductions) from appropriate form below (1040, 1040A, or 1040EZ) or you may attach a copy of your federal income tax return).
- **This figure is your taxable income--income after deductions.** Please note that we need tax information for the family living at the address listed on this application. (If you are unsure about your taxable income, please contact your tax professional.)

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| If you filed IRS form 1040, list amount on line 43   | (taxable income) _____ |
| If you filed IRS form 1040 A, list amount on line 27 | (taxable income) _____ |
| If you filed IRS form 1040 EZ, list amount on line 6 | (taxable income) _____ |

- If you checked **No** (you were not required to file a tax return), please provide an estimate of your income for 2015: \_\_\_\_\_

If you did not file a tax return, please indicate if you receive one or more of the following:

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| _____ Social Security         | _____ Unemployment  |
| _____ Retirement              | _____ Child Support |
| _____ Welfare/Social Services | _____ Other         |
| _____ Veterans Benefits       |                     |

Seminole State College's FOCUS / Educational Talent Search Program is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. In order to receive the funds necessary to provide our 700 participants with free services, we are required to obtain income information. We cannot accept participants without this information; however, eligibility is not determined solely from income. If you have questions about this form, please call our office (405)382-9706. This confidential information will not be released to anyone. You may also mail the application directly to our office if you prefer.

**My student has applied for Oklahoma's Promise (formerly known as OHLAP) Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_**

My signature indicates that the previous information is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge. (Parent signature mandatory for acceptance)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Application continues on next page*

**FOCUS**  
**Educational Talent Search**  
**Seminole State College**

**Release of Information Agreement**

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
(required)

This document will authorize the Seminole State College FOCUS / Educational Talent Search Program to receive and/or release relevant academic records on the above student including, but not limited to, transcripts, test scores, online school portals, teacher evaluations, and other materials necessary for participation in FOCUS / Educational Talent Search. This release includes future college transcripts, admission applications, class schedules, financial aid documents (such as the FAFSA, student aid reports and scholarship award letters) and other postsecondary education records from the National Student Clearinghouse.

I understand that these records are confidential and protected under State and Federal Confidentiality regulations. These records will be used internally for evaluating the need for program services, setting academic goals and measuring progress toward meeting goals. This information is required to meet U.S. Department of Education regulations for the Talent Search Program.

Although this release may be revoked upon my written request, I agree that it shall be valid throughout my child's participation in the FOCUS / Educational Talent Search Program and beyond for verification of postsecondary enrollment, academic progress, and graduation.

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# FOCUS . . . on your future!

## Student Questionnaire

In order for FOCUS / Educational Talent Search to provide the best services possible to participants, we request that you answer the following questions about yourself. We want to help you achieve your goals!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Do you like school? Please explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What classes in school interest you most and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What classes in school are most difficult for you and why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you like to have tutoring in a particular class (which one)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Are you able to study at home? Please explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. How often do you miss school? \_\_\_\_\_ Never \_\_\_\_\_ Sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ Frequently

7. Have you ever repeated a grade? (If yes, which one?) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Please indicate the areas in which you feel you need help. (Check all areas that apply)

Listening skills \_\_\_\_\_ Note taking \_\_\_\_\_ Reading a textbook \_\_\_\_\_ Test-taking strategies \_\_\_\_\_

Managing your study time \_\_\_\_\_ The college process (financial aid, applying to college, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

9. Are you doing the best you can in school? If you had help, do you feel that you could do better? Please explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. What activities are you involved in at school or otherwise? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Choose three words to describe yourself.

\* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_ \* \_\_\_\_\_

12. What do you like to do in your spare time? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What are your plans after high school? \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Vo-tech \_\_\_\_\_ Military \_\_\_\_\_ Job

14. If you chose college, which one are you planning to attend? \_\_\_\_\_

15. What do you want to be when you grow up? (If you aren't sure, list some things you have thought about)  
\_\_\_\_\_

➤ Student Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please don't forget to sign the Release of Information on the [previous page!](#)

**Thank you for completing this survey! Please return it with your application.**