

*One Hundred Twenty-Sixth Annual  
Spring  
Commencement Exercise*

*Northwestern Oklahoma  
State University  
Alva, Oklahoma*



*Ranger Field  
May 10, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.*



*One Hundred Twenty-Sixth Annual  
Spring Commencement Exercise*

Northwestern Oklahoma State University  
Ranger Field

Saturday, May 10, 2025, 10:30 a.m.



Processional ..... University Band

Star Spangled Banner ..... University Band

*Directed by Xan Perkins*

Invocation.....Rev. Charles Wells

*Pastor, Alva Church of the Nazarene*

Address ..... Rich Cantillon

*Class of 1981*

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

*Vice President for Academic Affairs*

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

*President*

Alma Mater ..... Audience

*Samuel Grinder, Class of 2025*

Benediction..... Rev. Charles Wells

*Pastor, Alva Church of the Nazarene*

Recessional..... University Band

# *Graduating Class*

## **DOCTORATE OF NURSING PRACTICE**

Ololade Juliet Lajuwomi  
Edmond, Oklahoma

Amber Leigh Wood  
Shawnee, Oklahoma

Thuy Thi Van  
Wichita, Kansas

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

Noreen Ann Wagner  
San Antonio, Texas

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

Alyssa Grace Overpeck  
Elkhart, Kansas

## **MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION**

Carli J. Baxter  
Perry, Oklahoma

Hannah Hughes  
Fort Scott, Kansas

Macy Amani Cesa-Spearman  
Chico, California

Crystal Brookes Keeler  
Atoka, Oklahoma

Jacob Haren  
Callaway, Nebraska

Angelina Remedios Marlow  
Beaver, Oklahoma

Natalie M. Harrison  
Stillwell, Oklahoma

Cindy Martin  
Laverne, Oklahoma

Kenyon J. Holcombe  
Tomball, Texas

Rhett T. Murray  
Alma, Kansas

Hannah Lynn Howell  
Anna, Texas

Cade Seymour  
Buckeye, Arizona

Jacinta Traul  
Fort Scott, Kansas

## **MASTER OF COUNSELING PSYCHOLOGY**

Lottie Charlotte Craig  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Peyton Scott Lucas  
Fairview, Oklahoma

Megan Isaacs  
Frankton, Indiana

Shawnace M. Melendez  
Alex, Oklahoma

Sheila L. LaBlue  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Jason K. Quaynor  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

## **MASTER OF EDUCATION**

Dax Martin Benway  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Derby, Kansas

Wilson Cal  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Fullerton, California

Jon Carlos Bingesser II  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Beloit, Kansas

Emilie JaNae Cline  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Alva, Oklahoma

Keyra Loreta Briggs  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Amorita, Oklahoma

Grace Tara Elizabeth Contreras  
Educational Leadership  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Dakota Buckhaults  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Alva, Oklahoma

Garrett A. DeHaas  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Meno, Oklahoma

Andrea Nichole Burris  
Curriculum & Instruction  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Chancelor Gill  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
San Antonio, Texas

Michael A. Harrison  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Pasadena, California

Cade Phelps  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Wellington, Kansas

Alan Arthur Hughes  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Blue Springs, Nebraska

Thomas E. Prado  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Cedar Creek, Texas

Macy Lahr  
Reading Specialist  
Crescent, Oklahoma

Natalie D. Rose  
School Counseling  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Ashley Audrey Low  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Heather Shepherd  
Educational Leadership  
Blackwell, Oklahoma

Logan M. Martin  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Pauls Valley, Oklahoma

Chase Jackson Stokes  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Pearland, Texas

Ovell Lamonte Patterson  
Adult Education Management &  
Administration  
Fresno, California

Kari Melissa Wing  
School Counseling  
Red Wing, Minnesota

## **MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY**

Heatherene Merrill  
Apple Valley, California

Coby R. Tillman  
Bixby, Oklahoma

Dasha Smith  
Guymon, Oklahoma

Brogan Casassa Winston  
Huntsville, Texas

Trevor Stiles  
Houston, Texas

## BACHELOR'S DEGREES

Harlie Michele Altland  
Social Work, BSW  
Vici, Oklahoma

Ruben R. Alvarado\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
San Antonio, Texas

Meredith Andrews\*\*\*  
Psychology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Alyssa Arambula Sanchez  
Social Work, BSW  
Enid, Oklahoma

Erika Asencio Soriano  
Spanish, BA  
Bajos de Haina Itaba, Dominican  
Republic

Madelyn Elise Atchley\*\*\*  
Early Childhood Education, BSED  
Enid, Oklahoma

Wendy Judith Avendano Chavez  
Psychology, BS  
Fairview, Oklahoma

Devin Marie Backhaus  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Alyssa Kay Ball  
Social Work, BSW  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Michael Barnett  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Beggs, Oklahoma

Tiffany Baugh  
Nursing, BSN  
Heber Springs, Arkansas

Kalli Baumgardner\*  
Biology, BS  
Fairview, Oklahoma

Cash R. Bixby  
Agriculture, BS  
Panhandle, Texas

Kara Reyna Blackwelder  
Nursing, BSN  
Hennessey, Oklahoma

Tyler P. Blankenship  
English, BAED  
Macomb, Oklahoma

Nicholas Bocanegra  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Kimberly Suzanne Boles\*\*\*  
Accounting, BBA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Tatum Lee Booth  
Health & Sports Science Education, BSED  
Texhoma, Oklahoma

Brenden Odell Bowles  
Business Administration, BBA  
Buffalo, Oklahoma

Michael William Byers  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Moses Lake, Washington

Dylan James Bradford  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Tucson, Arizona

Adele Callaway  
Nursing, BSN  
Shattuck, Oklahoma

Austin James Bradt  
Agriculture Education, BSED  
Laverne, Oklahoma

Nayelli Camarena  
Business Administration, BBA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Abriana Braley\*\*\*  
Psychology, BS  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Cale Carlisle  
Agriculture, BS  
Attica, Kansas

Brianna Michelle Brantley  
Nursing, BSN  
Amarillo, Texas

Kaci Nitasha Carpenter  
Psychology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Kathryn Ashleigh Brashears\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Vivian Chaqueco  
Biology, BS  
American Falls, Idaho

Rachel Natalie Brown\*\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Pomona, California

Ray Chavira  
Biology, BS  
Newcastle, Oklahoma

Shelby Bruno  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Tonkawa, Oklahoma

Shay Nicole Collins  
Nursing, BSN  
Hennessey, Oklahoma

Madison Paige Buckley\*\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

Morgan Jacob Cook  
Mathematics, BSED  
Alva, Oklahoma

Jillian Dawn Burton  
Nursing, BSN  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Maria Jose Cornwell  
Nursing, BSN  
Enid, Oklahoma



Brittan Olivia Crabtree\*\*\*  
Nursing, BSN  
Enid, Oklahoma

Emmett Daniel Edler  
Agriculture, BS  
State Center, Iowa

Carly Craig\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Blanchard, Oklahoma

Taylor Katherine Ellis  
Agriculture Education, BSED  
Enid, Oklahoma

McKenzie Lynn Cramer\*  
Social Work, BSW  
Ashland, Kansas

Renaja Engermann\*\*  
Psychology, BS  
Tempe, Arizona

Tessa Cramer  
Nursing, BSN  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Kaitlynn Ernst  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Vivian Rose Creveling\*\*\*  
Business Administration, BBA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Layne Lynn Evans  
Business Administration, BBA  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Sadie BreAnne Crusinbery  
Agriculture, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

Samuel J. Felton\*  
Social Work, BSW  
Enid, Oklahoma

Katelynn Mae Dahn  
Computer Science, BS  
Cherokee, Oklahoma

James Anthony Fincher, III  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
North Las Vegas, Nevada

Jaret Max Dean  
Agriculture, BS  
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Milagros M. Fonseca  
Spanish, BA  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Kenzie Layne Koehn  
Biology, BS  
Fairview, Oklahoma

Nydia Evelyn Fraire  
Business Administration, BBA  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Kerry P. Duvall  
Agriculture, BS  
Farmington, California

Jadyn Frazier  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Shattuck, Oklahoma

Jake Freeny  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Cooper Otto Frymire  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Thomas, Oklahoma

Jacob Fuller  
Business Administration, BBA  
Valliant, Oklahoma

Kyle Nicholas Fuller  
General Studies, BA  
Hinton, Oklahoma

Tyler Furey  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Belle Chasse, Louisiana

Alan Garcia  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Beaver, Oklahoma

Chylynn Jean Gibson  
Agriculture, BS  
Ashland, Kansas

Curtis Wayne Gilbert  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Darien M. Gill  
Computer Science, BS  
San Antonio, Texas

Shylo Durrell Glover  
Agriculture, BS  
Stuart, Oklahoma

Jasmine Garcia Gonzalez  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Chad Green  
Business Administration, BBA  
La Habra, California

Samuel Wade Grinder  
Music-Vocal, BME  
Sayre, Oklahoma

Heather Dawn Gritz  
Nursing, BSN  
Hennessey, Oklahoma

Adrianna Marie Gutierrez  
Nursing, BSN  
Haslet, Texas

Chase Hamilton  
Business Administration, BBA  
Edmond, Oklahoma

Tanner Lee Hamilton  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Mannford, Oklahoma

Saddie Lynn Hammond  
Business Administration, BBA  
Avondale, Colorado

Trystan Alexander Hammontree  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Laverne, Oklahoma

Anastasia Marie Harper  
Biology, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

Kelci Lynn Hasenfratz  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Addie Lea Hoeme  
Agriculture, BS  
Preston, Kansas

Reaghan M. Haworth  
Nursing, BSN  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Aluxyn Hollenbeck  
Business Administration, BBA  
Valentine, Nebraska

Christopher Glenn Heiskell  
Psychology, BS  
Houston, Texas

Caden Holmes  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Napanea, Ontario, Canada

Krissalynn Ayannah Henderson  
Business Administration, BBA  
La Grange, Texas

Maegan Brylee Holson  
Psychology, BS  
Waynoka, Oklahoma

Machala Hengen  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Post, Texas

Tricia Ann Hoosier  
General Studies, BA  
Billings, Oklahoma

Baeleigh Shae Henshall  
Social Work, BSW  
Enid, Oklahoma

Crystal Jean Hooten  
Business Administration, BBA  
Garland, Texas

Leslie Ann Hernandez Vega\*\*\*  
Nursing, BSN  
Enid, Oklahoma

Makenzie Jo Hoskins  
Social Work, BSW  
Arnett, Oklahoma

Brook Lauren Hess  
Nursing, BSN  
Gate, Oklahoma

Emma Jo Hottovy\*\*  
Business Administration, BBA  
Macksville, Kansas

Diamond Nicole Hilton  
Psychology, BS  
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

Eric Edward Hughes, Jr.  
Business Administration, BBA  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Rhonda Hobbs  
Psychology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

MacKenzie Ann Hurd  
General Studies, BA  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Kyra Hussey  
Social Work, BSW  
Mountain Park, Oklahoma

Salat Ibrahim  
General Studies, BA  
Phoenix, Arizona

Cody Jackson  
Computer Science, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Julian Lemont Jackson, II  
History, BA  
Brooklyn, New York

Kenya Arie Jackson  
Psychology, BS  
Muldrow, Oklahoma

Mariela Michell Jimenez  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
New York, New York

Aiden Walker Jones  
Psychology, BS  
Mannford, Oklahoma

Kylee Michelle Jones\*  
Psychology, BS  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Kylie ReAnn Jones  
Psychology, BS  
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Payton Mischelle Jones  
Business Administration, BBA  
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Psychology, BS  
Miami, Florida

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Agriculture, BS  
Laverne, Oklahoma

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History, BA  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Megan Kathryn Kegin  
Nursing, BSN  
Covington, Oklahoma

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Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Medford, Oklahoma

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Criminal Justice, BS  
Cherokee, Oklahoma

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Elementary Education, BSED  
Blackwell, Oklahoma

Liliana Labra  
Nursing, BSN  
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General Studies, BA  
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Anna Leah Lara  
General Studies, BA  
Enid, Oklahoma

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Chemistry, BS  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Zacharias Dink McEachern  
Business Administration, BBA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Elizabeth Diane Lawson\*\*  
Agriculture Education, BSED  
Jenks, Oklahoma

Violet Lynn McGuire  
Agriculture, BS  
Owasso, Oklahoma

Kingston Leota  
Business Administration, BBA  
Euleless, Texas

Logan Isaiah McKinney  
Psychology, BS  
Waukomis, Oklahoma

Bracen Lewis  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Mooreland, Oklahoma

Isabella Dianne McMillan  
Psychology, BS  
Longview, Texas

Chelsea Lindsey\*\*\*  
Psychology, BS  
Noble, Oklahoma

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Social Work, BSW  
Sylvia, Kansas

Alexandria Little\*\*\*  
Biology, BS  
New Oxford, Pennsylvania

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Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Coweta, Oklahoma

Shamon Martin  
General Studies, BA  
Enid, Oklahoma

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Nursing, BSN  
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

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Business Administration, BBA  
Mass Communication, BS  
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Computer Science, BS  
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Agriculture Education, BSED  
Blue Hill, Nebraska

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Criminal Justice, BS  
Braintree, Massachusetts

Brooke Madison Miller  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Harrisonville, Missouri

William Ely Noble  
Mass Communication, BS  
Mooreland, Oklahoma

Jaydon Elizabeth Mills  
Nursing, BSN  
Beaver, Oklahoma

Jazlyn Deanne Norwood  
Nursing, BSN  
Little Elm, Texas

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

Addyson Noyes  
Music-Vocal, BM  
Beaver, Oklahoma

Benjamin David Montgomery  
Biology, BS  
Bristow, Oklahoma

Fernando Nunez  
Psychology, BS  
Laverne, Oklahoma

Wyatt David Montross  
Agriculture, BS  
Williamsburg, Iowa

Ernesto Joel Ochoa  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Logan Mullin  
Agriculture, BS  
Clay Center, Kansas

Lindsay Dawn Olson\*\*\*  
Computer Science, BS  
Carmen, Oklahoma

Cassidy Aeryn Mullins  
Music, BA  
Cushing, Oklahoma

Tara Owen  
Mass Communication, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

Rose K. Negelein\*\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Madeline Rae Pack  
Nursing, BSN  
Lexington, Oklahoma

Jessica Neighbors  
Business Administration, BBA  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

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Health & Sports Science Education, BSED  
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

Erica Ray Neuenschwander\*\*  
Early Childhood Education, BSED  
Sharon, Oklahoma

Jerod Jason Payne\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BSED  
Valley Center, Kansas

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Business Administration, BBA  
Phoenix, Arizona

Anthony Michael Ramirez  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Cleo Springs, Oklahoma

Krystan Noel Pierce  
Social Work, BSW  
Fargo, Oklahoma

Shane Robert Randall  
Computer Science, BS  
Fairview, Oklahoma

Quade Potter  
Agriculture, BS  
Stockville, Nebraska

Madeline Rian Rankin  
Early Childhood Education, BSED  
Gate, Oklahoma

Matthew Potts  
Accounting, BBA  
Deer Park, Texas

Kayleigh Autumn Rausch  
Nursing, BSN  
Sharon, Kansas

Morgan Ashley Poust  
Nursing, BSN  
Hughesville, Pennsylvania

Trinity Regnier  
Business Administration, BBA  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Jordan Powell  
Psychology, BS  
Newkirk, Oklahoma

Maegan Rose Rexrode  
Nursing, BSN  
Enid, Oklahoma

Maeli Marie Powell  
Computer Science, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

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Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Eagle Point, Oregon

Daniel Joseph Prado  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Cedar Creek, Texas

Ricardo Rivera  
Computer Science, BS  
Waukegan, Illinois

Noah Pride\*\*\*  
Computer Science, BS  
Evensville, Tennessee

Rosemary Rivera  
Biology, BS  
Jewett, Texas

Chellsie Quinn  
Psychology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Jason Chad Roach  
Computer Science, BS  
Cherokee, Oklahoma

Benjamin William Ottmar Roberson\*  
Accounting, BBA  
Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Lyzeth Salcedo Vega  
Nursing, BSN  
Enid, Oklahoma

Halle Annette Robinson  
Agriculture, BS  
Dodge City, Kansas

Kalynn Samples  
Computer Science, BS  
Perryton, Texas

Cammi Rogge\*\*\*  
Social Work, BSW  
Alva, Oklahoma

Stacy L. Sanborn  
Criminal Justice, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

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Business Administration, BBA  
Denton, Texas

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Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Seal Beach, California

Aubry Faith Rose\*\*\*  
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Alva, Oklahoma

Allison Dawn Schieber  
Mass Communication, BS  
Okeene, Oklahoma

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Nursing, BSN  
Groom, Texas

Jacob Mitchell Scott  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Pilot Point, Texas

Elijah Blaze Runyan  
Nursing, BSN  
Verdigris, Oklahoma

Lainey Jo Seaman  
Agriculture, BS  
Waynoka, Oklahoma

Elvis D. Russell  
General Studies, BA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Leon D. Seiger  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Waynoka, Oklahoma

Karen Nakamura Rust  
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Estes Park, Colorado

Harley Blake Shaffer  
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Oktaha, Oklahoma

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Business Administration, BBA  
Peoria, Arizona

Rachel Dawn Sherwood\*\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Cushing, Oklahoma



Malori R. Shire  
Social Work, BSW  
Pond Creek, Oklahoma

Emily Shoepe  
Agriculture, BS  
Saint Paul, Oregon

Macy Shreffler  
General Studies, BA  
Castle Rock, Colorado

Rebekah Ruth Skoda\*  
Nursing, BSN  
Waukomis, Oklahoma

Davan Joseph Smith\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Dodge City, Kansas

Stephanie Smith  
Social Science, BAED  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Matthew Glen Stratton  
General Studies, BA  
Enid, Oklahoma

Maggie Swann  
Nursing, BSN  
Enid, Oklahoma

Emily Rose Swenn  
General Studies, BA  
Alva, Oklahoma

Dara Rebecca Herminia Torres Swift  
Nursing, BSN  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Boskit C. Takam  
Psychology, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Cora Beth Taylor  
Biology, BS  
Chemistry, BS  
Kingfisher, Oklahoma

Mikaela Tew  
Social Work, BSW  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Camille Thomas\*\*  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Plano, Texas

Crystel Lynn Thomas  
Nursing, BSN  
Agra, Oklahoma

Cooper Thornton  
Agriculture, BS  
Enid, Oklahoma

Bethany Michelle Towns  
Psychology, BS  
Alva, Oklahoma

Jordyn Irissa Tucker\*\*  
Biology, BS  
Johnson, Kansas

Kyndall Marie Tune  
Health & Sports Science Education, BS  
Seiling, Oklahoma

Victoria Tyler  
Social Work, BSW  
Alva, Oklahoma

Yasmin Vargas  
Social Work, BSW  
Enid, Oklahoma

Catherine Abigail Vaverka  
Nursing, BSN  
Woodward, Oklahoma

Summer Verrill  
Social Work, BSW  
Little Axe, Oklahoma

Zachary James Vetal\*  
Biology, BS  
Clearwater, Florida

Daisy Gabriella Villegas  
Business Administration, BBA  
Shattuck, Oklahoma

Noah John Voth\*\*\*  
Natural Science, BSED  
Enid, Oklahoma

Laralee Walston  
General Studies, BA  
Lahoma, Oklahoma

Lyndsey Lyne Warrior  
Psychology, BS  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Katherine Ellen White  
Nursing, BSN  
Mutual, Oklahoma

Bridget Mae Wilhite\*  
Nursing, BSN  
Cherokee, Oklahoma

Jadin Raynae Wilkinson  
Nursing, BSN  
Buffalo, Oklahoma

Lindie Kay Williams\*\*  
Biology, BS  
May, Oklahoma

Malik Wilson  
Nursing, BSN  
Lawton, Oklahoma

Talia Janae Wright  
Nursing, BSN  
Wichita, Kansas

Ozge Yavuz  
Psychology, BS  
Eskisehir, Turkey

Shelbi Louise Youngblood  
Elementary Education, BSED  
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Aaron Leslie Zachary  
Political Science, BA  
Medford, 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
- BM - Bachelor of Music
- BS - Bachelor of Science
- BAAS - Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences
- BAEd - Bachelor of Arts Education
- BBA - Bachelor of Business Administration
- BMEd - 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 including 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.

## 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.



Today's commencement speaker is Northwestern Oklahoma State University alumnus Rich Cantillon.

Cantillon graduated from Northwestern in 1981 with a business administration degree. While a student at Northwestern, he loved being part of Sigma Theta Kappa Fraternity, served in the Student Government Association, and enjoyed playing intramurals.

Upon graduation, Cantillon dedicated his career to business and community leadership. He owned Bob's Picture Box Too for 14 years, served as CEO of the Blackwell Chamber for eight years and the Ponca City Chamber for 20 years. After retirement from the Ponca City Chamber, he went to work for Village Travel as a tour director.



"I've been to 14 states including a trip to Yellowstone National Park," Cantillon said. "I get the opportunity to be their guide while traveling on a beautiful motor coach. I meet all kinds of people and truly enjoy being a tour director."

Cantillon has earned numerous honors, including Outstanding Blackwell Citizen in 1994, Outstanding Oklahoma Chamber Executive in 2010, was inducted into the Oklahoma Chamber Hall of Fame in 2021 and was named a Northwestern Foundation/Alumni Outstanding Graduate for Business/ Professional in 2022.

"Northwestern changed my life," Cantillon said. "Incredible instructors, awesome friends, beautiful campus, and it's where I met my wife!"

Cantillon and his wife, Pam, have been married 42 years. They are both members of Saint Mary's Catholic Church, where Rich has taught high school religion for over 30 years. They share three children, a daughter-in-law, a son-in-law and six grandchildren.



## 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

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