



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY CAREER AND LIFE DESIGN CENTER

DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

UNDERGRADUATE POST-GRADUATION SUCCESS
FEATURING FIRST-DESTINATION SURVEY RESULTS FOR 2023-24 ALUMNI





What if your future wasn't just something you waited for — but something you designed? At Oakland University, we believe success is not just about earning a degree but also about gaining real-world experience that sets you apart in your career, relationships and life itself.

This year, we are proud to officially launch **The OU Pledge**, a bold commitment to provide opportunities for undergraduate students to engage

in meaningful, hands-on learning experiences before they graduate. Whether through internships, research or community engagement, students will apply their knowledge in real-world settings, preparing them for life beyond the classroom.

Our journey to The OU Pledge began with the transformation of our Career Services office into the first dedicated Career and Life Design Center in the state of Michigan. Inspired by Stanford University's Designing Your Life framework, we developed a new approach based on three core mindsets:

- 1. Be Curious** – Exploration and discovery guide the student journey.
- 2. Bias to Action** – Trying things through prototyping, internships and hands-on experiences.
- 3. Reframing** – Students can build their way forward, even if they feel stuck.

With over 1,100 companies in Oakland County eager to connect with OU students, we are uniquely positioned to prepare our students for success. Our collaboration with the First Year Advising Center ensures that students begin career exploration early, setting a strong foundation for their future.

The results speak for themselves. For the 2023-24 undergraduate class, **99% of employed graduates** chose to stay and work in Michigan, with a median starting salary of **\$63,500**. Additionally, **78% of student respondents** engaged in experience-based learning while at OU.

As we move forward, The OU Pledge aligns with **President Pescovitz's Strategic Vision 2030**, reinforcing our commitment to student success, community engagement and workforce development. As we provide a world-class education, Oakland University will continue to prove that an investment in a college degree translates to many benefits throughout students' lives and is a catalyst for economic growth in the region.

With this momentum, we remain laser-focused on reaching more students and alumni through innovative methods and growing collaborations. The OU Pledge is more than a commitment; it's a movement designed to transform lives and careers.

We invite you to explore this magazine and celebrate the successes of our rising alumni, whose experience-based learning at OU has propelled them toward fulfilling careers and meaningful contributions beyond graduation.



Wayne Thibodeau
 Senior Director
 Career and Life Design Center

oakland.edu/pledge



CAREER AND LIFE DESIGN CENTER METRICS

- Over **232,000 employment opportunities** in 2024 from more than **11,800 employers** available via the online recruitment platform Handshake
- Close to **3,500 student and alumni attendees** engaged in recruitment and networking opportunities, such as:
 - Career fairs
 - Professional development and networking events
 - Employer meet-and-greets
 - And more!

SAMPLE OF INSTITUTIONS THAT ENROLLED OU STUDENTS FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

- Michigan State University
- Oakland University
- University of Michigan
- Wayne State University

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- Ascension
- BorgWarner
- Brose
- Corewell Health
- FORVIA
- General Motors
- Henry Ford Health System
- Magna International
- Oakland University
- Rochester Community Schools
- Stellantis
- Troy Community Schools
- Utica Community Schools
- UWM (United Wholesale Mortgage)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM ALL PROGRAMS

\$63,500

median full-time starting salary for graduates employed full time

86%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military or pursuing other commitments such as volunteer or service programs or raising a family

17%

of graduates are enrolled in continuing education

99%

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

78%

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU





“My time at OU gave me the opportunity to explore so many different ideas of what ‘being a musician’ could mean.”

— Madeleine Krick, CAS '23

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“At Siser, we admire Oakland University for fostering a community of students who are problem solvers, collaborative and work seamlessly across disciplines. A skill set is one thing, but the ability and willingness to continually learn, grow and improve with a team are invaluable.”

— Maya Groscurth, Marketing Manager, Siser North America



80%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military or pursuing other commitments, such as volunteer or service programs or raising a family

28%

are enrolled in continuing education

99%

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS
HIRING GRADUATES

- › Amazon
- › Blue Cross Blue Shield
- › Corewell Health
- › Hour Detroit
- › Oakland County
- › UWM (United Wholesale Mortgage)

SELECT JOB TITLES

- › Actuarial Analyst
- › Graphic Designer
- › Private Investigator
- › Probation Officer
- › Social Worker
- › Teacher
- › Underwriter

Madeleine Krick designed her career with fearless curiosity, using her time at Oakland University to explore jazz, opera, theory and teaching while discovering her passion for conducting. Embracing the role of Assistant Music Director for Mozart’s Così fan tutte reshaped Krick’s path, leading her to found Opera de Metro, where she conducts with the tenacity and collaboration of a true Golden Grizzly.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

4

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

96%

of graduates are employed,
pursuing continuing education,
serving in the military or pursuing other
commitments, such as volunteer or service
programs or raising a family

\$60,000

median full-time starting salary for
graduates earning an annual salary

98%

of employed graduates
are employed in Michigan

83%

had an internship or internship-like
experience while at OU

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- Ally Financial
- Blue Cross Blue Shield
 - BorgWarner
 - Comerica
 - DTE Energy
- FANUC America
- General Motors
- Plante Moran
- Rocket Companies
- Stellantis

SELECT JOB TITLES

- Accountant
- Auditor
- Business Analyst
- Buyer
- Financial Analyst
- Marketing Associate
- Operations Manager
- Supply Chain Associate
- Talent Management Specialist
- Warehouse Manager



“My ambition and determination to graduate college, make my family proud and change my world, accompanied by the abundance of resources offered by the Career and Life Design Center, made me into the young professional that I am today.”

— Daviion Burks, SBA '23

Daviion Burks didn't just find a job — he designed a career to fit his life, finding the freedom to explore, take action and turn opportunity into reality at Oakland University. His internship as a Financial Team Rotational Intern at Detroit Manufacturing Systems was more than just an experience; it was a springboard to success, leading to his full-time role as a Sales Associate after graduation.



WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“At DTE, we deeply value our partnership with Oakland University. The professionalism and dedication of OU students are exceptional, bringing fresh energy to our team while contributing significantly to Michigan's talent pipeline. We look forward to continuing this meaningful collaboration and supporting the growth of future leaders.”

— Korina Kasperek, Program Manager, HR Systems and Technology, DTE Energy

“I helped translate for an Arab patient who was struggling to communicate with the hospital staff. She was extremely appreciative and said, ‘You’re the answer to my prayers.’ Her words continue to echo in my mind. I can’t wait to be a physician and have an impact on people’s lives.”

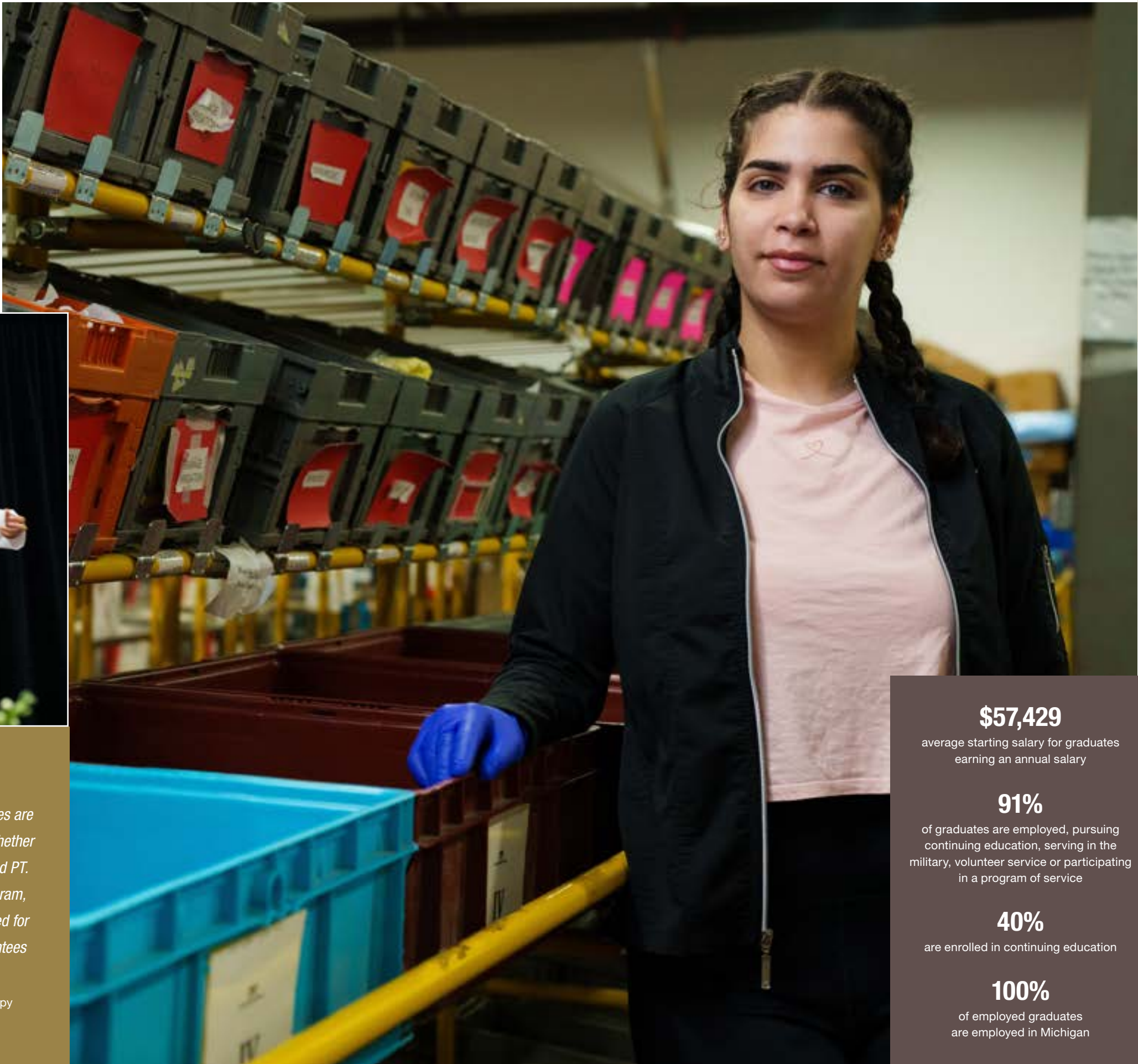
— Nedi Affas, SHS '23



WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“Oakland University students and graduates are well prepared and ready to do their job, whether it is as a student on a clinical or a licensed PT. The quality of OU’s physical therapy program, combined with the high standards required for admission to the program, almost guarantees extremely high-quality candidates.”

— Neil King, PT, President, Neil King Therapy



Nedi Affas excelled academically and holistically while earning her bachelor’s degree in health sciences. A student leader in the Explorations in Collaborative Leadership and InterProfessional Education (ECLIPSE) program, she carried out community-engaged activities with students pursuing careers in physical therapy, public health, medical laboratory science, as a physician assistant and more. Now an OUWB medical student, Affas’ hands-on experiences, including work as a World Medical Relief volunteer and Corewell Health assistant, provided deep insights into people, propelling her journey to becoming a caring physician.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES



\$57,429

average starting salary for graduates earning an annual salary

91%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military, volunteer service or participating in a program of service

40%

are enrolled in continuing education

100%

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- › Corewell Health
- › Detroit Medical Center
- › General Motors
- › HealthQuest Physical Therapy
- › Henry Ford Health

SELECT JOB TITLES

- › Medical Laboratory Scientist
- › Personal Trainer
- › Radiologic Technologist
- › Safety and Risk Manager



Almont Middle School teacher **Trenton Brown** is inspired by his students to make learning effective and engaging. His experiences at Oakland University and through student teaching in multiple school districts taught him that growth never stops — every day brings challenges, but doing meaningful work means constantly evolving, improving and showing up for others.



“Oakland University provided me with so many opportunities to grow. Being able to work in four different school districts and learn from a variety of teachers was incredible.”

— Trenton Brown, SEHS '24

SELECT JOB TITLES

- Early Childhood Teacher
- HR Generalist
- Teacher



\$58,450

average starting salary for graduates earning an annual salary

88%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military or pursuing other commitments, such as volunteer or service programs or raising a family

100%

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

100%

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS
HIRING GRADUATES

- Chippewa Valley Schools
- Dana Incorporated
- L'Anse Creuse Public Schools
- Utica Community Schools

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“Oakland University’s education program is highly respected in our district, and its graduates are consistently held in high regard. We take great pride in hiring OU graduates, and many of our teachers are alumni of the program. We are proud to have many of our school administrators who have earned advanced degrees from OU, and we deeply value our ongoing relationship with the university.”

— Ron Roberts, Superintendent, Chippewa Valley Schools

SCHOOL OF NURSING

85%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military, volunteer service, or participating in a program of service

\$68,500

median full-time salary for graduates earning an annual salary

99%

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

97%

of employed, full-time graduates report that their job is related to their career plans and interests

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- Ascension
- Corewell Health
- Detroit Medical Center
- Henry Ford Health
- McLaren Health Care
- Trinity Health

SELECT JOB TITLES

- Clinical Nurse Specialist
- Critical Care Nurse
- Pediatric Registered Nurse
- Public Health Nurse
- Registered Nurse

Abbie Tuomisto, BSN, RN, shines in the fast-paced world of cardiovascular intensive care, where everyday challenges push her to think critically, grow and positively impact patient outcomes. Her time at Oakland University taught her that success isn’t about perfection; it’s about resilience, continuous learning and showing up with passion every day.



“My time at Oakland University and the hard work that I put in is a great reminder that I am capable of more than I think. The professors constantly reminded us that we are capable of anything when we apply ourselves and do it with passion, and I think that still applies in my day-to-day work life.”

— Abbie Tuomisto, SON '24

WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“Henry Ford Health is proud to have had such a deep and rich history of hiring nurses who’ve been educated and trained at Oakland University. The nurses who come out of OU are highly skilled, compassionate, and fluent in the latest technologies and developments, and they share our core mission to make the impossible possible for the patients who walk through our doors. We know that when hiring an Oakland University nursing alum, they’ll bring a level of professionalism and know-how that’s hard to find.”

— Eric Wallis, DNP, MSA, RN, NE-BC, FACHE, Senior Vice President and System Chief Nursing Officer, Henry Ford Health



Garrett Gilstorff thrives in the ever-evolving world of IT, where each new challenge is a chance to innovate, adapt and transcend the boundaries of what’s possible. At Oakland University, Gilstorff ignited his passion for technology and pushed past his comfort zone through hands-on experiences, collaboration and embracing opportunities to learn and to lead.

“Oakland University set the stage for my career by providing me with a great mix of learning and hands-on experience. The networking events and industry connections I made through the university led to internships and job offers that have truly jump-started my career.”

– Garrett Gilstorff, SECS '24

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

86%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military or pursuing other commitments, such as volunteer or service programs or raising a family

\$75,000

median full-time starting salary for graduates earning an annual salary

86%

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU

99%

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- Ally Financial
- Brose
- General Dynamics Land Systems
- General Motors
- Magna
- Stellantis
- UWM (United Wholesale Mortgage)

SELECT JOB TITLES

- Electrical Engineer
- IT Technician
- Mechanical Engineer
- Project Engineer
- Software Developer
- Vehicle Application Engineer



WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“Oakland University alumni are ready to make a meaningful impact from day one. Their exceptional problem-solving abilities and practical skills make them an ideal fit for Magna. The education they receive at OU aligns well with our core values, driving our commitment to innovation and excellence.”

— Heather Holm, Manager, Talent Attraction & Employer Brand, Canada & United States, Magna International





Driven by a passion for education and a gift for teaching sign language, **Amiesha Williams** returned to the workforce inspired to bridge communication gaps and create a more inclusive world, one classroom at a time. Having earned a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies at OU and overcome profound personal challenges, Williams dug deep within herself to prove that resilience, purpose and the power of possibility can shape not just a career, but also a movement for change.

“Oakland University served as the catalyst that ignited my passion and revealed my purpose: to address the pervasive issue of unemployment and underemployment within the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Through my pursuit of an interdisciplinary studies degree, complemented by minors in human resource development and communication and deaf studies, I've uncovered a deep-seated commitment to leveraging education and communication as tools for empowerment.”

— Amiesha Williams, BIS '23

BACHELOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

89%

of graduates are employed, pursuing continuing education, serving in the military, volunteer service, or participating in a program of service

\$64,241

average full-time salary for graduates earning an annual salary

100%

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU

SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- Corewell Health
- Eaton Corporation
- Shift Digital
- State Of Michigan
- Stellantis

SELECT JOB TITLES

- Data Analyst
- Medical Assistant
- Office Manager
- Sales Manager



WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

“At Enterprise, we greatly admire the work ethic and open-mindedness of Oakland University students and alumni. Our partnership with the university enables us to offer students a well-rounded understanding of all aspects of running a successful business, not just one area of the market. This broad perspective inspires them to embrace new opportunities and unlock a world of possibilities. Hiring Oakland students is a priority for us because we seek individuals who share our values — those who understand that success is earned through dedication, hard work and building a personal brand, much like the remarkable OU alumni we've had the privilege of working with.”

— Jamie Kisser, Talent Acquisition Specialist, Enterprise Mobility

ABOUT THE DATA

The data presented in this report was compiled from the First-Destination Survey, which is administered annually by the Oakland University Career and Life Design Center. This survey captures post-graduation outcomes of Oakland University undergraduate degree recipients. The survey content, timeline and procedures align with guidelines published by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). The survey was completed by OU students who graduated between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Results were collected through December 31, 2024, to conform with NACE standards.

The survey was created with Handshake, a Career and Life Design Center platform for Higher Education with more than 1,500 institutional partners, and was distributed electronically. Summer graduates were emailed the survey in late October. Winter and Spring graduates completed the survey at commencement fairs. The Career and Life Design Center called and emailed nonrespondents and those still seeking employment throughout the collection period. Finally, we queried the National Student Clearinghouse and OU student records, collected public social media profile data from LinkedIn and other platforms, and compiled records from other departments across campus for those students who indicated they were still seeking employment the last time we surveyed them.

We took care to include only high-integrity data in this report. Data was inspected for duplicate responses, frequent suspicious responses (e.g., “jkla;lj” or “12345”), missing responses on more than five key questions and other validation measures. More specific details regarding data handling and interpretation are available on request and can be directed to the Oakland University Career and Life Design Center.



POST-GRADUATION OUTCOMES DASHBOARD

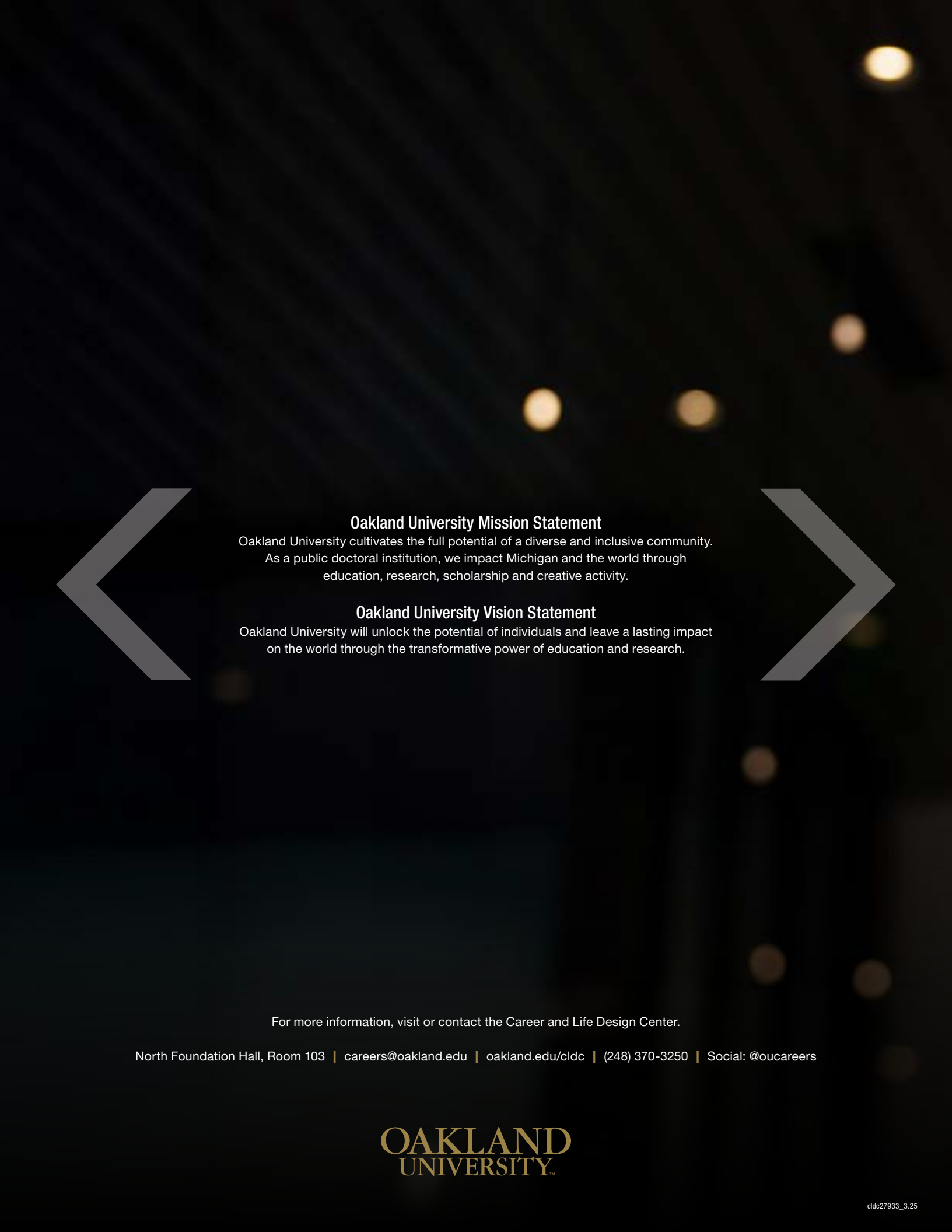
Oakland University surveys all graduates in the region and beyond embarking on their first destination beyond college. Top employers, salaries and industry partners, among other factors, are displayed on the Post-Graduation Outcomes Dashboard.

Future Golden Grizzlies and their families can see a dynamic breakdown of prospective career outcomes by exploring the dashboard via the information listed below.

For a more customized view of current career outcomes, please contact the Career and Life Design Center at (248) 370-3250.

Scan the QR Code to visit the dashboard, or log on to oakland.edu/app/post-grad-dsh.





Oakland University Mission Statement

Oakland University cultivates the full potential of a diverse and inclusive community. As a public doctoral institution, we impact Michigan and the world through education, research, scholarship and creative activity.

Oakland University Vision Statement

Oakland University will unlock the potential of individuals and leave a lasting impact on the world through the transformative power of education and research.

For more information, visit or contact the Career and Life Design Center.

North Foundation Hall, Room 103 | careers@oakland.edu | oakland.edu/cldc | (248) 370-3250 | Social: @oucareers