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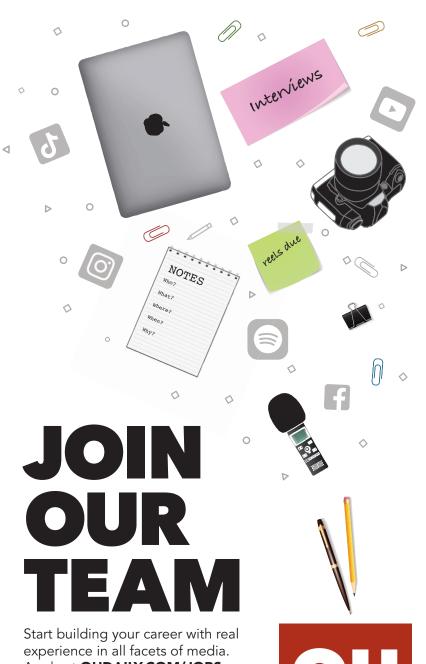
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2 • February 2025

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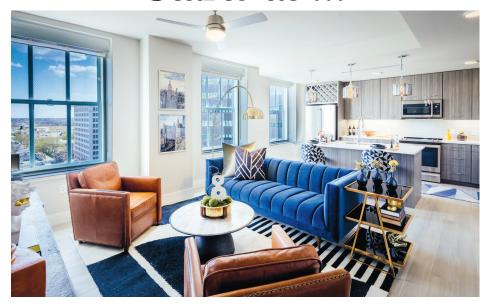
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February 2025 • 3 **CAREER GUIDE**



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860 Van Vleet Oval (Copeland Hall), Room 160 Norman, OK 73019

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FROM THE EDITOR



MELANIE SUERTH/OU DAILY

How OU can help you get from campus to career

Thanks for picking up OU Daily's career guide.

In this publication, you'll find stories from OU students about their internship opportunities where they hope to gain experiences that will help kickstart their careers. You'll read about three internship programs here at the university that place OU students across the state, from the state capitol to nonprofits and companies impacting Oklahoma City. Lastly, you'll see a story about the challenges of international students navigating the U.S. workforce.

These stories are important to tell and great examples of student success across OU. I'm proud to have taken part in one of these internship programs myself. In the summer of 2023, I was placed at KOSU Radio, an NPR affiliate in Oklahoma City, through the Inasmuch Foundation Community Fellowship program. That summer, I learned more about journalism and gained a new skill in audio production, even getting a story into the NPR national broadcast and homepage.

Students can also gain new life experiences beyond their career. This past summer, I was a fellow in the Carnegie-Knight News21 reporting program in Phoenix. In addition to gaining valuable reporting skills, I met people from

universities across the country.

I had never traveled by air before, and my first flight was to Phoenix. Over the summer, I ended up crisscrossing the country, visiting Detroit and going to Atlanta to cover the debate between President Donald Trump and former President Joe Biden. Without that internship, I would have never had the experience of covering a presidential debate or visiting all the places I did.

However, my first internship experience was right here at the OU Daily. I worked on the summer staff in 2022, covering the city of Norman and learning from my peers about how I could improve my journalism skills. That summer was one of the best of my life, and I grew close with many of my colleagues.

Internships are incredibly impactful to a student's career path. I know how eye-opening an internship can be when determining what you want to do after graduation. These educational experiences are pivotal to career development, and I hope this career guide may be helpful to students figuring out summer plans.

At the back of this issue, you'll find a series of sponsored content brought to you by OU's Career Center. This organization is responsible for the job and

internship fairs that happen throughout

the school vear and is a terrific resource for career planning and workforce preparation. I encourage all students to use the resources the Career Center offers.



Peggy Dodd Editor-in-chief pdodd@ou.edu

The office is easily accessible in the Oklahoma Memorial Union.

As I prepare to graduate in May 2025, I know the stress that a job or internship search can cause. During this time, I reflect on my own internship experiences, and I'm excited to see what the future holds. I hold this excitement not just for myself but for all of my peers in OU's class of 2025.

Best of luck in all your internship and job-hunting endeavors,

Peggy Dodd

4 • February 2025



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY

Bradley Buss is a finance and management information systems junior.

ADVICE FROM STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

OU juniors share their upcoming summer internships, how they got them

BY TRISTEN LEWIS • TRISTEN.B.LEWIS-1@OU.EDU

Hundreds of OU students brave the interview process for summer internships every year. This year, a couple exceptional students describe how they landed their dream internships for summer 2025.

Bradley Buss

Bradley Buss, a finance and management information systems junior, will intern for JPMorgan Chase in middle market banking and specialized industries in the summer. Buss credits his success in the interview process to mentors in the JCPenney Leadership Program, his professors and the connections he made with members of the OU Alumni Association.

Buss didn't always want to major in finance. Initially he chose finance "just to choose a major" but said he later realized it was the perfect career path.

"I originally went into college as a finance (major) and a jazz minor. I played saxophone in high school — for seven years — and wanted to continue that," Buss said. "I dropped that to double major in business because I just moved on to other things."

Buss said an Honors College research project helped him make connections with Breea Clark, director of the JCPenney Leadership Program and former Norman mayor. The project, which Buss conducted with OU economics professor Brent Norwood, involved researching the development of the new Oklahoma City Thunder arena.

Buss said getting involved and making connections with alums and professionals is crucial to success in proactive fields like banking.

"Find a mentor early on. That's super important, especially when you're a freshman and you have no idea what's going on," Buss said. "Just find mentors, and stay connected."

Buss said some of the resources that helped him make those connections were LinkedIn and the OU Center for Student

"(The center) can tailor your resume for what kind of jobs you want," Buss said. "They can fix your resume, and they can help you with your LinkedIn page."

When going through the interview process for any internship, Buss said it's crucial to be his best and most professional self. According to Buss, the JCPenney Leadership Program helped him feel more prepared going through the interview process for internships.

"Get really, really involved with your college, and get out of your comfort zone. Go to those club fairs, and join a lot of the organizations that have been popping up," Buss said. "In the past two to five years, Price (College) has just exploded with a lot of important programs. Specifically for finance, there are a couple of organizations that you can join that I think are just complete net positives."

Buss said another important aspect for internships is to stay on top of your studies and in touch with professors and peers.

"Always have a back burner because, if your front burner dies, you always have a plan B or C," Buss said. "If something doesn't work out, just continue to keep on pressing forward."

Buss said maintaining interpersonal relationships and making connections with like-minded people is also important. He said many of his closest friends share his ambition and drive for success.

"It's like we understand each other because we know how to work hard," Buss said. "The key to college is surrounding yourself with the most important people and successful people that will shape you into who you want to be in the next five years."

Buss hopes his three-month banking internship with JPMorgan Chase will turn into a paid position with the company. He hopes to work for a large commercial banking company following his graduation in 2026.

Ellie Wolthuis

Ellie Wolthuis, a Chinese language and political science junior and the Student Government Association's chief of staff, will be interning with the Oklahoma secretary of state's office in the summer.

Wolthuis' journey began with a summer internship at the Office of the Governor, leading her to the Secretary of State's office. There, she hopes to assist with the bill tracking and analyzing processes.

"I really do love the bill tracking process, so I'm excited to see that and just meet a lot of people on that side of things," Wolthuis said.

Wolthuis said her passion for local policy stems from her dad, who works in counterterrorism for the Department of Homeland Security.

"I kind of came into college wanting to follow in those footsteps, but since my internship at the governor's office, I definitely shifted gears toward domestic policy, specifically education policy," Wolthuis said.

When applying for internships related to political science, Wolthuis said she was rejected many times. Her biggest piece of advice: Do not be afraid of rejection.

"I called probably two dozen representatives and senators asking if they had internships throughout the summer and was rejected 23 times," Wolthuis said. "On the 24th call, they finally connected me to the Office of the Governor."

Wolthuis said internships and networking in political science are mostly connection based.

"If you're starting from scratch like I was, and you don't have those connections already established, you really do just have to throw your name out there 100 times and find one that sticks," Wolthuis said. "So don't be afraid of rejection, and



Ellie Wolthuis is a Chinese language and political science junior and the Student Government Association's chief of staff.

really just take what comes your way."

According to Wolthuis, SGA provided her with fellowships, scholarships and references during her application processes. She said getting involved and meeting people at OU is essential to learn what opportunities are out there.

"I would say, also don't get caught up in comparing your path to other people. It's so easy, especially in a competitive major like political science, ..." Wolthuis said. "But everyone has their own path. Everyone's going different directions. Just focus on your path, focus on what makes you happy, and just make those connections and take the opportunities that you're given."

Wolthuis is looking forward to her internship with the secretary of state and hopes it will allow her to continue working in Oklahoma's government after graduation.

"Every day is filled with so much new information about our state. I love Oklahoma. I really enjoy it here, ..." Wolthuis said. "I've just fallen in love with the state, and it's really cool being able to see all the bills that are going to impact the state going forward and so on, being able to track them and sort of have an indirect influence in that office."



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HOW MUCH DOES IT COST? A DOLLAR FIFTY.

8 • February 2025 **CAREER GUIDE**



ADEN CHOATE/OU DAILY

The Oklahoma Capitol in Oklahoma City houses the state Legislature and executive branch offices.

LEARN AT THE CAPITOL

OU's Capitol Scholars opens the door for students to gain experience in policy

BY NATALIE ARMOUR • NATALIEDARMOUR@OU.EDU

For over two decades, OU students have walked through the doors of the Oklahoma Capitol to begin semester-long internships as Capitol Scholars, gaining first-hand job experience in their prospective career fields.

Several students work for state senators and representatives. Others join state agencies or lobbying firms, and some, including Rep. Daniel Pae (R-Lawton) and Rep. Forrest Bennett (D-Oklahoma City), go on to serve as legislators and staff in state government.

Capitol Scholars provides students with hands-on learning experience in politics or policy-related fields in and around the Oklahoma Legislature. Students are provided an internship aligned or affiliated with their career goals, interests and beliefs.

Internships are offered in places such as the Oklahoma House and Senate, legislative liaison offices of state agencies, interest groups and media outlets.

Michael Crespin — director of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, which runs Capitol Scholars - said the program gives students the opportunity to gain insights into Oklahoma's legislative process and build



PHOTO PROVIDED

Michael Crespin is the director of the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center, which runs Capitol Scholars.

connections with state legislators.

"(The program) gives them the opportunity to understand a little bit more about how politics works in our state, but also what a career in politics might look like, ..." Crespin said. "There's lots of people who are on staff or in other positions where this was their start."

Crespin has been director of Capitol Scholars for 11 years. He said the connections he has made over the years gives students a wide range of areas to choose from. While most students are left to navigate internships on their own, Crespin said the program provides a simplified application process.

"Some of them might have set something up on their own,

"There's a lot of space for students to meet different people and learn what's happening and try to make contacts that are going to be helpful as they move forward."

MICHAEL CRESPIN, CAPITOL SCHOLARS DIRECTOR but for most of the students, they don't have contacts in the Legislature," Crespin said. "Since I've been doing this for over a decade, I know a fair number of people to reach out to to try to set up the internships."

Avery Dunlap, pre-law junior and OU Student Government Association vice president, said Capitol Scholars played a pivotal role in figuring out what she wants to do after college. She said the connections made during the program gave her many opportunities, including her

next internship with the Senate chamber.

Dunlap interned under former Senate majority leader Greg McCortney (R-Ada) during spring 2023.

While students from all majors can apply, Crespin said he typically sees students majoring in classics and letters, political science, economics and business. Regardless of their



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY

Avery Dunlap is the OU Student Government Association vice president. She is a junior studying public and non-profit administration and economics.

major, Crespin said the students represent Capitol Scholars and OU well.

"You want good students who are going to be responsible, who you can trust. They're carrying the brand name, both the university and the program, at the capitol," Crespin said. "Any business major, whatever you're in, making contacts early while you're in school is really, really helpful."

Once accepted, Crespin said he meets with students to discuss their career goals and interests to find them the right internship and provide opportunities that align with their party and committee interests.

Lucy Poe, an economics and political science junior, said she went into her interview with a list of people she was interested in interning with and requested to intern with Sen. Julia Kirt (D-Oklahoma City).

"Sen. Kirt was on one of the economic development committees, and I was really interested in financial and economic development. I wanted to sit in on those meetings," Poe said. "I brought that to Dr. Crespin, and I was like, 'These are people I'm interested in,' and he kind of helped me narrow down who."

Poe said the experience gave her a greater understanding of what direction she wanted to take her career, and it helped her gain connections at a law firm that later offered her a job.

"It really just helped me narrow down some of my strengths and weaknesses and likes and dislikes," Poe said. "Just getting to be in that environment and meeting so many people. I got hired at a law firm because they're like, 'Oh, you interned at the state capitol."

Crespin said each year he gets emails from legislators requesting a Capitol Scholar. He said the success of the program can be credited to the students who put their best foot forward and make meaningful connections each year.

"A lot is on them. If they just show up to their internship and sit in the office and type things, they're not going to get a lot out of it, right? But there's a lot of space for students to meet different people and learn what's happening and try to make contacts that are going to be helpful as they move



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY

Lucy Poe is an economics and political science junior studying at OU.

forward," Crespin said. "The students do a good job. If the students weren't good, then this program doesn't continue, but

"If the students weren't good, then this program doesn't continue, but the students do a good job. People want an intern year after year."

MICHAEL CRESPIN, CAPITOL SCHOLARS DIRECTOR the students do a good job. People want an intern year after year."

Dunlap said if it weren't for Capitol Scholars, she wouldn't have pursued law school nor would she have made the connections that helped her land another internship. She said the questions she could ask and the work she did gave her a unique first-hand learning experience that has set her up for greater success leading into her career.

"Without the internship, I probably wouldn't have ever had the confidence to sign up for the LSAT and pursue law school, so that was probably the biggest blessing of the program," Dunlap said. "Capitol Scholars just makes it really accessible to work while a student."

MORE TO KNOW

Each spring semester, around 15 undergraduate students are selected to participate in Capitol Scholars.

In addition to the internship, students attend weekly seminars and briefings with state leaders.

Source: OU Capitol Scholars webpage

10 • February 2025 **CAREER GUIDE**



PHOTO PROVIDED

Broadcast journalism sophomore Julia Coats worked at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum during summer 2024.

BUILD COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Inasmuch Foundation pairs students with nonprofits to learn a 'wide range' of skills

BY MACEY THAXTON • MACEY.C.THAXTON-1@OU.EDU

The Inasmuch Foundation Community Fellowship matches college students with nonprofit organizations that align with the students' interests for a paid summer internship.

This fellowship offers a full-time learning experience for college students seeking internships. The Inasmuch Fellowship also connects fellows with other students through team-building activities and networking with local executives.

Anne Hedrick, the Inasmuch Foundation grants manager, said the Inasmuch Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for college students seeking internships and nonprofit organizations needing more help.

"It's a win-win for everybody because it gives our college students a great opportunity to get some hands-on experience working in the nonprofit sector and also gives our nonprofit partners some much-needed extra help," Hedrick said.

At \$15 per hour for 40 hours per week, fellows are expected to perform various tasks to fit the needs of their host site, whether it's managing social media, going through museum archives or working with survivors of domestic violence.

"What I like to tell our students at orientation is that, in a nonprofit, everybody wears a lot of hats, and everybody kind of does everything," Hedrick said. "Every day is going to look a little different; you definitely get a wide range of experiences."

Emily Olson, a 2023 and 2024 Inasmuch fellow and psychology senior, said members of her host site, Sunbeam Family Services, went out of their way to connect her with counselors.

"They knew that I wanted to be a therapist, and they offered counseling," Olson said. "They were always so great about saying, 'Let us connect you with a head counselor that we have here.' They made sure that I was able to talk to other therapists about how they got their start."

Sunbeam Family Services applied to be a host site to get help from a student with marketing efforts, including managing social media and writing newsletters. Olson helped Sunbeam with their marketing needs while connecting with counselors and learning about applying for graduate school.

"We have been continually impressed with all of our Inasmuch fellows at Sunbeam, so much so that we had actually hired one of them to join us full time," said Angie Doss, Sunbeam Family Services chief development and marketing officer. "All of the Inasmuch fellows we've had have been so professional and were a great part of our teams during the summer."

The Inasmuch Fellowship has also helped connect students to new interests. Julia Coats, a broadcast journalism sophomore, worked at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum during summer 2024.

Coats and two other Inasmuch fellows worked in the museum archives, sifting through objects left as tokens of remembrance on the fence outside the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Pictures and descriptions of the most significant objects found were compiled into a book now sold in the museum store called "Unlocking Memories: Heartbreak Woven into Wire."

"It was such an emotional place to work that you kind of become a family," Coats said. "I'll forever remember the feeling of knowing what's ahead of me every morning but also feeling so accomplished and so grateful for this opportunity."

Coats said she has always had a passion for journalism, but after her experience at the Oklahoma City National Memorial

& Museum, she hopes to continue working in the museum field.

"Every day is going to look a little different; you definitely get a wide range of experiences."

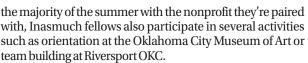
ANNE HEDRICK INASMUCH FOUNDATION **GRANTS MANAGER**

"After the summer, I realized that there's a lot more to journalism than just being on the news," Coats said. "It definitely has changed my career path in the sense that I fell in love with museums. So that's something I'm looking to do in upcoming summers."

In addition to working



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY Emily Olson is a 2023 and 2024 Inasmuch fellow and psychology senior.



"They really wanted to make sure that you were opening up your circle to people," Olson said. "If it's just exchanging a phone number or social media, they're just making sure that you're establishing those connections to walk through the rest of the summer together."

The Inasmuch Fellowship registers all fellows to participate in InternOKC, a professional development day organized by the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce. InternOKC offers networking opportunities with the intention of recruiting young professionals to start their careers in Oklahoma City.

"It's a great resource no matter what your major is," Olson said. "Being able to learn the importance of networking and being able to hear from all of these different executives about running a successful business, I just thought that was extremely beneficial."

Hedrick encourages students to consider the varied and unique work they can do in nonprofit spaces.

"This may not be your first thought when looking at internships, but there's a lot of different skill sets needed within the nonprofit community," Hedrick said. "I would just encourage (students) to think outside the box and consider something that can be rewarding on a number of levels."

MORE TO KNOW

In 2024, the Inasmuch Foundation Community Fellowship placed 24 college students in internships with nonprofits.

Applications for summer open in the fall, and selected fellows are notified in the spring.

Sources: @inasmuchfdn on Instagram, Inasmuch Foundation website



Angie Doss is the chief development and marketing officer for Sunbeam Family Services, a nonprofit serving children and families in Oklahoma.



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY Julia Coats is a 2024 Inasmuch fellow and broadcast journalism sophomore.



Julia Coats worked in the archives at the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum, sifting through objects left as tokens of remembrance on the fence outside the memorial.

12 • February 2025 **CAREER GUIDE**



SUTTON SPINNER/OU DAILY

Near International Student Services in Farzaneh Hall, the International Student Lounge offers resources and hosts events for international students at OU.

'YOU HAVE TO PUSH HARDER'

International students share challenges gaining work experience, getting hired

BY THOMAS PABLO • THOMAS.D.PABLO-1@OU.EDU

International students at OU cite a variety of obstacles in navigating the American workforce, ranging from employment to internship opportunities.

According to OU International Student Services, OU houses a large multinational population, with more than 2,000 international students from over 130 countries.

Grecia López

Grecia López, a managment information systems junior, is from El Salvador and has studied across the world, including Tanzania, England and Oklahoma. She said she was drawn to OU for its international community.

"Before (OU), I was studying in Tanzania in East Africa, which is very different, but at the same time, I could find more similarities with my culture in that country," López said. "We have an idea of what the U.S. is from the media and Hollywood, and I think that's an idea that people come here with.... That idea limits you at the beginning, and then you get to understand how everything is."

López plans to intern with Ernst & Young, a professional services network, in the summer, adding she has interned with the

company in the past. She said her future career plans are dependent on job offers, and she does not immediately plan to return to El Salvador.

"One of the main reasons why I wanted to study abroad was to expand my options outside of my country since we have more limited options," López said. "(The future) would depend on a job offer that I get. I like to keep my options open and explore different things and countries."

Ousmane Kone

Ousmane Kone, a computer engineering junior, is from Ivory Coast in West Africa. He said his brothers attended OU before him, which inspired him to apply.

After graduation, he intends to pursue a master's degree in qualitative finance and gain three to five years of work experience before returning to Ivory Coast. While he has done internships before, he does not believe his experience is sufficient.

"If I finish my degree right now and (don't) have any work experience, it's as if I did nothing," Kone said. "I'm like, 'Was it worth it, coming here and spending all that money to study and fearing that I won't have any results after I graduate?' I have that constant pressure on my back."

Kone said he pays for out-of-state expenses, though his scholarship helps him. He said his most beneficial resources are his scholarship, friendships that helped secure his first internship and understanding professors.

"My case is different because I still have to pay the school fees, and paying out-of-state tuition, it's not a joke. It's really a lot," Kone said.

Reem Kotaiche

Reem Kotaiche, a management information systems junior, is from Lebanon. After studying for two years in Armenia, she decided to attend OU after admiring its community.

She especially values the OU Center for Student Success at the Price College of Business, which promotes professional development for undergraduate students. She hopes to get a job at a consulting firm and live in the northern U.S., particularly

"Ultimately, I would really like to do strategic consulting, just because you get a little bit of everything," Kotaiche said.



from El Salvador.

WILLIE GILLESPIE/OU DAILY
Grecia López is a managment information systems junior



SUTTON SPINNER/OU DAILY
Ousmane Kone is a computer engineering junior from lyory Coast in West Africa.



ANNIE DAVENPORT/OU DAILY
Reem Kotaiche is a managment information systems
junior from Lebanon.



López, Kone and Kotaiche all cited one main challenge for international students entering the workforce: hiring.

"People want to give positions to those who are already familiar, and it makes a lot of sense. It's not something that I necessarily like to complain about," Kotaiche said. "You have to push harder and do extra things, do a lot of things outside the classroom, to be looked at."

López said opportunities for international graduates are limited. She said interns and graduates should evaluate how much companies value diversity in order to determine which opportunities work for them.

"There's not many companies that want to use those resources that they have to sponsor international students as opposed to national students," López said. "Sometimes when they do, it's because they just have to do it.... Do they just want to increase their diversity ratio (or) percentage that they need, or are they actually going to support you?"

Kone said he has faced challenges while applying for

internships, adding many companies do not want to pay fo immigration documentation.

"I've been here for three years, and thankfully, I have one internship, but I also apply to a lot compared to my American friends here. So it is really competitive," Kone said. "If you want to employ or hire an international student, they have to file for immigration documents. Companies don't really want to go through that hassle because it will become expensive for them."

However, López said some companies may want to hire international students because of their willingness to accept opportunities, which is based on their experience with global travel.

"One of the benefits, at least for me being an international student, is that you're already more open to exploring other options," López said. "For example, jobs that require you to travel or probably move to another country at some point in your career, you'll be more open to that."







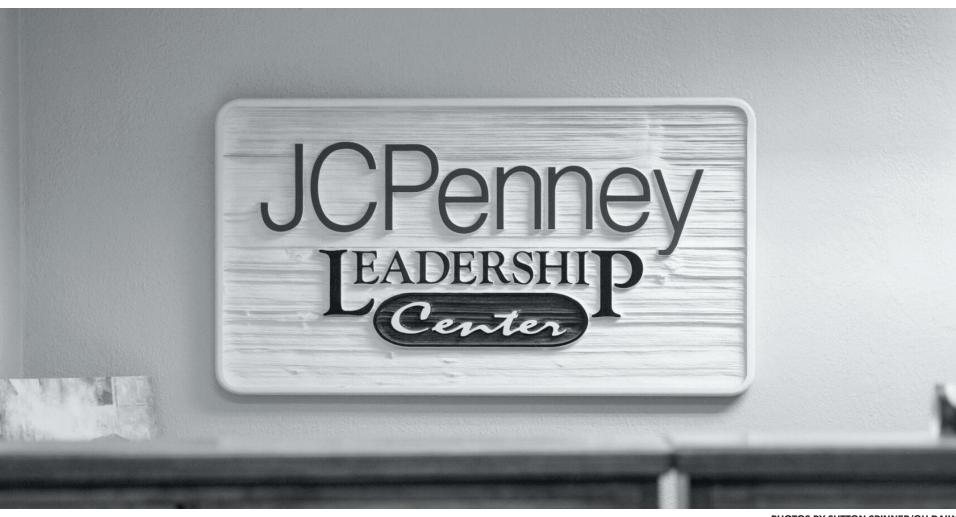


Hannah Allam | The Washington Post

National security reporter focusing on extremism and domestic terrorism

"Student Media laid the foundation for my entire journalistic career: I learned the skills I would need on the job, got hands-on training at the paper, practiced community engagement as an editor and graduated feeling incredibly lucky to have had professors who showed me how to turn a passion into a profession."





PHOTOS BY SUTTON SPINNER/OU DAILY

The JCPenney Leadership Center, home of the JCPenney Leadership Program, is in Adams Hall.

FROM NORMAN TO WALL STREET

JCPenney Leadership Program offers professional development for business students

BY ABBY YOUNG • ABIGAIL.F.YOUNG-1@OU.EDU

OU's JCPenney Leadership Program equips business students with leadership skills, training and opportunities to prepare them for professional life after college.

Students in Price College with sophomore standing can apply each fall, and 75 are accepted. Selected students become candidate associates and complete a training course where they learn resume building, interview techniques and networking strategies before being inducted as associates in the spring.

Breea Clark, program director and former Norman mayor, said JCPenney Leadership Program associates are the top 3% of undergraduate students in Price College. Clark said the program has a 100% placement rate in careers and master's programs after graduation.

"We want to make sure that once students are affiliated with the JCPenney Leadership Program's name and legacy, that they have the skills necessary to really live up to that standard of excellence that we've established over the last 30-plus years," Clark said.

Priya George, management information systems and health care business senior, is the director of Board Fellows for the student advisory board. She said her connections with program alumni, instruction about the business world and opportunities within the program have set her up for success.

George said the Board Fellows program allows associates to sit on the board of a nonprofit organization as a nonvoting member, learning about their funding, future goals and strategic planning. As a board fellow for the National Weather Museum & Science Center, George said she saw the "ins and outs" of business and what it looks like to work with city government.

"Most of the time, opportunities like this are just afforded to students who are master's students or are in some sort of

graduate program," George said. "For us to have the opportunity as undergraduate students being able to serve on a board (and) learn about what they do was in and of itself a huge, rare occurrence."

George's parents immigrated to the U.S. from India, so she has fewer network connections than people whose families have lived and worked here for generations.

"My parents' network is the network I have, and it's still smaller compared to other people's network," George said. "So having JCPenney, being able to build my network, build my community through their alumni has been truthfully transforming."

Phillip Suh, management information sciences and energy management senior, is chair of the program's student advisory board. Suh said the program helped him network, navigate the oil and gas industry and get an internship at Devon Energy.

16 • February 2025 CAREER GUIDE



The JCPenney Leadership Program equips students with skills in leadership, networking and interviewing.

Suh said he has learned from other people's experiences professionally and personally, both as a mentor and mentee.

"It teaches me how to be that mentor but also learn from them too because obviously I've experienced different things, and they've experienced different things, so getting to actually join those ideas together has been pretty helpful," Suh said.

Suh said philanthropy is an important aspect of the program. Associates participate in events with organizations such as Among Friends, a nonprofit that supports adults with disabilities, where they collect donations for recipients including local public schools, Suh said.

Suh and George both participated in C-Suite for a Day, a program that matches a student with a high-level officer in a company that they shadow for the day.

Suh was matched with David Parker, vice president of technology, data and security for Oklahoma Gas and Electric. After learning about the company's capabilities and the power sector of the oil and gas industry, Suh said he was motivated to explore a career in energy management after graduation.

George was matched with Ashley Harroz, CEO of Healthcare Partners Investments and OU President Joseph Harroz Jr.'s wife. George said she would never have approached Harroz otherwise, but the program allowed her to ask professional questions about her leadership and how recent legislation impacted her

Although nervous at first, George said she and Harroz connected over being women in business, and the experience gave George clarity about her plans after graduation. She said she will likely get a master's degree in health care administration.

Each winter, the JCPenney Leadership Program takes associates on a nine-day study abroad trip to Costa Rica, which Suh said has been his favorite study abroad experience. There, students take a management course, tour company facilities and have unique cultural experiences like visiting hot springs and learning to salsa.

"You get to have fun, but also you get to be immersed within that culture and still maintain that business professional aspect as well." Suh said.

On a personal level, Suh said he was very shy his freshman year. Through the program, Suh made an effort to meet more people, which equipped him to step into the role of chair.

"I had to learn to be outgoing," Suh said. "That's just helpful in my professionalism and networking skills in itself."

Clark said many companies look for the JCPenney program on prospective hires' resumes because of its 30-year history of success. Students in the program have diverse interests and career aspirations and are equipped to achieve them, Clark said.

"We're obviously going to have some on Wall Street, but we also want some that want to work in Oklahoma City," Clark said. "So when I say our alumni are everywhere, in every industry, they very much are."

Suh said when students join, they're surrounded by smart and highly motivated people who encourage and push them to higher levels.

"Everyone in this organization is extremely high achieving," Suh said. "You're not really surrounded by anyone who's not a go-getter."

MORE TO KNOW

JCPenney Leadership Program applications for 2025-26 will open on April 14 and close at 5 p.m. on Sept. 3.

The JCPenney Leadership Program partners with 16 nonprofits in the Oklahoma City metro area to allow students to serve as nonvoting members on a board.

The program hosts three annual conferences: the Parker Leadership Conference, Women in Business Leadership Conference and Alumni Career Conference.

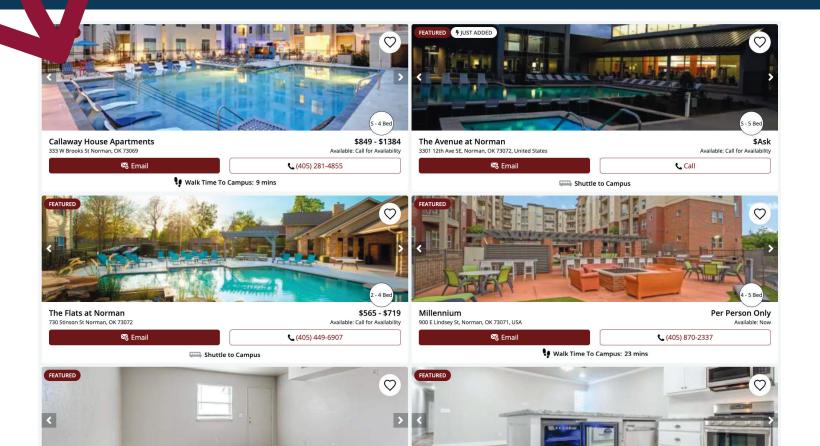
Source: JCPenney Leadership Program website

Looking for the ultimate off-campus housing experience?



YOUR SEARCH ENDS HERE.

See listing of off-campus housing, including rental homes: offcampushousing.ou.edu



WHAT DOES THE CAREER CENTER DO?

The OU Career Center provides a wide range of services to support students and alumni in their career development, including:

Career Advising

Receive one-on-one career guidance, explore career options, and develop job search strategies.

Résumé and Cover Letter Reviews

Get expert feedback to improve your application materials.

Mock Interviews

Practice answering interview questions and receive constructive feedback.

Job and Internship Fairs

Connect with employers and explore job and internship opportunities.

On–Campus Interviews

Participate in interviews with employers recruiting OU students.

Virtual Career Resources

Access the Job Search Guide, networking resources, and job postings online.

Career Communities

Join industry-focused groups for specialized resources and networking.

Professional Headshots

Take free professional headshots in the Iris Air Photobooth.

Handshake

Utilize the career management platform to connect to relevant job opportunities, apply for positions, explore companies, and view career fairs.

Schedule an appointment through Handshake at ou.joinhandshake.com or visit www.ou.edu/career.



Building Futures at the Career Center

BY DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

t the University of Oklahoma, student success extends beyond the classroom. From the moment students step on campus to the years they navigate life after graduation, the OU Career Center stands as a pillar of support, preparing them to thrive in their professional journeys.

"The OU Career Center is more than just a resource—it's a partner in our students' success," said Robin Huston, executive director of the OU Career Center. "We are here to provide students and alumni with the tools, confidence, and connections they need to turn their aspirations into reality."

Located in the heart of the Oklahoma Memorial Union, the Career Center serves as a bridge between education and professional growth, offering services like career advising, résumé reviews, mock interviews, career fairs, experiential learning opportunities, and professional networking opportunities. The center's mission, however, doesn't stop with students—it actively engages alumni, university partners, corporate sponsors, and executives to create a dynamic community invested in student success.

Creating Lifelong Impact

David Surratt, Ed.D., vice president for OU Division of Student Affairs and dean of students, emphasized the long-term impact of the Career Center. "When we talk about creating a transformational experience at OU, it includes preparing our students for life after college," he said. "The Career Center embodies that commitment by connecting them to careers and internship opportunities that will prepare them for their professional future."

The Career Center's services reflect the university's core values of inclusivity and

excellence. Current students and alumni alike have found lasting support through its programs.

"The Career Center not only helped me refine my résumé but also provided guidance that answered all my questions," said Jordan Hickman, a junior majoring in Business Management. "Thanks to their support, I feel more confident and prepared to tackle my interviews."

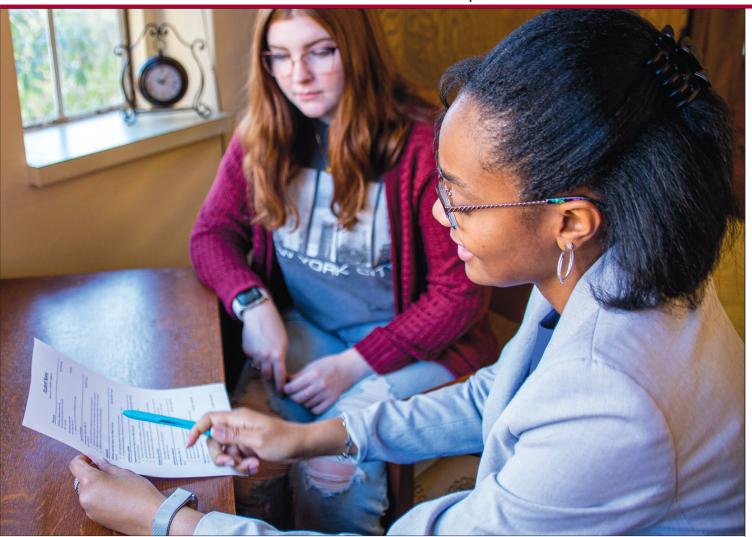
For alumni, the support doesn't stop after graduation.

"Even after graduating from OU, the Career Center has remained a valuable resource," said Karina Turrubiartes, who earned a graduate degree in Human Relations and an undergraduate degree in Sociology. "As I navigate the transition from student to professional, their personalized advising and employer connections have given me the support I need in my job search."



COREY MURPH | City of Hope Management Fellow

"The Career Center helped me to gain the confidence and skills to navigate my case interviews, which in turn enabled me to receive an offer. My experience with the Career Center was amazing. The team of professionals I had the privilege of working with were incredibly supportive and provided me with an extensive array of resources—all of which set me up for success."



Engaging the OU Community and Beyond

The Career Center's partnerships with corporate sponsors, executives, and alumni play a vital role in expanding opportunities for students. Sponsors benefit from access to OU's talented students while supporting initiatives like career fairs, professional development workshops, career communities,

and the Career Closet, which provides free business attire to students in need.

"Our sponsors are critical partners in creating a robust professional pipeline for our students," Huston said. "Their contributions directly impact the services we're able to provide and the lives we're able to change."

With services tailored to meet the needs of students, alumni, and employers, the Career

Center ensures that every member of the OU community has the opportunity to build a meaningful career and future.

"At OU, we don't just educate students—we prepare leaders who will shape the world," said Surratt. "Equipping students with the skills and resources to excel in life and their careers results in meaningful contributions to society."



KATE FRANK | Hermès PR Intern

"The Career Center has amazing resources that ultimately helped me land my position at Hermès. Growing up in Oklahoma, wanting to work in fashion always seemed unrealistic because of the competitive nature of the industry. The Career Center helped me strategically tailor my resume to each application, leveraging my skills and experience to compete for a position with hundreds of applicants. I reviewed my resume at least five times with the Career Center before submitting my application, and I could not be more thankful for their advice and recommendations."

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

IDEA Hour (Pre-Fair Networking Event)

Feb. 11 | 5 – 6:30 p.m. Oklahoma Memorial Union

Spring Job and Internship Fair Feb. 12 | 12:30 – 4 p.m.

Feb. 12 | 12:30 — 4 p.m. Oklahoma Memorial Union

Career Everywhere Symposium for Faculty and Staff

Feb. 21 | 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Design and Construction Job and Internship Fair

Feb. 27 | 3 – 6 p.m. MidFirst Bank East Stadium Club

Women in the Workforce Panel

March $4 \mid 2 - 4$ p.m. Bizzell Library

Oklahoma Engineering Futures
Career Fair

March 6 | noon – 4 p.m. Rawl Engineering Practice Facility

Teacher Job Fair

March 12 | 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Thurman J. White Forum Building

Social Sciences Roundtable

March 26 | 2:30 – 4 p.m. Physical Sciences Center

CONTACT US

Oklahoma Memorial Union 900 Asp Ave. | Suite 320 Norman, OK 73019

Phone: (405) 325-1974 Email: careercenter@ou.edu Website: www.ou.edu/career

Social Media:

Facebook: OU Career Center Instagram: @oucareercenter Twitter: @OUCareerCenter YouTube: OU Career Center

Channel

Schedule an appointment through Handshake at ou.joinhandshake.com



CORPORATE **SPONSORSHIP** OPPORTUNITIES

The OU Career Center partners with stakeholders to enhance student services, expand employer outreach, and create exclusive branding opportunities for sponsors.

Sponsors gain campus visibility, access to top OU talent, and opportunities to host workshops, participate in career fairs, and support impactful initiatives like the Career Closet.

For more information on becoming a corporate partner, visit www.ou.edu/career/about/ corporate-partners, call (405) 325-1974, or email careercenter@ou.edu.

OKLAHOMA LEVEL PARTNERS

















CORPORATE SPONSORS

Catalysts for Oklahoma Workforce Development

BY DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

t the University of Oklahoma, the alignment between education and industry is not just a goal—it's a mission. Through strategic partnerships with corporate sponsors, the OU Career Center plays a pivotal role in preparing students to enter the workforce while addressing the state's critical talent demands.

Fostering Workforce Readiness Through Collaboration

The OU Career Center's innovative Corporate Partner Program enables companies to engage directly with students and alumni, connecting them with tailored opportunities that align with Oklahoma's workforce needs.

"Corporate sponsors are integral to creating a robust talent pipeline in Oklahoma," said Robin Huston, executive director of the OU Career Center. "Their collaboration helps us prepare students to confidently transition from education to impactful careers, while also advancing the economic goals of our state."

Corporate sponsors benefit from customized recruitment strategies, including one-on-one consulting, targeted branding opportunities, and priority access to job and internship fairs. This partnership model ensures many of OU's top hiring employers remain competitive and visible to OU's skilled graduates.

Addressing Oklahoma's Workforce Needs

Through programs like Career Communities, the Career Center focuses on connecting students' academic interests with industries that drive the state's economy. The model shifts advising from major-based

support to career interest clusters, such as engineering, health sciences, and finance, allowing corporate sponsors to engage with tailored talent pools. Additionally, the Career Center has implemented targeted events and resources, such as curated networking events and experiential learning opportunities, ensuring employers meet qualified candidates who are prepared to excel in high demand

Results That Matter

OU's commitment to preparing workforceready graduates is evident in its outcomes. Nearly half of OU graduates remain in Oklahoma after graduation, earning an average starting salary of \$51,751, well above the state average. Corporate sponsorships not only contribute to these numbers but also amplify the career prospects of OU students,

ensuring they are positioned for success in Oklahoma and beyond.

Shaping the Future Together

"The strength of Oklahoma's workforce lies in the collaborative effort between education and industry," said David Surratt, Ed.D., vice president for OU Division of Student Affairs and dean of students. "By partnering with corporate sponsors, OU is not only equipping students with the skills and connections they need but also driving economic growth."

As the OU Career Center continues to expand its programs, corporate sponsors remain at the forefront of its mission to empower students and strengthen Oklahoma's workforce. These partnerships are not just investments in education—they are investments in the future of Oklahoma.





CHECKLIST FOR JOB AND INTERNSHIP FAIR SUCCESS

- Download the Handshake app
- Research the attending employers
- Dress professionally
- What to bring:
 - Portfolio/folder to hold your resume (several copies)
- Your phone to view the event app
- Your elevator pitch
- Your "Top Ten" list of companies
- Pen and paper for taking notes
- Your list of prepared questions for employers

FREE PROFESSIONAL HEADSHOT



A professional headshot is a critical tool in today's job market, and the OU Career Center provides free professional headshots through the Iris Air Photobooth.

Stop by the Career Center to capture a high-quality headshot for your LinkedIn profile, résumé, or professional portfolio.

Drop-in Hours:

When: Monday through Friday,

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: Oklahoma Memorial

Union, Suite 320

Cost: Free for all OU students,

alumni, faculty, and staff

"It's more than just clothes —

it's about opportunity, dignity, and empowerment."

MATT MARKS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR OU FOOD PANTRY

CAREER CLOSET

Dressing Students for Success

BY DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

he University of Oklahoma Career Center, in partnership with the OU Food Pantry, has introduced a transformative resource for students—the Career Closet. This initiative provides free professional attire to students for interviews, job and internship fairs, and networking events, ensuring they have access to the tools needed to present themselves with confidence and professionalism.

For many students, securing the right attire for professional opportunities can be a daunting financial challenge. The Career Closet was designed to alleviate this burden and empower students to focus on what truly matters—their skills, qualifications, and dreams.

"The Career Closet is about ensuring every student has an equal chance to succeed," said Matt Marks, assistant director for OU Food Pantry. "We want them to walk into an interview or career fair feeling confident and ready, without worrying about what they're wearing. It's more than just clothes—it's about opportunity, dignity, and empowerment."

"Helping a student find a suit that is professional gives them confidence to approach employers," said Royce Coleman, student

director for OU Food Pantry. "That small moment helps remove the worry of what to wear and allows them to focus on landing employment."

In addition to providing clothing, the Career Closet fosters a sense of support and community. It reflects OU's commitment to nurturing the whole student, helping them overcome obstacles that could hinder their professional aspirations.

"When a student walks out of the Career Closet with professional attire, they're walking out with more than just clothing-they're walking out with confidence and hope," Marks added.

The Bigger Picture

For many students, the Career Closet represents a gateway to opportunities that could change their lives. It is a reminder that support, no matter how small, can have a lasting impact.

"As we work to prepare students for the workforce, it's important that we address all aspects of their success," said Marks. "The Career Closet is just one example of how we're meeting students where they are and providing them with the resources they need to succeed."

HOW TO DONATE

The Career Closet accepts donations of business attire year-round, including: suits (all sizes and genders), blouses, skirts, dress pants, ties and belts. For more information, visit www.ou.edu/career/students/career-closet, call (405) 325-1974, or email careercenter@ou.edu.

Drop-off Locations:

- OU Career Center | Oklahoma Memorial Union, Suite 320 | www.ou.edu/career
- Office of Advocacy & Education | Oklahoma Memorial Union, Suite 370 www.ou.edu/advocacyandeducation
- OU Food Pantry | 331 Cate Center Drive, Norman | www.ou.edu/foodpantry

FACULTY AND COLLEGE RESOURCES

Integrating Career Readiness into the Classroom

BY DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

aculty and staff play a critical role in preparing OU students for success beyond graduation. The OU Career Center offers a variety of resources and initiatives designed to embed career readiness into the classroom and enhance students' professional development. By incorporating these tools, faculty can help students bridge the gap between academic learning and career success. Here are five key ways faculty can support students' career development.

Career Everywhere
Career readiness isn't just for the Career
Center—it's for everyone. The Career
Everywhere initiative encourages faculty
and staff to integrate career conversations,
assignments, and experiential learning
opportunities into their courses. Faculty can:

- Incorporate career-related assignments, such as résumé reviews and job search strategies.
- Invite Career Center representatives to deliver in-class presentations on career readiness topics.
- Connect students with Career Communities aligned with their academic discipline.

Career Center +
Course Integration
Career Center+ is a Canvas resource
that provides students with 24/7
access to career and professional development
content and provides faculty with content that
can be embedded into course curricula. By
incorporating Career Center+ modules, faculty
can:

- Align coursework with career competencies sought by employers.
- Provide students with structured career exploration assignments.
- Utilize pre-made resources, such as résumé



and cover letter workshops, that directly complement classroom learning.

Post-Graduation Plans Survey (PGPS) Participation
The Post-Graduation Plans Survey (PGPS) collects valuable data on where OU graduates go after leaving the university. Faculty members can:

- Encourage graduating students to complete the survey through their Graduate OU Canvas Course.
- Highlight the importance of tracking employment and continuing education outcomes.
- Use the data to inform program improvements and showcase student success.

4

Experiential Learning and Internship Support

Experiential learning provides students with hands-on experiences that prepare

them for the workforce. Faculty can:

- Integrate internships, research projects, and service-learning into their courses.
- Work with the Career Center to develop partnerships with local employers for student internships.
- Encourage students to participate in microinternships, job shadowing, and co-op programs.

Faculty & Career Center Collaboration

The Career Center is a partner for faculty in enhancing career development within their programs. Faculty members can:

- Request customized career workshops for
- Refer students to Career Advising and Handshake for job search support.

their classes.

• Utilize career outcome data to guide discussions on job market trends and graduate success.

Together, we can empower students with the tools they need to transition successfully into their careers.

POST-GRADUATION SUPPORT AND SUCCESS

The OU Career Center is committed to supporting students beyond graduation and providing resources to help alumni navigate their professional journeys. Graduates can take advantage of career advising, networking opportunities, résumé and cover letter reviews, and job search assistance to transition into the workforce or explore new career paths.

POST-GRADUATION PLANS SURVEY (PGPS) PARTICIPATION

The Post-Graduation Plans Survey (PGPS) collects essential data on where OU graduates go after completing their degrees. This information helps the university track employment trends, further education pursuits, and career outcomes to improve services for future students.

Graduating students:

- Complete the Post-Graduation Plans Survey (PGPS) through your Graduate OU Canvas Course as part of the final steps for degree completion.
- Faculty members are encouraged to highlight the importance of PGPS participation to track student success and improve career support programs.

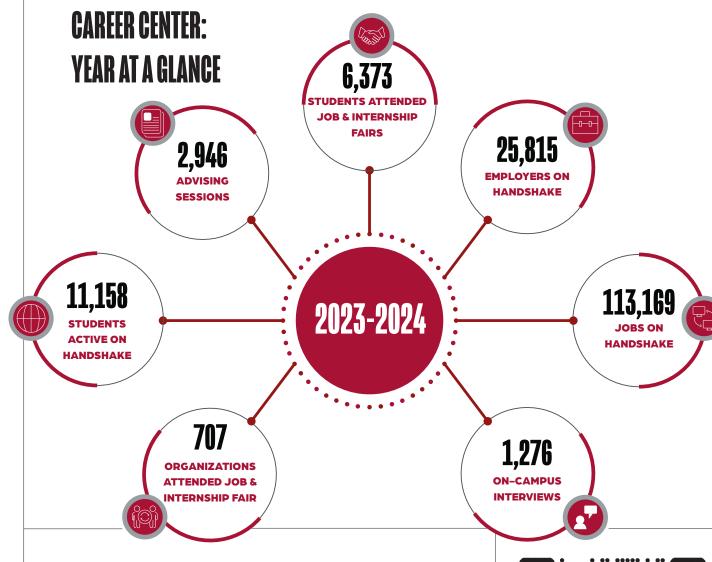
ALUMNI CAREER MOBILITY & FEEDBACK

Alumni are invited to share their experiences through the National Alumni Career Mobility (NACM) Survey, which assesses:

- Career satisfaction and economic mobility
- Educational satisfaction and its impact on career pathways
- Community engagement five and ten years after graduation

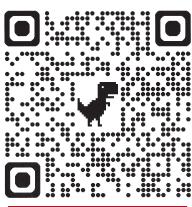
Your feedback is essential in shaping the future of OU graduates and strengthening career readiness programs.

For more information on post-graduation support, visit www.ou.edu/career/alumni, call (405) 325-1974, or email careercenter@ou.edu.



WORD SEARCH: FIND SERVICES OFFERED BY CAREER CENTER

Professional dress	WCHMDQCJOBSEARCHIQVF
	HNMFLINKEDINKFPMGOWF
Interview skills	LPROFESSIONALDRESSJL
Ma als internsions	J M X W Z B P Q B E S N F B E F H C Z Q
Mock interviews	IOQGOYPYHIFZUSBLHCAK
Career advice	UCRECXRXWDIEHEHFKESA
	YKRGLGYXXANGEBRUSEBY
Cover letter	IIIDCLROEYTKGCMIHCXM
	UNIJMTEGFIESTOXUNAHV
Networking	YTFKAHNLVIRGIVZEQRGL
	YEAXOUEROAVQZEFGJEAL
Job search	ORSCJATACYIKQRJSSEOD
	HVYZKLWQBHEWJLDFMRKP
Handshake	HITJEUORLKWOQERFJAAK
Linkedin	JEGSNARHIHSOSTELODMI
	DWMKESKDWQKFBTSNOVOF
Resume	BSXWMOIDONIDCEUWTIIF
	E P H S E J N O R F L Y A R M U T C B Y
	LTZOMFGCNOLTAUEDJEBQ
	EHANDSHAKESLOZOINNWT



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT CAREER CENTER



B. More at B. Braun

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As part of our expansion program, B. Braun is looking for part-time, work-from-home customer service and admissions representatives who are efficient and dedicated.

Pay is \$750 weekly plus benefits including medical coverage, wellness programs, commuter benefits, childcare solutions, a phased retirement program and options for shared success, like the 401(K) with company match and employee stock purchase plan.

AVAILABLE POSITIONS

- Bookkeeper
- Personal Assistant
- Payroll

- Customer Service
- Marketing
- Admissions Representative

- Office Clerk
- Help Desk Assistant

AND MANY MORE!

Requirements: Candidates should be computer literate and have 2-3 hours of access to the internet weekly. Must be over 18 years of age.