



**SPRING 2026**

# **COMMENCEMENT**

---

**UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY**

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH  
AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

**FRIDAY, MAY 1**

**6:00 P.M.**

**UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS**  
**FARRIS HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER**

# PROGRAM

Processional

Welcome..... Houston D. Davis  
*President*

National Anthem

Introductions and Greetings..... Michael B. Hargis  
*Provost and Executive Vice President*

Message from the Faculty ..... Joe Thomas  
*2026-2027 President of the Faculty Senate*

Message from the Student Body ..... Kylie McGraw  
*2025-2026 President of the Student Government Association*

Message from the Staff ..... Sherita Kern  
*2025-2026 President of the Staff Senate*

Message from the Alumni Association ..... Kaylon Bradford  
*President of UCA Alumni Association*

Challenge to the Graduates.....President Davis

Presenting the Degree Candidates..... Provost Hargis

Conferring the Degrees .....President Davis

Announcing the Degree Candidates.....Chad Hearne  
*Executive Director of the UCA Foundation*

Recessional and Alma Mater

*Audience is invited to stand in honor of the degree candidates  
during the processional and recessional*

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jim Rankin, Jr., *Chair, Conway*

Kelley Erstine, *Vice-Chair, Conway*

Kay Hinkle, *Secretary, Conway*

Curtis Barnett, *Little Rock*

Amy Denton, *Roland*

Terry Fiddler, *Conway*

Michael Stanton, *Greenbrier*

## UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

Houston D. Davis, *President*

Michael B. Hargis, *Provost and Executive Vice President*

Terri Canino, *Vice President for Finance and Administration*

Jeremy Gillam, *Director of Governmental Affairs and External Relations*

Mary Lackie, *Vice President for University Advancement*

Warren Readnour, *General Counsel*

Trevor Seifert, *Chief Information Officer*

Kevin Thomas, *Vice President for Enrollment Services and Student Success*

Amy Whitehead, *Chief of Staff*

Matt Whiting, *Athletic Director*

Robin Williamson, *Vice President for Student Affairs*

John Merguie, *Chief of Police*

Kurt Boniecki, *Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness*

Thomas Williams, *Dean, College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences*

Tim Bisping, *Dean, College of Business*

Deborah Dailey, *Dean, College of Education*

Nancy Reese, *Dean, College of Health and Behavioral Sciences*

Stephen Addison, *Dean, College of Science and Engineering*

Patricia Smith, *Dean, Schedler Honors College and Director of Exemplary Studies*

Michael Mills, *Dean, Graduate School*

Kelly Owens, *Dean of Students*

Rodney Lippard, *Director of Torreyson Library*

Vicky Summers, *Registrar*

# DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

## COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Department of Art and Design .....	Bryan Massey
School of Communication .....	Donna Lampkin Stephens
Department of Film, Theatre, and Creative Writing .....	Shauna Meador
Department of Government, Public Service, and International Studies .....	Mark Mullenbach
Department of History.....	David Welky, <i>Interim</i>
School of Language and Literature.....	Glenn Jellenik, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Music.....	Stephen Plate
Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies.....	Taine Duncan
Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology.....	Ed Powers

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Department of Accounting.....	Stephanie Watson
Department of Computer Information Systems and Analytics .....	Jeff Hill
Department of Economics, Finance, and Insurance and Risk Management .....	Joe McGarrity
Department of Marketing and Management.....	Thomas Snyder, <i>Interim</i>

## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Department of Elementary, Literacy, and Special Education .....	Stefanie Sorbet, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Leadership Studies.....	Jeff Whittingham, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Student Transitions.....	Leslie Gomes
Department of Teaching and Learning .....	Allison Freed, <i>Interim</i>

## COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders .....	Brent Gregg
Department of Exercise and Sport Science.....	Kim Eskola
Department of Health Sciences.....	Denise Demers
Department of Military Science and Leadership.....	Charles Jones
School of Nursing.....	Susan Gatto
Department of Nutrition and Family Sciences .....	Rebekah Luong, <i>Interim</i>
Department of Occupational Therapy .....	Tina Mankey
Department of Physical Therapy .....	Kevin Garrison
Department of Psychology and Counseling .....	Art Gillaspay

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Department of Biology.....	Brent Hill
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry .....	Kristin Dooley
Department of Computer Science and Engineering.....	M. Emre Celebi
Department of Geography .....	Stephen O'Connell
Department of Mathematics.....	Loi Booher
Department of Physics, Astronomy, and Engineering.....	Carl Frederickson

# COMMENCEMENT PERSONNEL

## MACE BEARER

President of the Faculty Senate

## INTERPRETER

Provided by Communication Plus+ Interpreter Services, Inc.

## MARSHALS

Members of the Faculty, Staff, and Administration

## MUSIC

Pinnacle Brass Quintet

## VOCALIST

Joanna Ruche

## USHERS

Members of the Staff

## PRESIDENT'S MEDALLION RECIPIENT FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

Cole Morrison, College of Science and Engineering

# ACADEMICS

## COLLEGE OF ARTS, HUMANITIES, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

THOMAS WILLIAMS, DEAN

*The College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences consists of nine units: the School of Communication, the School of Language and Literature, and the Departments of Art and Design; Film, Theatre, and Creative Writing; Government, Public Service, and International Studies; History; Music; Philosophy and Religious Studies; and Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology. Undergraduates may select from more than twenty majors, while graduate students choose from six programs. All students experience traditional and contemporary approaches in face-to-face and online classrooms, along with a host of such high-impact practices as internships, study abroad, study away, and service learning. The hallmark of CAHSS is its internationally renowned faculty, a roster of artists, writers, filmmakers, scholars, researchers, and performers who excel at teaching and exciting students to enter an increasingly diverse and globally engaged society.*

## COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

TIM BISPING, DEAN

*For over 50 years, the UCA College of Business has prepared students to be ethical, innovative, and engaged business leaders who positively impact their communities. The college's teaching methods and advising process are designed to help students discover their unique abilities and choose their best fit among more than 20 business degrees and certificates offered for undergraduates and graduates. The College of Business offers students hands-on experience in and out of the classroom through applied projects, internship opportunities, and student organizations. With the first Insurance and Risk Management program in the state, a growing Logistics and Supply Chain Management program, and new Applied Data Analytics options, UCA prepares students for in-demand fields such as accounting, economics, finance, computer information systems and analytics, cybersecurity management, insurance and risk management, marketing, innovation and entrepreneurship, and management. While only five percent of business schools worldwide are accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International, the college maintains accreditation because of its relevant curriculum, experiential learning opportunities, and faculty who are respected for excellence in research, teaching, and industry experience.*

## **COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

**DEBORAH DAILEY, DEAN**

*The College of Education at the University of Central Arkansas prepares students to excel as lifelong learners and to make meaningful contributions to their professions and communities. Through comprehensive bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programs, the College develops educators, leaders, and specialists in areas such as elementary, middle, and secondary education; literacy; special education; gifted education; digital-age teaching and learning; educational leadership; school counseling; library media; instructional technology; and higher education student personnel administration.*

*Committed to student success, the College also provides intentional support through the Department of Student Transitions, which helps first-year students build academic and personal confidence. Grounded in innovation, collaboration, and educational excellence, the College advances teaching, research, and service as the foundation of its mission. Faculty and partners engage in continuous improvement through evidence-based practices that promote growth and achievement for both students and educators.*

## **COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES**

**NANCY BERRYMAN REESE, DEAN**

*The College of Health and Behavioral Sciences (CHBS) includes the Departments of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Exercise and Sport Science, Health Sciences, Nutrition and Family Sciences, Military Science and Leadership, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Psychology and Counseling, and the School of Nursing. The College awards more undergraduate and graduate degrees in the health and behavioral sciences than any other comprehensive university in the state. For more than 50 years we have been preparing practitioners, educators, and researchers for the state of Arkansas and beyond. The CHBS Nabholz Center for Healthcare Simulation provides countless hours of simulated clinical practice for UCA health professions students in the only accredited university healthcare simulation center in Arkansas. Our Interprofessional Teaching Center and Community Care Clinic provide team-based care to individuals in central Arkansas while also addressing unmet healthcare needs in the community and allowing hands-on experience in interprofessional practice for our students.*

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

STEPHEN ADDISON, DEAN

*The College of Science and Engineering was founded in 2024 and is the successor college to the former College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. The college includes the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Biochemistry, Computer Science and Engineering, Geography, Mathematics, and Physics, Astronomy and Engineering. The college also operates additional programs that include Cybersecurity, Data Science, Environmental Science, and Software Engineering, as well as programs leading to teacher licensure at the secondary level. The college also offers graduate programs leading to Master's degrees through the departments of Biology, Computer Science and Engineering, Geography and Mathematics. Our students experience an immersive, active-learning environment using advanced technologies and state-of-the-art instrumentation, and they have many opportunities to engage in basic, applied, or translational research. Our faculty are dedicated to preparing future scientists, engineers, mathematicians, technologists and educators and are actively involved in securing grant support to further their students' educational, research, and community outreach goals. All our departments support student/faculty research collaborations and service learning. Graduates of the college are well prepared to meet the challenges of the ever-changing global economy and to become leaders in their communities and workplaces.*

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

MICHAEL MILLS, DEAN

*The Graduate School offers more than 60 advanced degrees and graduate certificates designed to challenge, inspire, and prepare students for their next academic or professional step. Whether your goal is to become an artist, educator, business executive, health care provider, or scholar, our programs combine academic rigor with real-world opportunities and a vibrant, supportive community. Students can pursue master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees, as well as graduate certificates, across a wide range of disciplines from every academic college. Through these programs, graduate students gain not only a deep understanding of their fields but also the critical skills and experiences needed to lead, innovate, and make a difference. At the Graduate School, you'll enter as a student and leave as a professional, equipped to create meaningful change and shape the future.*

# NORBERT O. SCHEDLER HONORS COLLEGE

PATRICIA SMITH, DEAN

*The Norbert O. Schedler Honors College oversees the operation of the Schedler Honors College, the Schedler Honors Program, and Honors in the Major. Each program provides a host of academic opportunities with the mission of developing public scholars and future leaders whose actions are grounded in interdisciplinary understanding. Founded in 1982 as the first honors college in Arkansas, the Schedler Honors College receives national acclaim for its innovative curriculum and holistic admissions process. Unprecedented interest in the Schedler Honors College from qualified students led to the formation of the University Scholars Program, now named the Schedler Honors Program, in 2018. Emphasizing scholarship, leadership and citizenship, our programs all conclude with the completion of an undergraduate thesis, and aim to equip students from across disciplines with the tools and skills to lead flourishing lives and develop them as conscientious citizen-scholars prepared to make a difference.*

# COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

Grace E. Benish

BS in Communication Sciences and  
Disorders. Advisor: Deanna Rice.

Thesis: *"Barriers to Belonging: An  
Autoethnographic Exploration of Inclusive  
Extracurricular Opportunities for Students in  
Special Education"*

Abigail Renee Bone

Isabel Jane Chaidez

Ashlyn Ann Cleary

Lauren Nicole Humble

Avenley G. Kelley

Harley C. Martin

Holly Elizabeth Ming

Sophie Abigail Skinner

Campbell Elizabeth Stewart

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Camille Elizabeth Bankston

Lindsey Caroline Ellis

Madalyn Claire Gathright

Camdyn L. Gipson

Ashlyn Halbrook

Madison Denae Looney

McKenzie Marie Massey

Evelina L. Powers

Allison F. Ross

BS in Communication Sciences and  
Disorders. Advisor: Sandra Kemper. Thesis:  
*"Bridging the Gap: Teachers and Speech-  
Language Pathology Unpacked"*

Lindsey Grace Ward

Harlie RaeAnn Hipp Wolf

### CUM LAUDE

Kenzie Grace Blanchard

Brielle M. Brasel

Morgan Kentlea Brown

Kristi Michelle Fraley

Jordan Shea Montgomery

Bevan Grace Sober

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Gracie D. Dixon

Leandria Lenette Lambert

Riley Ann Strube

Kalin Tariq Taylor

Kallie Marie Young-Raper

# SCHOOL OF NURSING

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE

### **Luke J. Briggler**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Optimizing Patient Safety Across the Anesthesia Continuum: A CRNA-led Approach to Risk Reduction and Complication Prevention"*

### **Kendall Leigh Carter**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"A Survey of Senior Nursing Students on Healthy Lifestyle"*

### **Isabella C. Henley**

### **Olivia G. Pasierb**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Public Perceptions of Pregnancy Loss"*

### **Bryce A. Rhodes**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"An Overlooked Parasite: Chagas Disease and Its Emerging Impact on U.S. Health"*

### **Presley N. Roberts**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Navigating Dementia: A Guide for Families and Caregivers"*

### **Hannah G. Smith**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"From Classrooms to Communities"*

### **Caroline E. Wehrle**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"CVICU Family Guide: What to Expect Before, During, and After Heart Surgery and Other Invasive Cardiac Procedures"*

## MAGNA CUM LAUDE

### **Natalie Barragan**

### **Gabriella Kate Calderon**

### **Emma K. Davidson**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Bridging the Gap in Postpartum Care: Educating and Improving Utilization of Lactation Support Services to Increase Positive Breastfeeding Rates"*

### **Allison Paige Evans**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Spill the Wick: New Graduate Nurse Perspectives Shared Through TikTok Interviews"*

### **Aaliyah R. Handy**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Bridging Mental Health and Bonding: The Role of Early Postpartum Depression Screening in Maternal-Infant Outcomes"*

### **Erin R. Ives**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"How Does the Wider Scope of Practice for Flight Nurses Affect Decision Making?"*

### **Marlee M. Lamoreaux**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"EBP: Evaluating Safety Evidence of Concomitant Childhood Vaccinations"*

### **Jaden R. McNair**

### **Megan Alexis Mills**

### **Emily Mae Moix**

### **Josie L. Nix**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Navigating Birth: Choices, Changes, & Care"*

**Jenifer S. Roblero-Perez**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Can Nursing Students Recognize Post-Partum Depression?"*

**Megan M. Simpson**

**Abigayle Grace Sykes**

**Nicole Lynn Vogt**

**Bailee P. Williams**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"STI Prevention in High School Students"*

**Emily Kate Winters**

**Grayson Emily Youngblood**

## CUM LAUDE

**McKenzie E. Beene**

**Hannah Marie Blevins**

**Madison C. Brewer**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Beyond the Bedside"*

**Kinley P. Corder**

**Ashlynn E. Dring**

**Alexis Paige Hall**

**Rebekah Ann Hardy**

**Irelyn M. Heagerty**

**Kennedy G. Holland**

**Isabella Grace Holloway**

**Jackson Jay Hull**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dr. Pamela Ashcraft. Thesis: *"Optimizing Patient Safety Across the Anesthesia Continuum: A CRNA-led Approach to Risk Reduction and Complication Prevention"*

**Makinley Elenann Lacy**

**Natavia Amyah Mackey**

**Alexis M. Matthews**

**Joshua Bo Mauldin**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Dane Hudson. Thesis: *"What Draws Students to Healthcare: Are Students Choosing Their Major for the Wrong Reasons"*

**Colin T. McKindra**

**Jana D. Powell**

**Alexys Brooke Reed**

**Kylie O. Ross**

**Ashlynn D. Sanders**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: William Stanton. Thesis: *"Pies for Peace: Unveiling the Impact of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence"*

**Eliza J. Sandoval**

**Elana S. Scott**

**Grace M. Stahr**

**Lexi E. Sulieman**

**Hailey A. Taylor**

**Tomi J. Taylor Jones**

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR

**Marcela Nuri Sierra**

BSN in Nursing. Advisor: Cheryl Massey. Thesis: *"The Blue Zones: Living a Centenarian Lifestyle"*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Miracle A. Anderson	Grayson Meckfessel
Lizbeth Arroyo	Kera Nichole Nast
Mariana J. Beltran	Alma D. Navarrete
Mya A. Bradley	Rylee E. Oliver
Ethan Mitchell Brock	Madison R. Paquette
Cherish E. Brown	April Michelle Patterson
Jermayia Bridge' DeShun Brown	Nicole C. Patton
Emily G. Burgess	Courtney M. Pearce
Anna Nevaeh Coleman	Luke Allen Peninger
Micah C. Cupples	Jackson M. Petty
Abbigale R. Derden	Malarie F. Place
Kentteriya S. Ford	Carson R. Prater
Maggie Green	Gabriela J. Reynolds
Katelyn E. Gregory	Hannah D. Robinette
Anna Marie Gunter	Abigail Christine Robnett
Madison E. Hagan	Madison A. Schmeski
Areyannah Athena Hale	Jesalyn P. Schubarth
Janiya B. Hargraves	Bailey E. Shreve
Micha Haley Harrell	Piper G. Smith
Kimberly Hernandez	Alysan Speers
Carrington Hunt	Abigail E. Thompson
Kortni Jones	Rashad D. Thrower
Vanessa N. Kincannon	Riley J. Turner
Kyra Suzanne Knowles	Kenadiey A. Ward
Brenna K. Larson	Madison T. Webster
Tailor M. Laws	Khia White
Kerrington B. Logan	Na'Tyja Brene White
Latosha R. Love	Aaliyah N. Willingham
Mariuna D. McClenton	Heaven L. Wine
Anna G. McRae	

# COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

## DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

#### **Christian C. Bailey**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Melinda Farris.  
Thesis: *"Investigation of Rapamycin on Age-Related Neurodegeneration in Heat-Stressed Caenorhabditis elegans"*

#### **Piper A. Chun**

#### **Michael K. Colburn**

BS in Environmental Science and Geography. Advisor: Ellen Hostetter.  
Thesis: *"Building Resilience and Communal Cohesion: The Role of Social Infrastructure and Federal Funding in Community Well-being"*

#### **Adrianna Marie Dixon**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Loi Booher. Thesis: *"Creating A Tutoring Guide for Juvenile Offenders in the Faulkner County Juvenile Justice System"*

#### **Aydia Fae Haymond**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Ron Duggins.  
Thesis: *"Exploring Language-Related Accessibility Strategies in an Optometric Clinic Business Plan"*

#### **Jesus M. Hernandez Meza**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Devon Hawkins.  
Thesis: *"Healthcare Across Borders: A Look at the U.S. and Mexican Medical Systems"*

#### **Jackson Ray Houser**

#### **Zongca Moua**

#### **MacKenzie L. Riegling**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Leah Horton.  
Thesis: *"Correlation Between Social Media, Body Image, and Eating Disorders & the Effects on Body Development"*

#### **Carter A. Sykes**

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

#### **David A. Ginger**

#### **Ammon Taylor Henderson**

#### **Mollie Paige Leonard**

#### **Alora Dale Lowry**

BS in Environmental Science. Advisor: Halvor Halvorson. Thesis: *"Reach-Scale Effects of Riparian Canopy Cover on Quercus rubra Leaf Decomposition and Algal Biomass Accumulation in Two Urban Streams of Central Arkansas"*

#### **Julian Chael Martinez**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Melissa Kelley.  
Thesis: *"Ozempic: The Risk of Semaglutide and its "Off-Label" Purposes"*

#### **Madelynn D. Matchett**

#### **Martin Ugarte Ferrin**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Jeffrey Padberg.  
Thesis: *"Organization of the Retinofugal Pathway in the Nine-Banded Armadillo (Dasypus novemcinctus)"*

#### **Emily Grace Walsh**

#### **Brentlee Marie Wilkins**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Amanda Martin.  
Thesis: *"Garden Therapy and Composting Systems: Enhancing Mental Health and Senior Living"*

#### **Malerie L. Wilson**

#### **Ashley Marie Work**

## CUM LAUDE

**Ashlyn D. Bell**

**Madison V. George**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Stephanie Alsbrook.  
Thesis: *"Empowering Women's Health: Promoting Wellness and Awareness for College-Aged Women"*

**Sarah K. Grace**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Opeyemi Adedaja.  
Thesis: *"Exploring the effect of time since fire on wild bee diversity"*

**Kevin P. Leal**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Tammy Haselkorn.  
Thesis: *"The Effect of Temperature on the Relationship Between Cavenderia aerostipes and its Chlamydiae Bacterial Symbionts"*

**Zoe Elise Simmons**

BS in Environmental Science. Advisor: Ginny Adams. Thesis: *"Reproductive Timing and Egg Morphometrics of the Peppered Shiner (Miniellus percallidus) in the Saline River, Arkansas."*

**Peyton Danielle Stafford**

BS in Environmental Science. Advisor: Vaughn Scribner. Thesis: *"Something in the Water": Encouraging Adolescents to Confront Environmental Degradation"*

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS

**Tori Lane Kiser**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Kim Eskola. Thesis: *"Mental Health: The effects of a serious or career ending injury in student-athletes"*

**Lucas Dale Langster**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Tiffany Epperson.  
Thesis: *"Examining the Consequences of Sleep Deprivation and Excessive Work Hours on Healthcare Providers: Implications for Patient Safety and Provider Well-being"*

**Bryslin S. Oden**

BS in Biology. Advisor: Doug Corbitt.  
Thesis: *"Insuring the Next Generation: Comparative Insights and Advocacy for Arkansas' CHIP"*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

**Cheyenne N. Adams**

**Alexis Mishie Altamirano**

**Oscar A. Alvidrez**

**Grace Faith Assan**

**Blake M. Barnes**

**Zachariah Boehringer**

**Shelby E. Bourquin**

**Addison McKenna Braddock**

**Anna Simone Carroll**

**Diandra Janah Edwards**

**Kevin V. Ghodela**

**Elaina M. Gonzalez**

**Destini Breanne Grant**

**Sophia C. Jones**

**Joseph Ridge Julian**

**Kade E. Kuykendall**

**Lane C. Langley**

**Olivia Sue Maines**

**Jalal Masoud**

**Jared M. McFarland**

**Hassan Mukhtar**

**Amanda Grace Ray**

**Ava M. Ronsky**

**Alexis J. Schroyer**

Anna M. Smith  
Brandon L. Stewart  
Karis Adina Turner  
Katlyn A. Turner

Egor A. Vechar  
Branson M. White  
Ellen Dianne Wuensch

## DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

#### Olivia Claire Benefield

BS in Chemistry. Advisor: Dr. Lei Yang.  
Thesis: *"Synthesis and Characterization of Copper Complexes Supported by Polydentate Amide Ligands"*

#### Ian Thomas Blair

BS in Chemistry. Advisor: Dr. Patrick Derochers. Thesis: *"Synthesis and Characterization of Cobalt-Cobalt Molecular Magnets"*

#### Grace Elizabeth Brown

BS in Chemistry. Advisor: Dr. Greg Naumiee.  
Thesis: *"Repurposing Natural Products Toward Fight Against Leishmaniasis"*

#### Mackenzie K. Folds

BS in Chemistry. Advisor: Dr. Justin Singleton. Thesis: *"Optimization of Green Microwave-Assisted Suzuki Reaction for Sophomore Level Organic Teaching Laboratories"*

#### Gabrielle Grace-Curton Stokes

BS in Chemistry. Advisor: Patrick Desrochers. Thesis: *"Low-Cost Green Phosphorylation of Cellulosic Material for Cation Uptake Resins"*

### MAGNA CUM LAUDE

#### Natasha Mary Moreland

BS in Chemistry. Advisor: Dr. Gregory Naumiee. Thesis: *"Novel Drug Candidates for Treatments of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis"*

#### Emma K. Zond

### CUM LAUDE

#### Lindsey N. Allen

#### Shaylee D. Stolzer

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

#### Isabella G. Bishop

#### Ingram A. Pile

#### Luke T. Darley

## DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

#### Miles Johnston Glover

#### Dalton K. Gorham

**Robert Nathaniel Hazeslip**

**Wyatt V. Held**

BS in Cybersecurity and BBA in Computer Information Systems. Advisor: Joe Thomas. Thesis: *"Assessing Cybersecurity Awareness: Surveying Demographics, Knowledge, and Actionable Practices"*

**Ethan James Pendergraft**

BS in Computer Science. Advisor: Michelle Talley. Thesis: *"A Minecraft Server: A New World for Third Places"*

**Emma Katelyn Wehrung**

## **MAGNA CUM LAUDE**

**Jewell Renea Callahan**

**Aiden E. Cary**

**Johnathan Samuel Church**

BS in Computer Science. Advisor: Jonathan Baarsch. Thesis: *"Shepherd: Exploring Interactivity in Narrative"*

**Kendra Leshea Fitzgerald**

BS in Computer Science. Advisor: Ellen Hostetter. Thesis: *"Shaping Community Safety: Collective Efficacy Under Structural and Spatial Constraint"*

**Kody Davison Graham**

**Joshua Luke Grygus**

**Karson A. James**

**Ethan J. Nuss**

**Sean K. Sawyer**

**Isaiah J. Stewart**

## **CUM LAUDE**

**Daniyar Alimkhanov**

**Christopher M. Cutter**

**Jordan Kasey LaBreck**

BS in Cybersecurity. Advisor: Jonathan Baarsch. Thesis: *"Challenging the Mountain: What Motivates Gamers to Keep Going?"*

**Brady Allan Minister**

**Carson Liam Stell**

## **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**

**Nicholas Tyler Adams**

**Luke Jordan Carter**

**Kaylan C. Crowder**

**Craig J. Crutcher**

**Maddock A. Davis**

**Levi R. Friddle**

**Seth D. Garner**

**Anthony Alexander Hernandez**

**Kaden J. Hyde**

**James Joyner**

**Yannice Konyaole**

**Gavin F. Leslie**

**Xuan Lin**

**Rina K. Martin**

**Ethan Christopher Pack**

**Pranaya Pudasaini**

**Brock T. Riddle**

**Alisia Deshae Smith**

**Dakotah Lewis Sutton-Rodriguez**

**Bradley D. Turnage**

**Corban D. Turner**

**Cade A. Whitley**

**Seth T. Wojcik**

## DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

**Michael K. Colburn**

BS in Environmental Science and  
Geography. Advisor: Ellen Hostetter.  
Thesis: *"Building Resilience and Communal  
Cohesion: The Role of Social Infrastructure  
and Federal Funding in Community Well-  
being"*

### CUM LAUDE

**Adil Ellatify**

## DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

### SUMMA CUM LAUDE

**Alexis Raine Chatman**

BS in Mathematics. Advisor: Noel Gieringer.  
Thesis: *"Together We Thrive: Using Online  
Spaces to Foster Community in Secondary  
Classrooms"*

**Jewel M. Fetterly**

BS in Mathematics. Advisor: Dr. James  
Fetterly. Thesis: *"Fostering Mathematical  
Creativity in Teachers: An Examination of  
Problem Posing and It's Impact on Fluency,  
Flexibility, and Originality"*

**Kaylee Rebecca Hoffman**

BS in Mathematics. Advisor: Julia  
Winden Fey. Thesis: *"Time is on Your Side:  
Integrating Anxiety Management and Time  
Perception into the Spring 2026 Student  
Success Planner"*

**Karsyn P. Taylor**

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**Michael Luke Bruner**

**Susana Saenz**

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BS in Engineering Physics. Advisor:

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*Temporary: Reimagining Disaster Housing with 3D Printing"*

## BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

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Michalina Julia Schulz

Edward J. Fields

Caleb Milton Young

Eric D. LeJune

# ORIGINS AND MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY

Established in 1907 by the General Assembly as the Arkansas State Normal School, the institution was charged with the responsibility of training teachers. Instruction began in 1908 with 107 students, a faculty of seven, and a physical plant consisting of one partially completed building. The first diploma granted was the Licentiate of Instruction, followed in 1920 by the establishment of curricula leading to a baccalaureate degree. The terms of the act establishing the school and its location in central Arkansas recognized the state-wide service the institution was expected to promote. The autonomy of its Board of Trustees also gave the institution freedom to expand and diversify academic programs to meet the growing needs of the state. Thus, in 1925, the college was renamed to Arkansas State Teachers College and added and broadened liberal arts programs and increased specialized offerings and degrees. In 1955, the college inaugurated its first graduate program. In 1967, the college was renamed to State College of Arkansas to reflect the institution's varied and comprehensive curricula, and, in 1969, the institution established four colleges to provide administration for the growing number of academic programs. The institution became the University of Central Arkansas in 1975 to reflect its status as a modern comprehensive university.

## SYMBOLS, REGALIA, AND RECOGNITION

The mace, an ancient sign of authority, is displayed as the symbol of the University's authority to confer degrees. The office of mace bearer is ceremonial and derives from medieval times in England when the mace, a formidable weapon, was held ready to protect the person of a dignitary. The mace precedes commencement dignitaries in the procession, both entering and leaving the ceremony, and is carried by the President of the Faculty Senate.

The University President's insignia of office is a silver medallion that displays the seal of the institution. He wears the distinguished purple gown with four black velvet bars outlined in gray around each sleeve and black velvet front facing with the UCA seal monogrammed on each side. The presidential hood represents the university school colors, purple and gray.

The Trustees of the University wear distinctive black gowns distinguished by purple velvet facing from hem to neck and three purple velvet bars around each sleeve about the elbow.

The banners identify and represent the academic disciplines of the institution. Each banner is decorated with the seal and colors of the University.

The different colored cords and stoles worn by candidates for undergraduate degrees represent graduation honors recognition and membership in various academic, collegiate, and scholastic societies.

Honors Graduates have excelled in the achievement of their academic programs; their graduation honors are categorized as follows: summa cum laude- highest honors (4.0 - 3.9); magna cum laude - high honors (3.89 -3.7); cum laude - honors (3.69 - 3.5). Undergraduate Scholars have been invited by the faculty to enter a department honors program and have completed an approved course of study, culminating in a department thesis. Honors College graduates have completed a specially designed four-year curriculum of interdisciplinary studies, culminating in a senior honors thesis. Designations printed in this program are conditional, pending the final academic standing upon the completion of all degree requirements. This is not an official list of graduation honors. Official graduation honors will be reflected on the diploma and the official transcript.

# ACADEMIC REGALIA

The present-day academic attire seems to have originated at Oxford and Cambridge Universities in the 1300's. As the universities passed from ecclesiastical control, the academic gown used brighter colors to distinguish it from the totally drab clerical robe. Although colonial American universities used academic gowns based on the British system, people continued to associate them with the clergy.

The design of the academic regalia and the colors worn are significant. The distinguishing mark of the gown is the sleeve: bachelor – a long pointed sleeve; master – an oblong sleeve open at the wrist; doctor – bell shaped sleeve with three velvet bars. The velvet edging of the hood signifies department of learning and the silk lining of the hood signifies the institution of the degree.

Originally, the hood had three uses: as a head covering, as a shoulder cape, and as a bag in which alms could be collected. It is mentioned as early as 1480 in clerical literature. When large wigs were in vogue in Britain, the cape part of the hood was split in front and a narrow neckband inserted. The entire cape and hood was allowed to fall back as it is today, and it was never restored to the original style.

Following is a list of the hood and tassel colors established by the Intercollegiate Code to represent several departments of learning.

Agriculture .....	Maize
Arts, Letters, Humanities.....	White
Business Administration, Commerce, Accountancy.....	Tan
Dentistry .....	Lilac
Economics.....	Copper
Education .....	Light Blue
Engineering.....	Orange
Family & Consumer Sciences .....	Maroon
Fine Arts, including Architecture .....	Brown
Forestry.....	Russet
Journalism .....	Crimson
Law.....	Purple
Library Science .....	Lemon
Medicine.....	Green
Music .....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Oratory (Speech).....	Silver Gray
Pharmacy .....	Olive Green
Philosophy .....	Dark Blue
Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Public Administration including Foreign Service .....	Peacock Blue
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science .....	Golden Yellow
Social Science .....	Citron
Theology or Divinity.....	Scarlet
Veterinary Science .....	Gray



# UCA ALMA MATER

As sung by the UCA Bear Marching Band

*Music by Homer F. Hess*

*Words by Ora Blackmun*

From the hills and from the lowlands  
Comes the song of praise anew  
Sung by thousands of our children  
Alma Mater, we sing to you

Then we'll unfurl our colors the Purple and the Gray  
And in the breezes see them ever proudly sway  
They lead us upward, they lead us onward  
They lead us to victory  
Then let us gather 'round with loyal hearts and true  
Our Alma Mater's call obey  
Our dear old colors will live forever  
The royal Purple and the Gray

