

First Destination Career Report

Class of 2025



Drue Lindsey '25
Science Teacher/Wrestling Coach
Gravette, Arkansas



Perla Ruiz '25
Physical Therapy Doctoral Student
Little Rock, Arkansas



Kelsey Ground '25
Assistant Coach/Kinesiology Grad Student
Stephenville, Texas



Denzel Sequeira '25
Programs Intern
Lake Tahoe, Nevada



FROM THE DIRECTOR



Over the past year, Career Services has continued to build on a strong foundation of student success and employer engagement. For more than a decade, we have maintained a greater than 90% success rate on the First Destination Survey, meaning that over 90% of our graduates secure part-time or full-time employment, pursue advanced degree programs, or enter military service within six months of graduation. This consistent achievement reflects the strength of our academic programs, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the intentional career preparation embedded throughout the student experience. It also demonstrates our ongoing commitment to equipping students with the skills, confidence, and connections they need to thrive after graduation.

This year's Career Fair was another highlight, with 30 potential employers in attendance representing a wide range of industries and opportunities. The strong employer turnout provided students with valuable networking experiences and direct access to internships and employment pathways. In 2025, we also hosted more than a dozen workshops and events designed to prepare students for career success, including the Career Fair, resume workshops, a health fair, financial literacy workshops, internship workshops, graduate school preparation sessions, LinkedIn workshops, and additional leadership and career competency programs. These offerings ensured that students at every stage of their journey had access to practical tools and professional development opportunities.

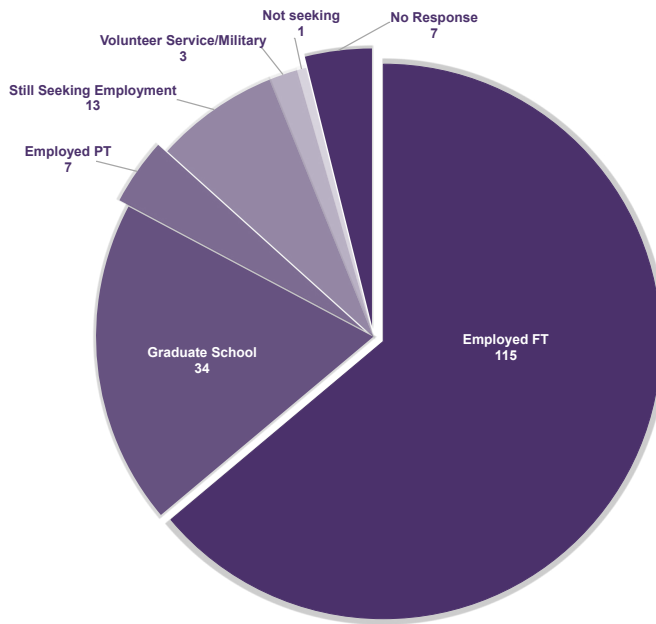
A significant advancement this year was the launch of the Ozarks Skills Academy. This new initiative expands access to career support for alumni, current students, and community members while strengthening meaningful relationships with employers, alumni, and campus partners. The Academy is designed to provide hands-on skill development and targeted career preparation, giving our students a competitive edge in today's workforce. Additionally, we deepened partnerships with local businesses and nonprofit organizations in Clarksville, creating experiential learning opportunities through meaningful internships. Together, these efforts reflect a year of growth, collaboration, and continued commitment to student career success.

Matt Bewley
Director, Career Services

“ My professors helped me immensely as I interviewed for jobs — writing letters of recommendation, walking me through applications, and reviewing my resumes. The Education Program also prepared us by setting up mock interviews where we were interviewed by a panel of local administrators and teachers. That experience really made a difference in my ability to interview by breaking the ice and showing us what to expect. ”

Annie Nelligan '25
First Grade Teacher
Crawford Elementary School
Russellville, Arkansas





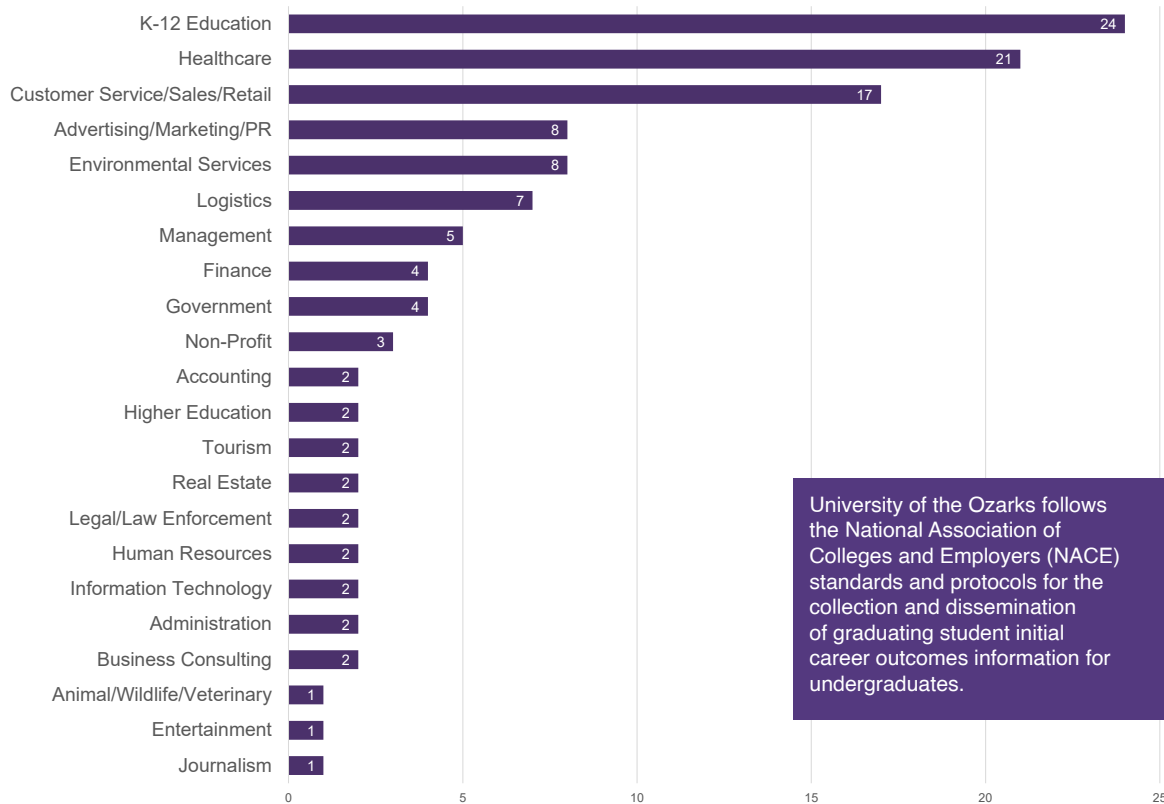
92%

SUCCESS RATE

CLASS OF 2025

- 180 graduates completed their degrees from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025
- Knowledge rate for Class of 2025: 96% (173 out of 180)
- Successful placement rate for Class of 2025: 92% (159 out of 173)

CLASS OF 2025 SECTORS OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY



University of the Ozarks follows the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) standards and protocols for the collection and dissemination of graduating student initial career outcomes information for undergraduates.



OZARKS | Graduate Profiles

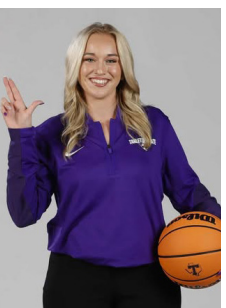


MADISON TUCKER '25

Madison Tucker '25 of Little Rock, Ark., graduated with a major in political science and minors in psychology and philosophy. She is pursuing a master's degree in public service from the Clinton School of Public Service in Little Rock. "One piece of advice I would give college students is that it's OK not to have everything figured out," she said. "During my senior year, I often felt behind because I didn't take every opportunity to put myself out there as much as I could have. I hadn't planned on getting my master's degree, but the opportunity presented itself and saying yes ended up opening doors I never expected. Your path doesn't have to be perfectly mapped out. Do things that push you out of your comfort area."

DRUE LINDSAY '25

Drue Lindsay '25 was a physical education major who is working as a junior high science teacher and wrestling coach for the Gravette(Ark.) School District. "Ozarks helped prepare me for the workplace through the Pat Walker Teacher Education Program. I was given the opportunity to observe multiple classrooms at different grade levels through the local school districts. I also did a year-long student teaching internship to get a good feel of what it's like to be a teacher through an entire year. I was well prepared to make the transition from a college student to a licensed teacher and coach. I could never thank my professors enough."



KELSEY GROUND '25

Kelsey Ground '25 of Mineral Wells, Texas, is serving as a graduate assistant coach for the Tarleton State University women's basketball team while also pursuing a master's degree in kinesiology. Her advice for college students is to prepare early. "One of the biggest advantages you can give yourself is getting involved in hands-on experiences like internships or assistantships. Many opportunities fill quickly, and getting a head-start can open doors you didn't know even existed. Be proactive and reach out to departments and programs about openings and take on key roles that push you to grow."

WHERE 2025 GRADUATES ARE WORKING

STATES:

Arkansas (55)
Texas (18)
Oklahoma (5)
Missouri (3)
Georgia (2)
Ohio (2)
Arizona (1)
California (1)
Colorado (1)
Illinois (1)
Louisiana (1)
Florida (1)
Maryland (1)
Minnesota (1)
Missouri (1)
New Jersey (1)
New Mexico (1)

Nevada (1)
Tennessee (1)
Virginia (1)

COUNTRIES:

Panama (5)
Mexico (3)
The Bahamas (2)
Belize (2)
El Salvador (2)
Honduras (2)
Jap[an] (1)
Guatemala (2)
Costa Rica (1)
Haiti (1)
Nicaragua (1)
Mexico (1)

WHERE 2025 GRADUATES ATTEND GRADUATE SCHOOL

Arkansas (14)
Texas (9)
Missouri (2)
Oklahoma (2)
Barcelona, Spain (1)
Florida (1)
Kansas (1)
Kingston, Canada (1)
Minnesota (1)
South Dakota (1)
Virginia (1)



OZARKS | Graduate Profiles



PERLA RUIZ-AREMAS '25

Perla Ruiz-Arenas '25 of Clarksville is pursuing a doctor of physical therapy degree at University of Arkansas for Medical Services (UAMS). She encourages college students to strive for balance in their lives. "What matters most is building strong habits, asking questions, and learning how to manage your time and stress early on," she said. "Grad school is demanding, but manageable when you take care of yourself, stay organized, and lean on your classmates and mentors. Don't be afraid to seek help or admit when you don't understand something. Remember why you chose this path; staying connected to your purpose will carry you through the hard days."

DENZEL SEQUEIRA '25

Denzel Sequeira '25 earned a degree in communication studies before beginning his first job as a programs intern for Zephyr Point Retreat and Conference Center in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. He said Ozarks was a place "to grow and a place to enjoy the journey. There will always be challenges, but what really matters is how you choose to respond to them. Trying to do my best in each moment helped me get through college and life without losing the mindset of enjoying the people and the world around me. And through it all, I try to stay grateful to God for who I am and where I am."



ALEJANDRO GUTIERREZ '25

Alejandro Gutierrez '25 of Panama is working for Copa Airlines as a flight attendant. He said University of the Ozarks played a key role in preparing him for the professional world. "The caring professors and small classes made it easy to connect and learn beyond the textbooks," he said. "My experience studying abroad in Chile and representing Ozarks at the National Model United Nations in Washington, D.C., gave me a global perspective and confidence to take on new challenges. These opportunities taught me how to communicate, adapt and lead — skills I use every day in my work."



“ When I was at Ozarks, Career Services and the Alumni Office helped me as a student by connecting me with people already working in my field. These conversations gave me clarity and confidence I didn't have before. I would tell a current senior, do not hesitate. Ask questions, seek guidance and stay open-minded. It will save you time and open doors you didn't even know were there. ”

Meri Emongo '25
Finance Professional, Office of Student Affairs
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



CAREER FAIR

The University of the Ozarks Career Fair, held on October 2, 2025, was a great success and showcased the strong connections between our students and a wide range of professional opportunities. The fair featured 30 potential employers, including graduate school programs and employers representing a variety of industries, all eager to engage with Ozarks students.

More than 150 students attended the event, taking advantage of the opportunity to network, explore career paths, and learn about internship and job openings. Many students made meaningful connections that led to internship opportunities and employment offers, reinforcing the value of hands-on career engagement and professional networking. Events like this continue to support students as they explore career options, build professional connections, and move closer to securing internships and post-graduation employment.



Alumna Andrea Cooper '12 with the U.S. Forest Service speaks with a student during the 2025 Career Fair.

OZARKS SKILLS ACADEMY

The Ozarks Skills Academy is a dynamic online learning marketplace from University of the Ozarks that empowers learners, including students, alumni, faculty, staff, and career seekers, to upskill and elevate their career potential with flexible, industry-aligned credentials. Designed for today's fast-changing workforce, the Academy offers self-paced certificate programs and micro-credentials in high-demand fields such as project management, cybersecurity, digital marketing, AI/data science, and more. These certificates are industry-recognized and built to showcase real competencies that help learners stand out to employers and advance professionally. Whether you're starting your journey or advancing your career, the Ozarks Skills Academy makes it easy to learn on your schedule, earn meaningful credentials, and increase your marketability in today's competitive job market. For more information visit: <https://ozarks.acadeum.com/>

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

The Financial Literacy Workshop Series took place three Thursdays in March 2025 and gave students practical, real-world insight into managing their finances through three engaging sessions covering investments, lending, savings, and banking, including banking security. The series also included a bonus session focused on car loans and basic vehicle maintenance, which students found especially helpful as they prepare for life after graduation.

Alumni and professionals from Arvest Bank, Simmons Bank, and Whitson-Morgan Motor Company partnered with Career Services to lead the sessions, sharing their expertise and answering students' questions. Each workshop had strong attendance and participation, and the series created meaningful opportunities for students to network with professionals while building confidence in their financial decision-making.



Alumnus Tony Warren '88 (right), vice president for Arvest Bank, was one of the speakers during the March 2025 Financial Literacy Workshop Series.



INTERNSHIPS

“During my Sherwin-Williams Management & Sales Internship, I worked alongside two other college interns from different universities on a district-level bilingual integration plan designed to improve sales performance and strengthen relationships with Spanish-speaking customers. I represented the Russellville store and collaborated closely with the store’s management team, fellow interns, and district leadership throughout the project. The internship was both enjoyable and challenging, as it introduced me to new products and operational processes that I had not previously experienced. On a daily workday, I traveled to the Russellville location to observe how the store was managed, which allowed me to see many of the key business concepts taught at the university such as customer relationship management, operations, and teamwork where it was applied in a real-world setting. I also had the opportunity to learn about different career paths by speaking with employees from other districts and participating in a ride-along with a sales representative to observe how outside sales are conducted.”



Zaidd Castro '26
Senior, Management Major
Clarksville, Arkansas



“I did my internship in the spring of 2025, and it lasted the whole semester. For half of the semester, I was assigned to the First United Methodist Church of Clarksville, and the second half I was assigned to Project Church. I had the opportunity to pour into these churches, integrating into their community, joining in worship with them, and volunteering at their non-profits. This internship was a wonderful opportunity and experience. Even though I am majoring in math, I got to gain first-hand experience in working in ministry and grow my faith to much deeper level. Ministry is something I have always had a heart for, so being a part of this internship was incredibly rewarding for me. Not only did I gain skills in working in a church, but also in working with a community, in communications, and in public speaking. These skills will not only benefit me in ministry, but also in my future career goals.”

Skylar Holloway '27
Junior, Mathematics Major
Des Arc, Arkansas



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