

**NORTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA
STATE UNIVERSITY**

ALVA ~ ENID ~ WOODWARD

**GRADUATE
CATALOG
2023-2024**

Revised 15 July 2023

"Learn Today ~ Lead Tomorrow"

NORTHWESTERN IS ACCREDITED BY THE HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

NORTHWESTERN IS ALSO ACCREDITED BY

Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation*

Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation

*as a bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degree-granting institution

AND IS A MEMBER OF

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education ~ American Association of State Colleges and Universities

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NOTE TO STUDENTS

The *Graduate Catalog* provides general information about Northwestern Oklahoma State University and summarizes important information about the university's policies, requirements for graduation, regulations, and procedures. It is not intended to establish, nor does it establish, a contractual relationship with students; rather, the catalog is published to provide students with information that will be helpful to them during their university careers.

By necessity, the administration of the university has established requirements and regulations governing the granting of degrees. Academic advisors, department chairpersons, and academic staff members are available to aid students in understanding the requirements and regulations. **Students, however, are responsible for reading and understanding the university's academic policies, procedures, and course requirements. Students are encouraged to keep a copy of this catalog as a reference should questions arise. The catalog is also available at www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies.**

Corrections and revisions will be made to the *Graduate Catalog* each calendar year. The online catalog is the current edition and will take precedence over earlier editions (printed or online) of the catalog.

The NWOSU Office of Graduate Studies maintains its web site at www.nwosu.edu/graduate-studies. Application forms, candidacy forms, degree plans of study, and other forms are available there under the "General Forms" and "Plans of Study Forms" tabs.

CURRICULAR CHANGES

Changes in curricular requirements may occur between catalog publications. Students will be informed of such changes to the extent possible. When changes occur, students may follow the requirements in effect at the time they entered their degree program, or they may appeal to the Graduate Committee to follow the new requirements. Students must choose to follow one catalog or the other; they may not select from the various requirements outlined in two or more catalogs. Reasonable substitutions will be made for discontinued and changed courses.

Announcements in the catalog concerning regulations, fees, curricula, or other matters are subject to change without notice.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

This institution, in compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008, and other applicable federal laws and regulations, and to the extent required by law, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, genetic information, physical or mental disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices, or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to, admissions, employment, financial aid, and educational services. Inquiries concerning the application of these programs should be made to Calleb Mosburg, Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, Northwestern Oklahoma State University, 709 Oklahoma Boulevard, Alva, OK 73717, (580) 327-8415.

COST STATEMENT

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SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

HISTORY OF NORTHWESTERN

In 1895, only two years after the opening of the Cherokee Outlet, the first bill to establish a normal school at Alva was introduced in the territorial legislature. This first effort was defeated. However, the next legislature passed a bill establishing the Northwest Territorial Normal School at Alva, the second normal school in Oklahoma Territory.

In a meeting on August 28, 1897, a newly formed Board of Regents for Normal Schools named Dr. James E. Ament of Illinois as Northwestern's first president. He and two teachers comprised the first faculty. The initial enrollment was 68 but had reached 166 by the end of the first year.

In 1919, Northwestern was expanded into a four-year teachers college and was renamed Northwestern State Teachers College. A major change in the nature and function of the institution took place in 1939 when the college was authorized to grant degrees in liberal arts as well as education. The name was then changed to Northwestern State College.

In 1941, a constitutional amendment created the present Oklahoma State System of Higher Education and established the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. All state-supported colleges/universities were brought under the authority of the board in matters regarding functions, programs of study, standards, and finances. Within the framework of the system, the six regional state colleges, including Northwestern, were placed directly under the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, created by a constitutional amendment to govern the state college segment of the educational system.

A fifth-year program in teacher education was approved by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education on January 25, 1954. Northwestern's first students in the Master of Teaching degree enrolled in the summer term of 1954. In 1969, the Master of Teaching degree was changed to the Master of Education degree.

The university's official motto was selected from 162 entries submitted by students, faculty, and alumni in a special contest on campus in March 1957. Kay Hutcheson, a junior from Jet, Oklahoma, received a scholarship in the amount of \$54 for winning the contest with her slogan "Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow."

Effective August 16, 1974, the name of Northwestern State College was changed to Northwestern Oklahoma State University. In the fall semester 1978, a Master of Behavioral Science degree was approved, a program which now culminates in the Master of Counseling Psychology degree.

In the spring of 1996, the Second Session of the 45th Oklahoma Legislature, with the approval of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges, passed legislation that created two new campus locations for NWOSU, one at Enid and the other at Woodward. NWOSU was authorized to extend all of its academic degree programs and educational services to the new sites as demand dictated. A new chapter in NWOSU history dawned as the institution celebrated its centennial in 1997-1998. In 2006-2007, NWOSU joined in the state-wide observance of Oklahoma's centennial, which coincided with its own 110th anniversary.

In 2007-2008, bronze statues representing "The Ranger," crafted by Harold Holden of Kremlin, were installed on the Alva and Enid campuses, with a third "Ranger" planned for the new campus in Woodward, which opened to the public in the Fall 2008 semester.

The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Regional University System of Oklahoma approved the Master of Arts in American Studies degree in 2013, Northwestern's third master's degree.

In 2016, The Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education and the Regional University System of Oklahoma approved the Doctor of Nursing Practice program, Northwestern's first doctoral degree, which began offering courses in Fall 2017. Several months later, these bodies also approved Northwestern's fourth master's degree, a Master of Science in General Psychology, which also began offering courses in Fall 2017. In spring 2020, the Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation program was approved and began offering courses in the fall of that year. In 2023, a superintendent certificate was added to the university's Education offerings.

During its history, Northwestern Oklahoma State University has progressed from a normal school to an institution offering advanced levels of graduate education from certificates and master's degrees to a doctoral degree.

GOVERNOR OF OKLAHOMA

The Honorable Kevin Stitt

OKLAHOMA STATE REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Allison D. Garrett, Chancellor ~ Oklahoma City

Michael C. Turpen, Chair ~ Oklahoma City

Steven W. Taylor, Vice Chair ~ McAlester

Dennis Casey, Secretary ~ Morrison

Jack Sherry, Assistant Secretary ~ Holdenville

Phillip Mitchell Adwon ~ Tulsa

Jeffrey W. Hickman ~ Fairview

Dustin J. Hilliary ~ Lawton

Anne Holloway ~ Ardmore

Courtney Warmington ~ Edmond

REGIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OKLAHOMA

Susan Winchester ~ Chickasha

Chris Van Denhende ~ Tulsa

Lake Carpenter ~ Elk City

Gary Parker ~ Muskogee

Connie Reilly, Chair ~ Okemah

Jane McDermott, Vice Chair ~ Alva

Amy Anne Ford, Secretary ~ Durant

Eric Fisher ~ Oklahoma City

Ryan Walters, State Superintendent ~ McAlester

Sheridan McCaffree, Executive Director ~ Oklahoma City

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Derek "Bo" Hannaford, Ed.D. (2011)

President, Professor of Education

B.A. and M.Ed., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
Ed.D., Walden University.

David PECHA, Ph.D. (2005)*Executive Vice President*B.S. and M.Ed., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma.**James BELL, Ph.D. (2010)***Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor of English*B.S., Lamar University;
M.A., Texas Women's University;
Ph.D., Texas Tech. University.**Steven J. MAIER, Ph.D. (1998)***Dean of Faculty, Professor of Physics*B.S., St. Lawrence University;
M.S., Oklahoma State University;
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma..**Caleb MOSBURG, M.Ed. (2007)***Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management*

B.S. and M.Ed., Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Wayne L. McMILLIN, Ph.D. (1998)*Dean of Enid Campus, Professor of Psychology*B.S., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
M.A., University of Central Oklahoma;
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University.**Jonathan THOMASON, Ph.D. (2020)***Dean of Woodward Campus*B.S. and M.S., University of North Texas;
Ph.D., University of Arkansas.**Shawn HOLLIDAY, Ph.D. (2009)***Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of English*B.A. and M.A., Marshall University;
Ph.D., Indiana University of Pennsylvania;
additional training in the Irish Gaelic language, Oideas Gael,
Glencolmcille, Ireland.**Matt ADAIR, M.Ed. (2006)***Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Recruitment*

B.A. and M.Ed., Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

Kelsey MARTIN, B.S. (2019)*Director of Marketing and University Relations*

B.S., Oklahoma State University.

GRADUATE FACULTY

The faculty for graduate programs consists of the President, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the Dean of the Enid Campus, the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, and members of the general faculty who have been recommended by their department/division chairs and approved by their school deans and by the Graduate Committee. Reappointment to the same graduate faculty position requires the approval of the department or division chair, the Dean of the Faculty, and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies. Only graduate faculty may teach graduate courses or serve as members of graduate students' advisory committees.

Permanent Graduate Faculty. A full-time faculty member who holds a terminal degree, who has been recommended by the appropriate dean and chair, and who has been approved by the Graduate Committee may be permanently appointed to the graduate faculty. This appointment to the graduate faculty is permanent and does not undergo cyclical review.

Associate Graduate Faculty. A full-time or emeritus Northwestern faculty member who is recommended by the appropriate dean and chair for a three-year appointment. The individual will have special expertise in the content area and will possess credentials for graduate level teaching.

Temporary Graduate Faculty. A faculty member or adjunct instructor who is recommended by the appropriate dean and chair and approved by the Graduate Committee for a one-year appointment. The individual will have special expertise in the content area and will possess credentials for graduate level teaching.

PERMANENT GRADUATE FACULTY

* Member, Graduate Committee

Courtney BALLINA, DNP (2017)*Associate Professor of Nursing*B.S., University of Wisconsin--Eau Claire;
MSN, Metropolitan State University;
DNP, Samford University.**James BELL, Ph.D. (2010)***Vice President for Academic Affairs, Professor of English*B.S., Lamar University;
M.A., Texas Women's University;
Ph.D., Texas Tech. University.**Sheila BRINTNALL, Ph.D. (1995)***Professor of Mathematics*B.S., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
M.S., Oklahoma State University;
Ph.D., University of Oklahoma.**Leslie COLLINS, DNP (2013)****Chair, Nursing; Associate Professor of Nursing*BSN, Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
M.S., University of Oklahoma;
DNP, Duquesne University.**Derek "Bo" HANNAFORD, Ed.D. (2011)***President, Professor of Education*B.A. and M.Ed., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
Ed.D., Walden University.**Roger D. HARDAWAY, D.A. (1990)***Professor of History*B.S., Middle Tennessee State University;
B.S.Ed., Memphis State University;
M.A., New Mexico State University;
M.A.T., University of Wyoming;
M.A., Eastern New Mexico University;
J.D., Memphis State University (Law);
D.A., University of North Dakota.**Shawn HOLLIDAY, Ph.D. (2009)****Associate Dean of Graduate Studies, Professor of English*B.A. and M.A., Marshall University;
Ph.D., Indiana University of Pennsylvania;
additional training in the Irish Gaelic language, Oideas Gael,
Glencolmcille, Ireland.**Roxie JAMES, Ph.D. (2016)***Chair, English; Associate Professor of English*B.A. Louisiana State University;
B.A. and M.A., Northwestern State University (LA);
Ph.D. University of Louisiana at Lafayette.**Matthew LAMBERT, Ph.D. (2020)***Assistant Professor of English*B.A., University of North Carolina at Asheville;
M.A., University of South Alabama;
Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon University.**Steven Wade MACKIE, Ph.D. (2008)***Professor of Education*B.A., Prescott College;
M.Ed. and Ph.D., University of Oklahoma.**Timothy J. MAHARRY, Ph.D. (1998)***Chair, Mathematics and Computer Science**Professor of Mathematics*
B.A., Hastings College;
M.S. and Ph.D., Oklahoma State University.**Jennifer MAHIEU, DNP (1998)***Associate Professor of Nursing*BSN, Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
M.S., University of Phoenix;
DNP, Duquesne University.**Aaron L. MASON, Ph.D. (2006)****Professor of Political Science*

B.A., Northeastern State University (Tahlequah);

M.A., University of Texas (Arlington);
Ph.D., Northern Arizona University.

Wayne L. McMILLIN, Ph.D. (1998)

Dean of NWOSU-Enid Campus, Professor of Psychology
B.S., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
M.A., University of Central Oklahoma;
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University.

Jennifer OSWALD, Ed.D. (2012)*

Chair, Education; Associate Professor of Education
B.A., Oklahoma Panhandle State University;
B.A.Ed. and M.Ed., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
Ed.D., Capella University.

LaTasha REED, DNP (2022)

Associate Professor of Nursing
B.A., University of Southern California;
MBA, California State University--Dominguez Hills;
M.S., Samuel Merritt University;
DNP, University of New Hampshire.

Mary RIEGEL, Ph.D. (2013)

Associate Professor of Mathematics
B.A., Whitman College;
M.A. and Ph.D., University of Montana

Christie RILEY, Ed.D. (2007)*

Associate Professor of Education
B.S. and M.B.S., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
Ed.D., Northcentral University.

Eric SCHMALTZ, Ph.D. (2005)*

Chair, Social Sciences; Professor of History
B.A., St. Olaf College;
M.A., University of North Dakota;
Ph.D., University of Nebraska.

Krista TILLEY, DNP (2013)

Assistant Professor of Nursing
B.S., Eastern Washington University;
ADN, Wenatchee Valley College;
M.S., University of Oklahoma;
DNP, Samford University.

David Lee VAUGHN, III, Ph.D. (2022)

Assistant Professor of English
B.A., Oklahoma State University;
M.A., Boston University;
Ph.D., Oklahoma State University.

Kimberly WEAST, M.F.A. (2002)

Chair, Fine Arts; Professor of Theatre
B.S., Southwestern Oklahoma State University;
M.A., Southwest Baptist Theological Seminary;
M.F.A., Lindenwood University.

Martie Luann YOUNG, Ed.D. (1994)

Professor of Education
B.S. and M.S., Northwestern Oklahoma State University;
Ed.D., Oklahoma State University.

NWOSU MISSION

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

Northwestern Oklahoma State University's Office of Graduate Studies provides quality educational and cultural opportunities that enable professionals to advance in their careers and to act as ethical leaders in a multicontextual society.

VALUES

As part of its philosophical basis, Northwestern Oklahoma State University holds certain values. These include:

Academic Excellence

Northwestern will provide the best possible educational experience for every student.

- *Focus on quality teaching and advising
- *Respond effectively to the learning needs of each student
- *Embrace the role of technology in the educational process
- *Promote opportunities for teaching and learning outside of the classroom

Accessibility

Northwestern is committed to the accessibility of its programs and services

- *Embrace our mission as a multiple site regional university
- *Continue working to maintain affordability
- *Seek new methods to deliver programs and services to our constituents

Community

Northwestern will create a sense of community that extends beyond campus boundaries.

- *Seek partnerships and initiatives that will improve the quality of life for area residents
- *Promote institutional and individual service to others
- *Embrace our role in a global society

Diversity

Northwestern will respect the individual rights of all persons.

- *Value the differences in every individual
- *Promote the expression of differing opinions and beliefs
- *Appreciate the culture and backgrounds of each person
- *Treat every individual with respect

Responsibility

Northwestern will maintain the highest levels of ethical standards and accountability.

- *Act with integrity and accept responsibility
- *Use our resources in the most effective and efficient manner
- *Conduct business in an atmosphere of transparency
- *Promote a culture of continuous improvement

FUNCTION

As one of eight regional universities in the state of Oklahoma, Northwestern has certain functions prescribed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. These include the following services:

1. Both lower-division and upper-division undergraduate study in several fields leading to the bachelor's degree.
2. A limited number of programs leading toward the first-professional degree when appropriate to the institution's strengths and the needs of the state.
3. Graduate study that moves toward limited comprehensiveness in fields related to Oklahoma's workforce needs.
4. Extension and public services responsibilities in the geographic region.
5. Responsibility for institutional and applied research in those areas related closely to program assignments.
6. Responsibility for regional programs of economic development.

In addition, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have prescribed specific functions for the NWOSU

campus at Enid as follows:

1. To assess the community's higher education needs at the baccalaureate and graduate program levels.
2. To provide upper-division and graduate courses and programs which are part of the institution's assigned function and programs within the limits of available resources.
3. To serve as the institution responsible for providing and facilitating upper-division and graduate courses and programs in Enid. NWOSU will contact and make arrangements with other regionally-accredited colleges and universities to offer courses and programs at the baccalaureate and graduate program levels.

Similarly, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education have determined the functions of the NWOSU campus at Woodward as follows:

1. To assess the community's higher education needs.
2. To provide lower-division, upper-division, and graduate courses, programs, and services which are part of the institution's assigned function and programs within the limits of available resources.
3. To serve as the institution responsible for providing and facilitating higher education courses and programs in Woodward. NWOSU will contact and make arrangements with other regionally-accredited colleges and universities to offer courses and programs.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

As part of its strategic planning process, the Northwestern community has developed the following strategic directions to guide its course into the future:

1. Northwestern will deliver and assess academic programs that include meaningful content and experiences to prepare graduates for successful careers and services to society.
2. Northwestern will provide a high quality educational experience for all students from time of first inquiry through graduation.
3. Northwestern will develop policies and practices that foster a university-wide culture of excellence, accountability, and collaboration.
4. Northwestern will forge strategic partnerships that advance the mission of the University.

GRADUATE TUITION AND FEES

*Subject to change at the discretion of the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education.
For the most up-to-date tuition information, see the NWOSU Website.*

General Fees (tuition + fees, per semester hour):

BS-to-DNP Program Costs

In-State	\$388.50
Out-of-State	\$642.50
Summer Residency on the Alva Campus	\$350.00
One-Time On-Line Expense	\$300.00

Master-Degree Program Costs

On-Campus (Oklahoma residents)	\$273.75
On-Campus (out-of-state)	\$551.75
ITV Classes (Oklahoma residents)	\$346.08
ITV Classes (out-of-state)	\$624.08
Online Classes (Oklahoma residents)	\$366.25
Online Classes (out-of-state)	\$644.25

Special Fee (in addition to general fees):

Graduation Fee	\$ 25.00
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The following refunds, per Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education policy, are made for approved withdrawals from ALL CLASSES:

Regular Semester:

First two-weeks	100% Refund
After first two weeks	No Refund

Eight-week classes have a one-week drop period starting from the date of the first scheduled class meeting; weekend seminars must be dropped the day prior to class start date to receive a refund.

Summer Session* withdrawal period for 100% refund:

First four days for an eight-week summer session
First two days for a four-week summer class
First day for a four-day summer class

**Based on a summer schedule of four days per week*

Any class meeting less than four days must be dropped the day prior to class start date to receive a 100% refund.

GENERAL ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Course Numbering. Courses are numbered so as to indicate the general degree of advancement. Courses at the 5000-level are for masters-degree students and courses at the 6000-level are for doctoral-degree students. The last figure in the 4-digit course number generally indicates the total credit hours generated by the course.

School Year. The school year consists of two semesters of sixteen weeks each, one eight week summer session, and interim sessions available in January and May. Consult the course schedule, available in print and online, for specific courses.

Class Periods. A regular lecture-recitation class period is fifty minutes long during the regular semesters and seventy-five minutes in length during an eight-week summer session. A laboratory period is approximately two-to-four hours in length. **Students should not bring their children to the classroom but should, instead, arrange for child care.**

Credit. Course credit is given in terms of semester hours. One semester hour of credit is given for one class period of instruction, or its equivalent, per week for a semester of sixteen weeks.

Career Services. Northwestern maintains a placement service to assist its graduates in obtaining desirable positions or positions of professional advancement and to aid hiring officials in securing qualified employees. Career Services is located in Fine Arts room #209.

Master's degree candidates who did not complete their undergraduate work at Northwestern but who wish to use the NWOSU placement service may register with Career Services when they have completed the major portion of their program.

All registrants should report changes of addresses and should notify Career Services promptly when a position has been accepted.

Financial Aid. Students interested in financial aid should contact the NWOSU Financial Aid office regarding options available for graduate students. *University policy requires graduate students who are receiving financial aid (including Stafford loans) to complete satisfactorily all hours attempted to maintain eligibility for financial aid.* No grade lower than C will be considered satisfactory for graduate student financial

aid retention purposes. **Students who are admitted conditionally are not eligible to receive Federal Financial Aid.**

MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMS

The graduate program at Northwestern Oklahoma State University offers plans of study leading to the Doctor of Nursing Practice, Master of Arts, Master of Counseling Psychology, Master of Education, and Master of Science degrees. Degree programs and options include:

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Master of Arts in American Studies

Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation

Master of Counseling Psychology:

Master of Counseling Psychology

Licensed Professional Counselor

Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor

Master of Science in General Psychology

Master of Education:

Adult Education Management and Administration

Curriculum & Instruction

Educational Leadership

Reading Specialist

School Counseling

Certification Options:

Elementary/Secondary School Principal

Reading Specialist Certificate

School Counselor Certificate

Superintendent Certificate

GOALS OF THE GRADUATE PROGRAMS

Doctor of Nursing Practice. The goal of the Northwestern Oklahoma State University BSN-to-DNP program is to make a pronounced contribution to the supply of doctorally-prepared advanced practice registered nurses to meet the health care needs of the rural and underserved areas in the state of Oklahoma. Graduates will be prepared to provide leadership in the application of evidence based clinical practice and contribute to the development of nursing science through independent and collaborative participation in scholarly activities and health policy, focusing on the improvement of patient/client care outcomes. More specifically, graduates will be prepared to:

1. Evaluate and utilize advanced knowledge and theories from nursing and related disciplines to identify, develop, and implement best practices to improve health care and health care systems.

2. Design, direct, and evaluate system changes to promote safe, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered care.

3. Provide leadership in the provision and transformation of health care through effective interprofessional collaboration and communication.

4. Apply technology and policy development to promote health, reduce risk, enhance patient outcomes and improve complex health care delivery systems.

5. Engage in complex, evidence-based advanced nursing practice.

6. Evaluate innovative approaches to complex health issues leading to safe and holistic care for individuals, families, communities and vulnerable populations.

7. Demonstrate clinical expertise, critical thinking and accountability in designing and evaluating evidence-based care to improve patient/client outcomes.

Master of Arts in American Studies. The Master of Arts in American Studies program provides students with integrated, critical knowledge of American culture and society, drawing on such disciplines as agriculture, English, history, mass communication, political science, sociology, theatre, and education to foster a holistic understanding of the historical, social, and cultural underpinnings of the American experience. The general goals of the program are as follows:

1. To enable students to explore and interpret the American experience from an interdisciplinary perspective that encompasses the fields of agriculture, English, history, mass communication, political science, sociology, theatre, and education.
2. To provide students with research skills and theoretical methodologies through which they will foster an integrative approach to learning about American culture & society, both past and present.
3. To provide students with intimate knowledge of northwestern Oklahoma and the American West through which they will learn about the culture of the United States, understanding the ways regional issues affect the national culture and vice versa.
4. To help students achieve excellence in critical thinking through extensive writing, reading, research, and communication with peers, faculty, and community leaders.
5. To enable students to initiate, develop, and carry out independent inquiry that will allow them to energize the region culturally and economically through a leadership position.
6. To prepare students for a wide range of employment opportunities by developing knowledge, skills, attitudes, and ethics that can be applied to work in junior colleges, archives, museums, and in governmental, commercial, and cultural agencies.

Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation. The goal of the Master of Arts in Heritage Tourism and Conservation degree is to increase the knowledge base for students who are already employed in a conservation/tourism-based position and for students who want to work or establish a business within the conservation/tourism industry. More specifically, graduates will be prepared

1. To evaluate the environmental history of Oklahoma and the sustainable practices that the state currently employ.
2. To apply principles of interdisciplinary research to create an individual, specialized project in heritage tourism and conservation.
3. To employ various media of advertising and other business communication principles to a proposed business model in heritage tourism or conservation.
4. To engage community members outside of academia by applying the historical concepts of historic preservation, museum studies, and public history to heritage tourism and conservation.
5. To understand and confront the special problems facing rural communities and populations in northwest Oklahoma and the United States by exploring the global concept of culture.
6. To apply skills and knowledge within a community-based, commercial, or governmental organization in order to understand the various ways in which heritage tourism and conservation can energize a region culturally and economically.

Master of Counseling Psychology. The Master of Counseling Psychology degree program provides graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary for functioning successfully as a Licensed Professional Counselor and as a Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselor. The general goals of the program are:

1. To apply knowledge in the foundations of human behavior and development.
2. To formulate and develop a pluralistic understanding of societal and cultural influences as they relate to human behavior and development.
3. To investigate normal and abnormal human behavior by evaluating different theoretical modes.
4. To assemble a broad-based understanding of human behavior by evaluating different theoretical models.
5. To demonstrate a working knowledge of measurement techniques used in counseling and the helping professions.
6. To interpret and appraise research as it applies to counseling.
7. To apply and demonstrate integration of accumulated knowledge of counseling strategies.

The program results in a degree designed to develop specific professional counseling competencies. The core curriculum of at least forty-eight hours of graduate credit constitute the minimum academic requirements leading to the Master of Counseling Psychology degree. Students whose goal is licensure as a Licensed Professional Counselor are required to complete sixty hours. Students whose goal is licensure as a Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor are required to complete additional hours.

Master of Science in General Psychology. The goal of the Master of Science in General Psychology (MGP) degree is to make a contribution to the supply of academically-prepared graduates in the state of Oklahoma who will perform necessary duties in the field of behavioral sciences. More specifically, graduates will be prepared

1. To evaluate and utilize advanced knowledge and theories from psychology and related disciplines to identify, develop, and implement best practices in the Behavioral Science field.
2. To summarize and critique the psychology literature including core theories.
3. To demonstrate their understanding and ability to implement basic and applied research designs used to address psychological issues.
4. To engage in complex, evidence-based practice.
5. To communicate both orally and in writing at a level that is appropriate for professionals in the Behavioral Science field.
6. To demonstrate the ability to work ethically and effectively with diverse student populations.
7. To evaluate innovative approaches to mental health issues leading to holistic care for individuals, families, and communities.
8. To demonstrate critical thinking and accountability related to the Behavioral Sciences.

Master of Education. The Master of Education degree program is designed to provide a program of advanced study to help educators with their professional responsibilities. The general goals are as follows:

1. To develop knowledge in research, writing, and scholarship at the graduate level.
2. To develop advanced skills and knowledge of future educators.

3. To develop knowledge of contemporary methodologies enabling graduate students to be prepared for immediate classroom experiences.
4. To develop knowledge of curriculum, measurement techniques, bibliographies, and other areas that are modeled upon the most effective master's degree programs nationwide.

Specific objectives of the Master of Education degree- program options are identified in section 9.