

*Twenty-Third Annual*  
*Fall Commencement*  
*Exercise*



*Northwestern Oklahoma*  
*State University*  
*Alva, Oklahoma*

*Percefull Fieldhouse*  
*December 7, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.*



# Twenty-Third Annual Fall Commencement Exercise

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Percefull Fieldhouse

Sunday, December 7, 2025, 2:30 p.m.

Processional ..... Recording

Star Spangled Banner ..... Recording

Invocation ..... Steve Hamm

*Minister, College Hill Church of Christ*

Address ..... Thad Dilbeck

*Class of 1991*

Presentation of Class ..... Dr. James Bell

*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

Conferring of Academic Degrees ..... Dr. Bo Hannaford

*President*

Alma Mater ..... Lawana Newell

*Instructor of Music*

Benediction ..... Steve Hamm

*Minister, College Hill Church of Christ*

Recessional ..... Recording

# *Graduating Class*

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN AMERICAN STUDIES**

Bo Pearson  
Higgins, Texas

## **MASTER OF ARTS IN HERITAGE TOURISM & CONSERVATION**

Jaden Rose Dillard  
Stillwater, Oklahoma

## **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Ella R. Ayers  
Nash, Oklahoma

Avery Ruth Clark  
Choctaw, Oklahoma

Colton James Bowker  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Douglas Wilson Griffith II  
Stillwater, Oklahoma

## **MASTER OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

Kaslin Lea Baros  
Calumet, Oklahoma

Grace Hise  
Enid, Oklahoma

Joseph W. Bickford  
Owasso, Oklahoma

April Dawn Martinez  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Felicia Choate  
Nashville, Tennessee

Louis Almand Miele IV  
Brooksville, Florida

Katie Combest  
Enid, Oklahoma

## MASTER OF EDUCATION

Kaylee Nicole Abbott  
Educational Leadership  
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Christine A. Goscha  
Educational Leadership  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Lily Margaret Anderson  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Little Elm, Texas

Jordan Iwuchukwu  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Edmond, Oklahoma

John Geoffrey Pulliam Canty  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Norman, Oklahoma

Shaughnessy Kelly  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Arlington, Texas

Rebecca Susan Claflin  
Reading Specialist  
Wakita, Oklahoma

Bryce Mack  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Los Angeles, California

Wendi Collums  
Educational Leadership  
Enid, Oklahoma

Mason Myers  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Olathe, Kansas

Jerika Lyn Coon  
Reading Specialist  
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Jessica Patnode  
Educational Leadership  
North Enid, Oklahoma

Sara Eckhardt  
Reading Specialist  
Alva, Oklahoma

Kim Elaine Scholey  
Curriculum and Instruction  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Caitlin Marie Evans  
Educational Leadership  
Enid, Oklahoma

David Gabriel Sonnier  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
Lumberton, Texas

Tamaj Deanthony Gordon  
Adult Education Management & Administration  
San Antonio, Texas

Kylan Watkins  
School Counseling  
Vici, Oklahoma

## BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Karolina Arensdorf\*\*

Media and Communication, BS  
Pratt, Kansas

Crispus Atukwatse

Biology, BS  
Kingston, Jamaica

Jesse Nicole Bailey

General Studies, BA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Jadyn Faye Benton

Business Administration, BBA  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Matthew Bergman

Computer Science, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Chloe Vonne Bradt

Elementary Education, BSED  
Alva, Oklahoma

Ko Brooks\*\*\*

Biology, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

Tiara Lanai Campbell

Biology, BS  
Apple Valley, California

John Cloud\*\*\*

Computer Science, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Samora Shondella Collins

Psychology, BS  
Clinton, Oklahoma

Maryam Dianka

Computer Science, BS  
Allen, Texas

Brianda Diaz

Early Childhood Education, BSED  
Carson City, Nevada

James Carl Dodson

Social Science, BAED  
Enid, Oklahoma

Elizabeth Dorado Barrera

Biology, BS  
Dodge City, Kansas

Kalynn Egleston

Psychology, BS  
Okeene, Oklahoma

Hope Katherine Ellis

Elementary Education, BSED  
Enid, Oklahoma

Isabel Favela  
Accounting, BBA  
Buffalo, Oklahoma

Marshal Blake Howard  
Business Administration, BBA  
Follett, Texas

Mary Kate Foster  
Health & Sports Science Education, BSED  
Alva, Oklahoma

Bailey SuRae Humphries\*  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Enid, Oklahoma

Kylee Marie Frazee  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Enid, Oklahoma

Nathen Cole Hunt  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

CeCelia Vandiver\*  
Biology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Terry Lee Hunt\*\*\*  
Business Administration, BBA  
Bixby, Oklahoma

Max C. Garza  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Houston, Texas

Willem Kirk Johnson  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

David Israel Guajardo  
Computer Science, BS  
Laverne, Oklahoma

Blake Conner Johnston  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Newkirk, Oklahoma

Mary Lee Hainzinger  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

John Tyler Jones\*\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Thomas, Oklahoma

John Leslie Hofferber  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Tegan Lynn Jones  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Shattuck, Oklahoma

Erin Nicole Hood  
Business Administration, BBA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Alexandra Kepley\*  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Holcomb, Kansas

Adele Labombard  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Colten Hunter Lormand  
Psychology, BS  
Goltry, Oklahoma

Patricia Cassio Lugo  
Spanish, BA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Terrence Kwesi Nana Marfo  
Psychology, BS  
Denver, Colorado

Kelsy Martinez\*\*\*  
Computer Science, BS  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Jason William McCarty\*\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Goddard, Kansas

Jack McCoy\*\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Hillsdale, Oklahoma

Sofia McElroy  
Business Administration, BBA  
Flower Mound, Texas

Caroline McKinley  
Nursing, BSN  
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Aaron "AJ" Medrano Jr  
Media and Communication, BS  
Laredo, Texas

Mara Kaye Miller  
English, BAED  
Manning, Iowa

Christi-Anne Mills\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Basseterre, St. Kitts

Colby Mitchell  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Berryhill, Oklahoma

Julisa Mojica Rivas  
Business Administration, BBA  
Seiling, Oklahoma

Tess Mortenson  
General Studies, BA  
Souris, North Dakota

Beck William Wade Moss\*\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Irvine, California

Kylee RayAnn North  
English, BAED  
Erick, Oklahoma

Daniel Lamont Oats Jr.  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Mounds, Illinois

Casen Olson  
Agriculture, BS  
Waynoka, Oklahoma

Sarah Perez  
Business Administration, BBA  
Frederick, Oklahoma

Porter Pittman  
Business Administration, BBA  
Eastvale, California

McKenzie Pitts  
General Studies, BA  
Waynoka, Oklahoma

Alfred Timothy Poolaw  
Sociology, BA  
Anadarko, Oklahoma

Collin Prince\*  
Business Administration, BBA  
Blackwell, Oklahoma

Kayleigh Rauch  
General Studies, BA  
Cleo Springs, Oklahoma

Edgar Lizandro Reyes  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Laredo, Texas

Genesis Nevaeh Rodriguez  
Business Administration, BBA  
San Antonio, Texas

Mishelle Rios Salinas  
General Studies, BA  
Buffalo, Oklahoma

Haylee Sellers  
Psychology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Brack Slater  
Accounting, BBA  
Medford, Oklahoma

Karsyn Smith\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Midwest City, Oklahoma

Kaitlynn Swank  
English, BA  
Warrensburg, Missouri

Mary Aleese Terrel  
Early Childhood Education, BSED  
Alva, Oklahoma

Mikayla White\*\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Paola, Kansas

Taylor Whitfield  
Psychology, BS  
Texhoma, Oklahoma

Jacob Reid Wiltshire  
Computer Science, BS  
Tucson, Arizona

Henry Wilson Jr  
General Studies, BA  
Chicago, Illinois

JoEllen Worthington  
Psychology, BS  
Cherokee, Oklahoma

Official graduation photos taken by NWOSU University Relations will be available for free download via the Northwestern Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/nwosu-rangers/albums>.



BA - Bachelor of Arts  
BBA - Bachelor of Business Administration  
BM - Bachelor of Music  
BS - Bachelor of Science  
BAAS - Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences  
BAED - Bachelor of Arts Education  
BME - Bachelor of Music Education  
BSed - Bachelor of Science Education  
BSN - Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
BSW - Bachelor of Social Work

## HONORS PROGRAM

The Honors Program was designed by faculty and administration to provide intellectual stimulation in a challenging and supportive environment. Only a few of the academically elite students are selected to participate. Program requirements include taking a minimum of four Honors Courses and participating in student/faculty research projects or attending seminars. Students who complete the program will “Graduate with Honors” and are indicated in the program by the symbol “†”.

## LEVELS OF ACADEMIC DISTINCTION

Latin honors are Latin phrases used to indicate the Level of Academic Distinction with which an academic degree was earned. Northwestern Oklahoma State University recognizes graduates with Levels of Academic Distinction based upon their cumulative grade point average.

\*Cum Laude: 3.70-3.79 CGPA

\*\*Magna Cum Laude: 3.80-3.89 CGPA

\*\*\*Summa Cum Laude: 3.90-4.00 CGPA

## ACADEMIC DRESS

The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were being organized in medieval Europe. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress worn by church officials of the time. The academic dress of American institutions has evolved from European traditions and has been in use in the country since colonial times. In the United States, academic degrees are identified by distinctive gowns, hoods, and colors.

Gowns recommended for use in the colleges and universities in the United States have the following characteristics. The gown of the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve. The gown for the doctor's degree has bell-shaped sleeves. Today gowns are designed so that they may be worn open or closed.

Gowns for the bachelor's or master's degrees are untrimmed. For the doctor's degree, the gown is faced in front with velvet; three bars (chevrons) are used across the sleeves. These velvet facings and cross bars (chevrons) may be black or the color distinctive of the academic disciplines to which the degree pertains, thus coinciding with the edging of the hood that is appropriate to the particular academic discipline of the doctor's degree.

The academic hood is colorful, having its outside black with an edging of velvet in the color representing the academic degree. Each hood is lined with silk in colors representing the university granting the degree. Northwestern Oklahoma State University hoods are lined with red and black in addition to the trim representing the academic degree.

The cap or mortarboard comes from Italy and has its origins during the Renaissance. The cap has evolved from one that originally was worn over the ears and included no tassel to today's modification of a black square on a skullcap including a tassel. Variations of the mortarboard include the beret or the tam.

The colors of the tassel worn with the academic cap represent the level of degree or academic field in which the degree is conferred. For example, doctoral degree holders often wear a gold tassel that used to be worn only by presidents or chancellors.

For academic purposes, including trimmings of doctor's gown, edging of hoods, and tassels of caps, the colors associated with the different academic disciplines are as follows:

- Agriculture (Maize)
- Arts, Letters, Humanities (White)
- Behavioral Science (Royal Blue)
- Commerce, Accountancy, Business (Drab)
- Economics (Copper)
- Education (Light Blue)
- English (White)
- Fine Arts, including Architecture (Brown)
- Journalism (Crimson)
- Law (Purple)
- Library Science (Lemon)
- Medicine (Green)
- Music (Pink)
- Nursing (Apricot)
- Oratory - Speech (Silver Gray)
- Philosophy (Dark Blue)
- Physical Education (Sage Blue)
- Science (Golden Yellow)
- Social Work (Citron)
- Theology (Scarlet)

Parts of the preceding information were adapted from the commencement programs of Fort Hays State University, Oklahoma State University, Texas A&M University, and the University of Oklahoma.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Northwestern Oklahoma State University provides quality educational and cultural opportunities to learners with diverse needs by cultivating ethical leadership and service, critical thinking and fiscal responsibility.

## HONOR SOCIETIES

Northwestern Oklahoma State University offers the opportunity for its students to be members of a number of academic honor societies. Membership traditionally is by invitation to those who have excelled predominantly in academic achievement. Some academic honor societies recognize students from all academic fields while others focus on specialized areas such as psychology or history. At Northwestern, these academic honor societies include: Alpha Psi Omega, Cardinal Key, Delta Tau Alpha, Delta Mu Delta, Chi Sigma Iota, Kappa Kappa Psi, Lambda Iota Tau, Phi Alpha Theta, Psi Chi, Pi Kappa Delta, Pi Sigma Alpha, Red and Black Scroll, Sigma Beta Delta, Sigma Tau Delta, and Sigma Delta Pi. Some of the members of these honor societies can be identified during graduation ceremonies by the honors cords or honors stoles they will be wearing over their academic dress.

## THE UNIVERSITY MACE

The University Mace leads the academic procession at commencement and on other special ceremonial occasions. The mace symbolizes the authority of the President on behalf of the University. Historically, the use of a mace dates back to the Middle Ages and was carried before or placed near a magistrate or other dignitary as an ensign of authority.

The mace was designed by Dr. Jerry Brownrigg, Professor Emeritus of Technology. Brownrigg, who retired from Northwestern after 42 years of dedicated service, crafted the mace from a 45-year-old piece of local black walnut. Brownrigg was a skilled artist who has received national and worldwide acclaim for his craftsmanship. The mace depicts various University symbols, including the University seal, the names of the institution since it was established in 1897, and the names of the presidents of the University.







## *Northwestern Alma Mater*

Oh, Northwestern Alma Mater,  
In our hearts you will remain,  
To keep your honor and your glory,  
Our devotion we proclaim.

In days to come,  
And years begun  
Throughout the land,  
We'll praise your name.

For all your honor and your glory,  
And your great undying fame,  
We hail our Alma Mater.

F.A. McClain

TM