Commencement 2023

CARL WOOTEN FIELD
ANCHOR D STADIUM
GOODWELL, OKLAHOMA

MAY 12, 2023
9:00 AM
2023 Commencement Program

*Musical Prelude. ................................. Encanto
by Robert W. Smith

*Musical Prelude. ................................. March from 1941
by John Williams

*Processional. ................................. Pomp and Circumstance
by Edward Elgar

Concert Band—Mr. David Vaughn, Director

*Presentation of Colors. .............................. Guymon Fire Department

*The Star-Spangled Banner .......................... Francis Scott Key

*The OPSU Alma Mater—Crimson and Blue .......................... Milton Bradley
Chamber Singers—Mr. David Vaughn, Director

*Invocation ................................. Mrs. MaKenze Anderson
Methodist Student Center, Goodwell

Welcome ................................. Dr. Julie Dinger
President

Greetings from the Oklahoma A&M Regents .......................... Mr. Jason Ramsey
CEO

Greetings from the Student Government Association. .......................... Mr. Jesus Mesta
2022-2023 President

Introduction of 2023 Commencement Speaker. .......................... Dr. Julie Dinger

Commencement Address. ................................. Mrs. Jana Wallace
CEO, PTCI

Presentation of J. R. P. Sewell Award ................................. Mrs. Laura Hutchinson
Dean, Student Affairs

Welcome by Panhandle State Association of Alumni and Friends..Mrs. Katie Quebedeaux
Association President

Certification of Candidates ................................. Dr. Theresa Billiot
Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs

Conferral of Degrees. ................................. Dr. Julie Dinger

Presentation of the Class of 2023. ................................. Mrs. Virginia Cruz
Director, Hispanic Student Center

*Benediction. ................................. Mrs. MaKenze Anderson

*Recessional. ................................. Fanfare and Recessional
by Edward Elgar

*PLEASE STAND

one
Jana Wallace is the chief executive officer of Panhandle Telephone Cooperative, Inc. and its subsidiary Panhandle Telecommunication Systems, Inc., serving customers with landline, wireless, and high-speed broadband services in the Oklahoma and Texas panhandles.

With over 29 years of service at PTCI, Wallace is a seasoned executive in the telecommunications industry. She is involved in advocacy and policy efforts through active roles on several boards, including the board of OTA, the Oklahoma Rural Telecommunications Coalition, the Rural Broadband Association Innovation and Business Opportunity, and Smart Rural Community Committees. She also served as president of the Oklahoma Rural Broadband Association and of the national Rural Wireless Association and is past president of the Panhandle Regional Economic Development Coalition, Inc.

Jana graduated from OPSU in 1996 with a degree in business administration. She and her husband, Monte, have three children: Grayson, Gannon, and Greer. During football season, you can find them in the tailgate zone cheering on the Aggies.

As the fifth generation of her family to call the Oklahoma panhandle home, Jana has a deep sense of pride and respect for the people and accomplishments of our region.
Mr. Jarold Callahan, Chair  Edmond
Mr. Joe D. Hall, Vice Chair  Elk City
Dr. Trudy Milner  Tulsa
Mr. Cary Baetz  Nichols Hills
Mr. Rick Davis  Guthrie
Mrs. Blayne Arthur  Stillwater
Mr. Rick Walker  Lawton
Mr. Jimmy Harrel  Leedey
Mr. Billy G. Taylor  Muskogee

Dr. Julie Dinger  President
Dr. Theresa Billiot  Vice President, Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Ryan Blanton  Vice President, Advancement
Mrs. Elizabeth McMurphy  Vice President, Fiscal Affairs
Mrs. Erin Moore  Registrar
Mrs. Laura Hutchinson  Dean, Student Affairs
Mrs. Virgina Cruz  Director, Hispanic Student Center
# Baccalaureate Degrees

## 2022-2023

## College of Agriculture, Science, and Nursing

Mr. Tracy Kincannon, Dean

## Bachelor of Science

### Agribusiness

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eli Braden Barger</td>
<td>cum laude</td>
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<td>Chase Douglas Becker</td>
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<td>Rylee Nicole Brock</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Ashlee Brown</td>
<td>cum laude</td>
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<td>Dakota DyAnn Cook</td>
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<td>Kelly Ann Darnell</td>
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<td>Denver Rae McGill</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faith Nicole McKenzie</td>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
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<td>Carl McKenzie</td>
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<td>Johanna Mergelman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caleb Michael Newell</td>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colee Rae Pehl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wade William Pettijohn</td>
<td>magna cum laude</td>
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<td>Rillie Lynn Ratliff</td>
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<td>Kyle Reid</td>
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<td>Douglas Reece Reynolds</td>
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<td>Ayvree AnnMarie Smith</td>
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four
Bachelor of Science

Agronomy

Daralyn Marina Bergin
Braelen Fisher
Mary Lee Graham, summa cum laude
Kaden William Kemp
Abigail Rogers
Tristen Michael Roll, cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Agricultural Education

Skyla Jones
Abigail Rogers
Harlee Ann Wiggins, summa cum laude

Bachelor of Science

Agribusiness (Cont.)

Jebidiah Wyatt Stubbs
James Wilder Syzemore

Bachelor of Science

Animal Science

McKenna Brennan
Rylee Nicole Brock
Kyle Lee Cavender, cum laude
Ry Thomas Albert Clark
Brielee Cathryn Daniell, magna cum laude
Hannah Alvarez
Lorenzo Amador
Claric Catherine Cain
Bianca Maria Camello
Cooper Laine Davis, cum laude
Ebony Rene Dykes, cum laude
Logan Denzel Elliott, summa cum laude
Caryn Jewel Dodson
Joseph Harper
Tyriek Kimble
Faith Nicole McKenzie, magna cum laude
Johanna Mergelman
Mia Catherine Moore, magna cum laude
Wade William Pettijohn, magna cum laude
Rillie Lynn Ratliff
Bailey Lane Small
Shirley Kailee D’Shawn Smith
Jebidiah Wyatt Stubbs
Harlee Lace Voss
Harlee Ann Wiggins, summa cum laude

Hannah Alvarez
Lorenzo Amador
Claric Catherine Cain
Bianca Maria Camello
Cooper Laine Davis, cum laude
Ebony Rene Dykes, cum laude
Logan Denzel Elliott, summa cum laude
Tessa Michelle Francoise
Zoe Ann Fry
Tatum Chaleigh Hall
Bachelor of Science

Biological Science (Cont.)

Jose Jaregui
Faith Nicole McKenzie, magna cum laude
Maria Ortiz Medrano
Mia Catherine Moore, magna cum laude
Alexander Murrillo
Rayne Cruz Quinones
Gloris Lizbeth Villa
Mariana Williams, magna cum laude
Christian Wiman

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics

Nancy Melendez
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Mesa Briane Adams, *cum laude*

Vera Ambo

Kaleb Leroy Anderson

Megan Leigh Bailey

Valerie Alese Baker

Christine Marie Baker

Luz Alejandra Barboza Figueroa

Megan Bartels

James E. Barton, *cum laude*

Sydney Batson

Kandi Lea Bell, *magna cum laude*

Victoria Jolee Blemmel, *cum laude*

Heather Ruth Brewer

Kadi Jo Brewer

Michelle Cruz Bridges, *summa cum laude*

Kelly Jo Briggs, *magna cum laude*

Mary Allison Bryant

Tracey Anne Burrows

Makenzie Nicole Buse

Joanne Deana Butler

Tamara Julene Carter

Marc David Casinillo

Angela Chappell

Evangeline Chia

Maritza Del Carmen Colindres

Bria Conner, *magna cum laude*

Alicia Elizabeth Cupps, *cum laude*
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Sandra Dale</td>
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<td>Kailee Daun Daney, <em>cum laude</em></td>
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<td>Samantha Davis</td>
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<td>Ricky Caleb Dennis, <em>cum laude</em></td>
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<td>Valerie Lee Gilstrap</td>
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<td>Robert Fox Glander, <em>magna cum laude</em></td>
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<td>Aambrea Faye Glodo</td>
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<td>Farrah Dawn Green, <em>summa cum laude</em></td>
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<td>Tanya Lynn Harris</td>
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<td>Jessica Faye Herrin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryne Lynne Hilmes, <em>magna cum laude</em></td>
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*nine*
Melanie Impson
Lacey Bernice Ives
Shaylee Ann Johnson
Charity Renee Johnson
Megan Mary Keim
Gage Cameron Kennedy
Faye Lyn Ketcher, magna cum laude
Taylor Michelle Khaki-Rains
    Tamara Jo Kusser
    Jennifer Ann Laizure
    Rachelle Deann Larson
    Tristan Leighnor
    Ashley Renee Lewer
Irma Kathryn Angela McKenzie
    Rani Lynn Melvin
    Jade Elaine Moon
Amanda Taylor Nakvinda
    Kristy Lynn Neely
    Natisha Lee Nelson
Tilly Rae Nelson, magna cum laude
    Valerie Kay Newkirk
Phi Nguyen, cum laude
    Esther Ijeoma Okoro
    Jennifer Erin Oldham
    Cecily Ann Olvera
Patrick Kuranchie Owusu, cum laude
    Hunter Bryce Pennington
Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Nursing (Cont.)

Jamee Perez, cum laude
Kaylun Larae Peters
Lauri Philpot
Rachel Pritchett
Stephanie Ann Ramsey
Harli Ridling
Brya Jenee’ Roberts
Casey Jean Ruiz
Michael Heath Salsbury, cum laude
Jamie Lynn Sanderson
Ariel Beth Schoenecke
Rodney Daniel Shepherd
Hannah Nicole Silcott, cum laude
Tori Jean Simmons
Joshua Singer
Alexis Raechelle Smith, cum laude
Travis Lee Snow
Courtney Jane Soltero
Hannah Sontag, summa cum laude
Mary Sparks
Tracey Diane Stelly
Rebekkah Stone
Stephanie Talley
Vanessa Elizabeth Thomas
Tiffany Leigh Thomas, magna cum laude
Hannah Paige Thompson, cum laude
Callie Ann Troglin, summa cum laude
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

NURSING (CONT.)

Salett Yvonne Tunley
Brittney Rae Vaughan
Adriana Velazquez
Ashton Nichole Vierus, summa cum laude
Kelly Vinson
Ashley Kay Walker
Karen Annette Wells
Zoey Wheeler
Michael Douglas White
Madison White
LauraLee Belloe Willcox, summa cum laude
Chelsea Jo Williams
Bethany Lynn Wilson
Taurie M. Workman
Lucero Zapata

december
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

Dr. Patrick Maille, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ENGLISH

Veronica Simone Ray, magna cum laude

BACHELOR OF ARTS

HISTORY

Jonathan Hunter Applebury
Silvia Lizeth Luna Jacquez

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

ART

Fernando Betancourt
Abagail Rochelle Colten, magna cum laude
Hope Elizabeth Luttrell
Carly Pryor

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

INSTRUMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Carlie Joann Murley
Bachelor of Science
Criminal Justice

Lorenzo Bachicha
Parker Boles
Lane Field
Julian Raul Jimenez
Evan William Meashaw, cum laude
Jimmy Lee Smith, magna cum laude
Sharon Torres

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education

Casie Faye Campbell
Michele Rene’ Cox, cum laude
Dianne Garcia, cum laude
Lucero Loredo-Mendoza, cum laude
Carrie Faye Mathis, magna cum laude
Alisha Ann Minter, suma cum laude
Jennifer Rae Perkins, magna cum laude
Ashley Price

Bachelor of Science
Health and Physical Education

Leonardo Ferreira Pinto Amaral, cum laude
Johnathan Hunter Applebury
Jaishone S. Brown
Payton Scott Brown, cum laude
Rebecca Candido
Cheslon Lee Carollisen
Bachelor of Science

Health and Physical Education (Cont.)

Ja’Quavion Z. Daniels
RayQuan L. Elliott
Benanao Fernandez
Kendal Layne Henson
Tateum CheyeAnn Jones
Willie McClure
Justin Andrew Romel Pile
Clay Purnell
Yeimy Ramirez
Zoë Alexandra Salazar
Alejandro Salazar
Joshua Nathaniel Sanchez, magna cum laude
Clayton Kent Stallones

Bachelor of Science

Psychology

Jade Velicity Adan
Parker Boles
Sarah Kathleen Conley, cum laude
Ebony Rene Dykes, cum laude
Quentin Dean Fankhouser
Lesly Galarza, cum laude
Lena Ernestina Garcia Diodosio
Julian Raul Jimenez
Sarah Amanda Landara, magna cum laude
Jared Perdue
Jimmy Lee Smith, magna cum laude
Joshua Christopher Stullivan
Melissa Caitlin Amos, *cum laude*

Kalum Anchondo

Camryn Paige Ansley

Haylee Noelle Behne

Angelica Chavez

Cristina Chavez

Christopher Kyle Daley

Luis Dermas

Kate Lenore Dickinson

Jena Fankhouser

Sierra Fearno

Traegan Devada Flanagan

Christopher Adrian Gomez

Evelyn Guerrero, *magna cum laude*

Jonathan Guzman, *cum laude*

Drew Houfek, *magna cum laude*

Catarina Guadalupe Tum Garcia

---

Dr. Karen Goosen, Dean

**Bachelor of Business Administration**

**Accounting**

Evelyn Guerrero, *magna cum laude*

Jonathan Guzman, *cum laude*

Drew Houfek, *magna cum laude*

Catarina Guadalupe Tum Garcia

**Bachelor of Business Administration**

**Business Administration**

Melissa Caitlin Amos, *cum laude*

Kalum Anchondo

Camryn Paige Ansley

Haylee Noelle Behne

Angelica Chavez

Cristina Chavez

Christopher Kyle Daley

Luis Dermas

Kate Lenore Dickinson

Jena Fankhouser

Sierra Fearno

Traegan Devada Flanagan

Christopher Adrian Gomez

Evelyn Guerrero, *magna cum laude*

Jonathan Guzman, *cum laude*

Kelsey Nicole Hallin, *cum laude*
Kearston Janae McCain, *magna cum laude*
Jeremy Mendenhall
Zachary Wayne Miller
Danny Millis, *summa cum laude*
Sarai Ortega
Johanna Elizabeth Quintero
Marco Antonio Ramos
Kathy Janett Rosas
Laky Da Graca Samo
Annica Witt Slater
Anna Grace Soza, *magna cum laude*
Ntandoyenkosi Peace Tshuma
Damon Craig Walkup
Essence Marie West
Astrid Keily Fabiola Zamudio Garcia

Nora Paulina Castillo, *cum laude*
Kaleb Ray Dawkins
Bilal Mohamed
Cody James Pierce
Jayden Valdez, *magna cum laude*
Stephen James Webb
Bachelor of Industrial Technology

Industrial Technology

Alfred Yassir Alkannama, magna cum laude
Enrique Alvidrez, Jr., cum laude
Mitchell Gregory Bazzell
Lance Mark Coronado, cum laude
Christopher Lewis
Jasper Reed Painter
Revecca Andrea Vargas, cum laude
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSOCIATE DEGREES</th>
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<td>2022-2023</td>
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</table>

**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, SCIENCE, AND NURSING**

**ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE**

**AGRICULTURE**

- Michael Ayol
- McKenna Brennan
- Rylee Nicole Brock
- Ry Thomas Albert Clark
- Brielee Cathryn Daniell
- Caryn Jewel Dodson
- Carl McKenzie
- Faith Nicole McKenzie
- Johanna Mergelman
- Tristin Niccoli
- Wade Pettijohn
- Rillie Lynn Ratliff
- Buster Roy Reis
- Shirley Kailee D’Shawn Smith
- Jebidiah Wyatt Stubbs
- James Wilder Syzemore
- Seth Dawson Wallace
- Harlee Ann Wiggins
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

GENERAL STUDIES

Nathan Baker
Katelin Berry
Taylor Blanton
Brisa Elizabeth Chavez-Fernandez
Ja’Quavion Z. Daniels
Khaleb Diaz-Alvarez
Logan Elliot
Delaney Eskew
Kenna Lynn Garcia
Gage Gonzales
Bianca Gonzales
Darius Grays
Braden Greene
Kyleigh Grove
Kathryne Lynne Hilmes
Dylan Hughes
Julian Raul Jimenez
Kadence Kunselman
Joelle Lydia Laforce
Tara Miller Lakely
Yvonne Landeros
Ashley Renee Lwer
Kohley Longmeyer
Ariel Orta Mata
Emma Kaitlynn Montgomery
Carlie Joann Murley
Thy Ngoc Quynh Nguyen

twenty
ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

GENERAL STUDIES (CONT.)

Clay Purnell
Brandon Rodriguez
Britney Webb
Addison Williams
Tierra Williams
COlLEGE OF BUSineSS AND TECNOLOGY

ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Ryan Nathaniel Acosta
Nathan Alvarado
Kevin Andres Brekke
Jennifer Lynn Costner
Charlie Hardman
Carlos Gabino Joaquin Sabino
Dillon Rhae Lester
Sarai Ortega

ASSOCIATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

Jordin Hunter

CERTIFICATE

TECHNOLOGY IN EMS/HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

David Adrian Salcedo

CERTIFICATE

WIND ENERGY AND MAINTENANCE TECHNOLOGY

Revecca Andrea Vargas

twenty-two
Special recognition at graduation is provided for students with outstanding academic records. Graduates who have achieved academic excellence receive a gold cord symbolizing the excellence of the achievement. The cord indicates *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude*. Distinctions for the corresponding grade point averages appear below. Graduation honors with an asterisk are contingent upon spring and/or summer 2022 semester grades.

- *cum laude* 3.50 to 3.74
- *magna cum laude* 3.75 to 3.99
- *summa cum laude* 4.00

### Participation Regalia

- Blue and Gold Cord  
  - Alpha Zeta
- Red Cord  
  - Chi Sigma Alpha
- Light Blue Cord  
  - Teacher Education Candidate
- Green and White Cord  
  - Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature
- Serape Stole  
  - Hispanic American Leadership Organization
- Navy, White, Red Cord  
  - First Generation
- White Stole with Blue Trim  
  - Student Ambassador
- Red Embroidered Stole  
  - Cherokee Nation Oklahoma
- Silver Stole  
  - Early College High School

### Marshals

- Kyrstan Cook
- Daniel De Mello
- Regina Mejia Medina

### Ushers

- Emily Robertson
- Sydnee Roth

twenty-three
Academic dress worn today originated in 12th century Europe when the ordinary dress of the student and teacher was that of the cleric. Long gowns may have been necessary for warmth in unheated buildings. In the 14th century, statutes of several colleges required the wearing of gowns. While European institutions have had great diversity in academic dress, American colleges and institutions have developed a fairly standardized system. The Intercollegiate Commission established regulations in 1895 which prescribed the cut, style, material, and colors of academic dress. Committees authorized by the Academic Council on Education received and modified the code in 1932, 1959, and 1986.

A doctor’s degree gown is trimmed with black velvet facing down the front and three bars of velvet across the sleeves. The sleeves are large and bell-shaped at the wrist. Its hood is the longest of all hoods at four feet while the master’s hood is shorter. The color of the hood’s lining represents the official colors of the university conferring the degree, and the binding or edging of the hood indicates the color of the discipline of the granted degree. The dark blue trim of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) represents the mastery of the discipline of learning and scholarship in a field; it does not necessarily represent the field of philosophy. The tassel on the cap may be gold or the color appropriate to the discipline. Material for the gowns and their hoods varies with climate but is usually black.

The oblong sleeves of the master’s degree gown open at the wrist. Velvet does not trim this gown, but it does have a hood with appropriate colors.

A bachelor’s gown has untrimmed, pointed sleeves. Although it may be worn with a hood, many American universities have abandoned this practice. The most common form of cap worn with the bachelor’s gown—the mortarboard—carries either a black tassel or the appropriate color for the discipline.

The list below indicates the tassel colors appropriate for this commencement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Color</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounting, Business</td>
<td>Drab</td>
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<td>Education</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Apricot</td>
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<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Sage Green</td>
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<td>Science</td>
<td>Golden Yellow</td>
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Source: Academic Costume Code of the American Council on Education
Oklahoma Panhandle State University’s mission is to provide higher education for the Oklahoma Panhandle and surrounding areas through academic programs, cultural enrichment, life-long learning experiences, and public service activities. Educational experiences enrich students and prepare them for roles in agriculture, business, education, government, and industry.

The Panhandle State campus comprises 131 acres. The farm encompasses 1,900 acres including 450 acres of cultivated land. The original 80-acre site cost $2,400.00 in 1909. Panhandle State averages 1,300 students and has 160 personnel. The Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical Colleges governs the University. The accrediting body is the Higher Learning Commission.

Originally known as Pan-Handle Agricultural Institute, it offered secondary agricultural education beginning November 1, 1909, with 57 students; the first enrollee was Flora Elswick. Most males lived in tents in an area named “Rag Town.” Some students lived in a hotel—the local bank’s second floor. Others boarded with local families or commuted by train, horse, or buggy. Two instructors and President Sanders W. Black donated books for a library. Built in 1910, Old Hesper Hall and Franklin Hall (now on the National Register of Historic Places) were the first buildings. The initial commencement in 1911 graduated four students. Now, Panhandle State graduates about 280 students yearly.

In 1921, Oklahoma allowed a two-year college curriculum and changed the name to Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College. The State Board of Agriculture granted permission for upper-level collegiate courses in 1925. Since then, two name changes have occurred: Oklahoma Panhandle State College of Agriculture and Applied Science (1967) and Oklahoma Panhandle State University (1974).

As a result of its mission, Panhandle State monitors educational needs in the state and region and responds appropriately. At the institution’s beginning, President Black once claimed: “Methinks that great men and women will go out from this school.” He was correct.
Oklahoma Panhandle State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Catherine Kimball, Title IX (sex), Office: SL 125, Telephone: 580.349.1574; Laci Unruh, Section 504/ADA (disabilities), Office: ML 107B, Telephone: 580.349.1556.