

M A V E R I C K A I

CHATGPT IS NOW COMPLETELY FREE FOR STUDENTS

4 MONTHS OF CHATGPT PLUS AND WORK, \$0, UNTIL HALLOWEEN

THE CLAIM LINK

chatgpt.com/students/2026

Tap it, sign in, verify. Claim by October 31, 2026.

OpenAI is handing every U.S. college student its \$20-a-month plan for free for four months. That's an \$80 value, it includes ChatGPT Work (the agent that actually finishes tasks for you), and claiming it takes about two minutes. This guide is the exact walkthrough, checked click by click.

The claim link (above) and what you'll see when you tap it

The 4 steps: open, sign in, verify with SheerID, activate

Who qualifies: full-time, part-time, and grad students

The 6 things that make verification fail, and the fix for each

What to do on day one so the four months actually pay off

2026 Edition

What You're Actually Getting

\$80

value, at \$0 to you

4

free months of Plus + Work

Oct 31

last day to claim

This is OpenAI's 2026 back-to-school offer. Verify that you're a student and your ChatGPT account gets four free months of ChatGPT Plus, the \$20-a-month plan. Plus includes ChatGPT Work, which is the part that matters for school: instead of answering questions, it does the task. Upload a lecture recording or your notes and it hands back a full study guide. Give it a topic and it builds the presentation. Switch to voice mode and it quizzes you out loud like a professor would.

Question	Answer
Who qualifies	Current full-time and part-time students at U.S. degree-granting colleges and universities. Grad students count.
What you get	4 free monthly billing periods of ChatGPT Plus, including ChatGPT Work and every other Plus feature.
Deadline	Claim by October 31, 2026. Once it's claimed, your 4 months run from that day.
Cost	\$0 for 4 months. Then it renews at \$20/month unless you cancel (more on that below).
School email needed?	Only to verify. Your ChatGPT account can be on any email, even your personal Gmail.
Already on Plus?	You can still claim it if you're billed directly by ChatGPT. App Store or Google Play subscriptions don't work (cancel there first, wait for the period to end, then claim).
How many times	Once per person.

TIP

The four months start the day you claim, not the day you enroll. So the smart move is to claim now, before the October 31 cutoff, and get the full stretch through finals.

How To Claim It (2 Minutes)

I ran this on my own account so I could tell you exactly what each screen looks like. Here's what happens.

THE CLAIM LINK

chatgpt.com/students/2026

Tap it, sign in, verify. Claim by October 31, 2026.

STEP 1: Open the offer page

Go to chatgpt.com/students/2026 in a normal browser on your laptop or phone. You'll see the headline "Study. Build. Launch. Get 4 months of ChatGPT Work on us." and a black button that says **Claim free offer**. Click it. If you're on a VPN, turn it off first (the verification page blocks VPNs).

STEP 2: Sign in to the ChatGPT account you want it on

If you're not signed in, ChatGPT asks you to log in or create an account. Use the account you actually use every day. This is the account the offer gets attached to, and it does not need to be your school email. After you sign in you'll see a spinner that says "Verifying your student status. This may take a minute. Please keep this page open." Leave it alone for a few seconds.

STEP 3: Fill in the verification form

A form loads with your ChatGPT email at the top ("This offer will be applied to your ChatGPT account"), then five fields:

Field	What to put
School	Start typing and pick your school from the dropdown. If it isn't listed, see the fixes on the next page.
First name / Last name	Exactly as they appear on your official school records. Nicknames fail.
Date of birth	Used for verification only.
Email address	Must be your school-issued email (.edu or your school's domain). This is the one field where your personal email won't work.
Consent checkbox	Tick it. It lets SheerID, the verification company, check your enrollment.

Then click **Verify student status**.

WHAT SHEERID DOES NEXT

SheerID is the same company that verifies student discounts for Spotify, Apple and most airlines. Depending on your school, one of three things happens: it matches you instantly against enrollment records (most people), it sends you to your school's single sign-on page to log in, or it asks you to upload a document (a class schedule, enrollment letter, or tuition receipt showing your name, school and the current term). Instant matches take seconds. Document reviews usually come back by email within a day or two.

STEP 4: Activate

Once you're verified, you're sent back into ChatGPT to turn the offer on. If you're new to Plus, it asks for a payment method. Add one. You are not charged during the four free months; it's there so the subscription can continue at \$20 a month afterward if you keep it. If you already pay for Plus directly through ChatGPT, the four free months get applied to your existing subscription. That's it. Open a new chat and you'll see the Plus features and the Chat / Work switch at the top.

DO THIS RIGHT AFTER YOU ACTIVATE

Put a reminder in your phone for about 3 months and 3 weeks from today titled "ChatGPT Plus renews at \$20." If it's earning its keep by then, keep it. If not, cancel a few days before the fourth month ends and you'll have paid nothing.

If Verification Fails

Almost every failed claim comes down to one of these. Fix it and try again; you can re-run the form.

What went wrong	The fix
"Unable to verify" instantly	Your name or date of birth doesn't match school records. Use your full legal name, no nickname, no middle name unless the school has it. Retry.
Your school isn't in the dropdown	Try the official long name ("University of Arizona" not "UofA"). Still missing? Use the SheerID support form linked from the offer page FAQ ("What should I do if I'm having trouble verifying?") and ask for it to be added.
Asked for a document	Upload a current class schedule, enrollment verification letter, or tuition receipt. It must show your name, your school, and this term's dates. Screenshot of your student portal works if it shows all three.
Page won't load or says VPN	Turn off your VPN and any campus proxy, then reload the claim link.
Already subscribed through the App Store	Cancel in the App Store or Google Play, keep using Plus until the period ends, then come back and claim before October 31.
Offer says already redeemed	It's one per person. If you claimed it on another ChatGPT account, that's where it lives.

HEADS UP

Only use the official link, chatgpt.com/students/2026. Anyone selling "student ChatGPT accounts" or asking for your login to "verify" you is a scam. The real flow never asks for your ChatGPT password on a third-party site.

Three things to try on day one

Switch to **Work** at the top of ChatGPT for the first two. Use **Voice** (the headphone icon) for the third.

Do this	Say this
Lecture to study guide	"Here's my lecture recording and slides [attach]. Build a full study guide: key concepts, definitions, worked examples, and 20 practice questions with answers."
Build the presentation	"Turn these notes [attach] into a 10-slide presentation for my [class] with speaker notes for each slide."
Get grilled before the exam	In voice mode: "You're my professor for [course]. Quiz me out loud on [chapters], one question at a time, and don't move on until I get it right."

Want More AI Tips Like This?

I post daily AI content, tool breakdowns, and prompts that actually help you get more done. Follow me for the latest.

@MavGPT

TikTok | Instagram | Facebook

Eighty dollars, two minutes, one link. Go claim it.