



ogallala Commons

1. What is OC?

Ogallala Commons is a 501c3 nonprofit organization offering education and leadership to reinvigorate Great Plains communities. Centered over the vast High Plain-Ogallala Aquifer, our outreach also stretches westward to the Rocky Mountain foothills and eastward to the river-braided prairies of the Midwest. Learn more at our website: www.ogallalacommons.org

2. What is a Community Partner?

OC Community Partners are civic organizations, nonprofits, agencies, education entities, and businesses that are eager to build assets together that no single group can achieve alone.

a.) Why partner with OC to create internships, apprenticeships, or other programs?

Many see the value of mentoring youth into careers, but few have the expertise or infrastructure to support the work. OC offers a multi-level ecosystem that provides structure, documentation, and coaching, so that interns, apprentices, and their supervisors participate in a learning cohort that spreads across 8 states.

3. What is an intern & apprentice?

Internships and apprenticeships provide work experience and professional skill-building that is essential for transitioning from school and study to the realities of a full-time career. Our internships or apprenticeships, though like a job, are actually work training instead of job employment.

OC Community Internships range from 200-240 hours over 8-10 weeks, but can be as long as 6-9 months.

OC Community Apprentices are longer than internships: 500-600 hours. OC builds apprenticeships when a candidate and the partner are ready and willing to create a pathway to a full-time job position.



2016 Community Intern & Apprentice Investment Levels

Level	Partner Investment	Stipend Received
High School Intern (200 max. hours @ \$9 per hour)	\$2,200	\$1,800
College Intern (230 hours @ \$10 per hour)	\$2,600	\$2,300
Older Adult or Grad Student Intern (240 hours at \$11 per hour)	\$3,100	\$2,500
Community Apprentice (500-600 hours @ \$10 per hour)	\$6,000-7,000	\$5,000-\$6,000

Most of the investment for interns (80%) covers their stipend, while 20% covers some of the operational costs of the program.

The investment is higher for apprentices due to the longer time frame and total hours, with a higher portion of the investment required to cover program costs.

b.) Why does it matter?

Instead of assuming that nearly all youth and many adults must leave local communities to make a living in larger metropolitan areas, OC Internships and Apprenticeships equip our partners to create pathways that bring back young people or retain adults in our hometowns. Our program allows for exploration of local and regional careers, skill-building to satisfy existing job needs, and incubation of entrepreneurial and nonprofit enterprises. Together, we can build the opportunities that inspire youth and adults to return home, to work and raise their families in a place where they choose to live.

