



OAKLAND UNIVERSITY CAREER AND LIFE DESIGN CENTER

# DISCOVER YOUR FUTURE

UNDERGRADUATE POST-GRADUATION SUCCESS  
FEATURING FIRST-DESTINATION SURVEY RESULTS FOR 2022-23 ALUMNI







After years of learning and conversation, we proudly premiered the Career and Life Design Center in August 2023. Dedicated to empowering students to **EXPLORE, DISCOVER and CONNECT** with their unique paths, we have implemented a holistic, comprehensive approach to reaching career milestones.

We are aware that Oakland University benefits greatly from its location within Oakland County. The synergy between our robust academic programs and our commitment to offering students internships and practical learning experiences with industry partners reinforces our vision to become the “university of choice” for talent in the region.

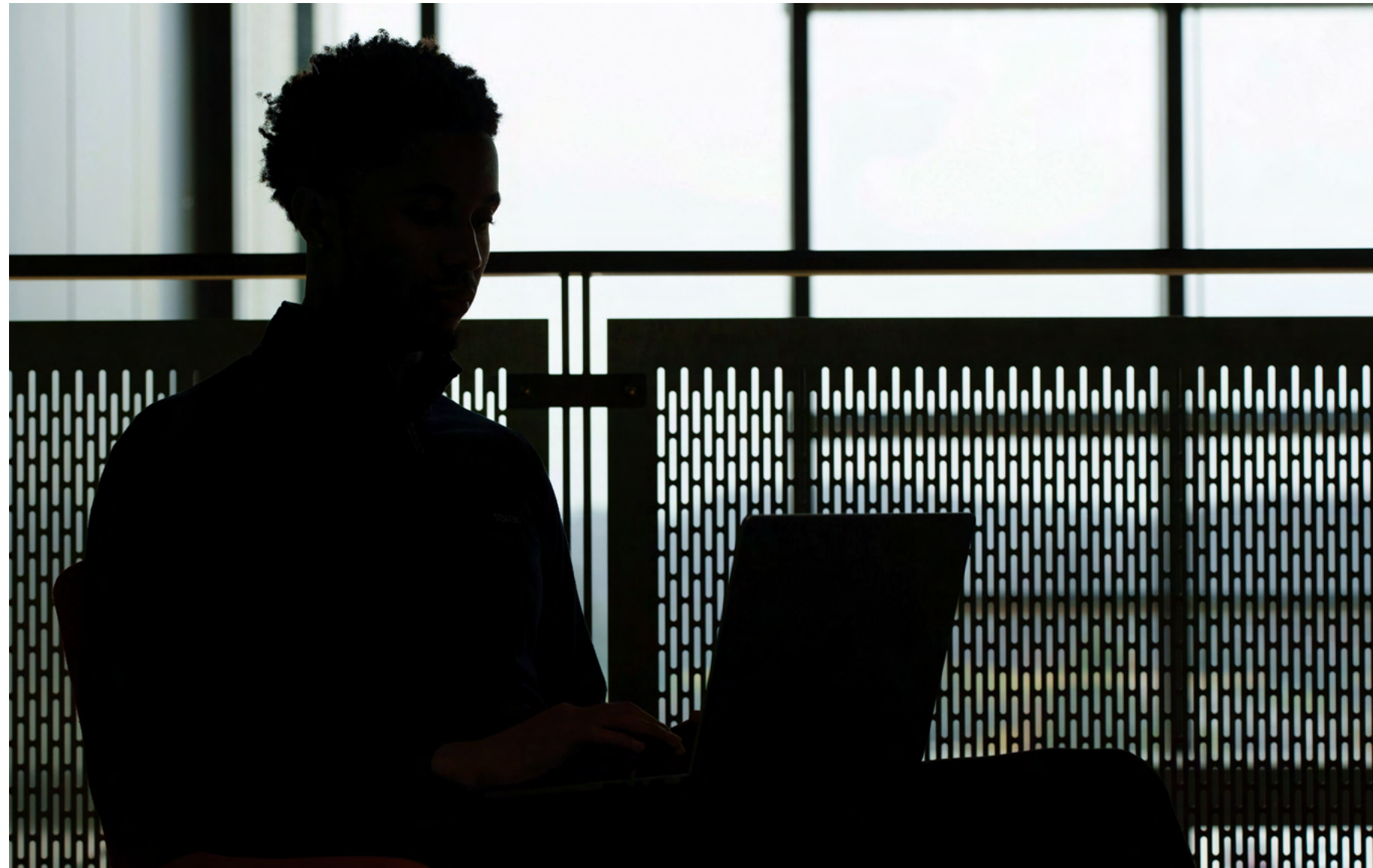
Our Career and Life Design Center has integrated the use of Artificial Intelligence to support our foundational work of providing resume feedback and interview preparation. Embedded within our Career Studio, the program revolutionizes student success with the support of Career Ambassadors and Career and Life Design Coaches.

We have also forged a collaborative alliance with the First Year Advising Center. Here, exploring (undecided) students schedule a meeting with a Career and Life Design Coach for purposeful exploration activities following their initial session with their First Year Adviser. The mission of our new center is to teach students how to embrace the mindset of curiosity, try things through exploring internships and experiential learning opportunities, tell their stories to others and build community connections.

This report shows a consistent demand for talent through the career outcomes of OU’s 2022-23 undergraduate class and demonstrates their impact on our region and beyond. We continue to see a strong commitment by our students to stay, work and play in Michigan. For the graduates who indicated they were employed, 99% are employed in Michigan. We also see that student salaries remain competitive, with an average salary of \$61,081, and 83% of student respondents indicated they participated in experiential learning while at OU.

As we look toward another year of guiding students through building the lives they want to live, we intend to remain laser-focused on reaching more students and alumni through revolutionary methods and growing collaborations.

**Wayne Thibodeau**  
Senior Director  
Career and Life Design Center



**CAREER AND LIFE DESIGN CENTER METRICS**

- Over **94,000 employment opportunities** in 2023 from more than **8,000 employers** available via the online recruitment platform Handshake
- Close to **3,000 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 Detroit Mercy - School of Law
- University of Michigan
- Wayne State University

**SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES**

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ➤ Ascension              | ➤ General Motors                  |
| ➤ BorgWarner             | ➤ Henry Ford Health System        |
| ➤ Corewell Health        | ➤ Magna International             |
| ➤ Detroit Medical Center | ➤ Plante Moran                    |
| ➤ Easterseals            | ➤ Stellantis                      |
| ➤ Ford Motor Company     | ➤ Trinity Health                  |
| ➤ FORVIA                 | ➤ UWM (United Wholesale Mortgage) |



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM ALL PROGRAMS**

**\$62,000**

median full-time starting salary for graduates employed full time

**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

**16%**

of graduates are enrolled in continuing education

**99%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

**83%**

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU





*“I was born and raised in Brazil, and as an international student, I often doubted whether the barriers of difference would hinder me from achieving great things. However, what I’ve come to realize is that **knowing oneself well enough to leverage your strengths and finding places like OU** that offer room for growth, can make almost anything possible.”*

— Leticia Santos



#### WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

*“The ongoing partnership between Oakland University and City Year remains strong, and rightfully so.*

*Oakland University steadily sends highly qualified candidates to City Year to the point where all OU students who have applied to the City Year program have been accepted. **OU students are always professional and well prepared**, and City Year is excited about hiring even more OU students in the future!”*

— Robert Humphrey, Recruiter, City Year

**85%**

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

**23%**

are enrolled in continuing education

**98%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

#### SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- › Corewell Health
- › Easterseals
- › Gateway Pediatric Therapy
- › Oakland County
- › Rochester Community Schools

#### SELECT JOB TITLES

- › Case Manager
- › Copywriter
- › Data Analyst
- › Environmental Scientist
- › Graphic Designer
- › Social Media and Marketing Assistant

# Seraph.



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

**Leticia Santos**, driven by a passion for public relations, excels in the dynamic fusion of strategic thinking and meticulous attention to detail. In her career, she values the creative freedom that allows her to effortlessly combine artistic expression with the intricate aspects of business.

At Oakland University, Santos found a platform for personal growth and valuable connections, especially within the Department of Communication, Journalism, and Public Relations, where exceptional professors inspired her continuous improvement. For Santos, being a Golden Grizzly means dreaming big, seizing opportunities, learning from inspiring individuals and recognizing the vastness of the world. It’s a reminder to look beyond the familiar, pay attention to details, be adventurous and find opportunities.



## SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

**93%**

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

**96%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

**94%**

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU

### SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- › Comerica
- › General Motors
- › Magna
- › Siemens
- › Stellantis
- › Williams International

### SELECT JOB TITLES

- › Data Analyst
- › Electrical Engineer
- › Mechanical Engineer
- › Project Application Engineer
- › Software Developer
- › Systems Administrator



**Marcus Nellum, an Oakland University industrial and systems engineering graduate, thrives on the dynamic evolution of his career. Embracing the diverse industries he has encountered at Siemens, Nellum relishes the unique challenges that fuel his knowledge.**

OU exposed him to various engineering paths and empowered him with essential tools for success. As a former student-athlete, he underscores the fusion of academic rigor and extracurricular experiences, citing their pivotal role in shaping his journey.

### WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

*“The relationship between Siemens Digital Industries Software and Oakland University provides an opportunity for students to learn about Industry 4.0, digitalization and how to apply digital solutions across industry domains by integrating the virtual and physical worlds. As students from industrial and systems engineering and other engineering majors are introduced to these concepts, they are provided the foundation that Siemens is looking for to help lead our customers on their digital journey. **With the support of the OU Career and Life Design Center, we look forward to growing this partnership and providing students the opportunity to own their career.**”*

— Christopher A. Chopp, Manufacturing Engineering Practice Lead, Siemens Digital Industries Software

*“School is important, of course, but being a student-athlete taught me **discipline, time management and communication skills.** Adding these fundamentals to what I accumulated on the academic side of things propelled my career to where it is today.”*

— Marcus Nellum





**WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING**

*“Hiring at OU is a priority for Corewell Health because students and alumni are prepared and eager to hit the ground running.*

*The mission at Corewell Health resonates with them, and we want compassionate team members focused on providing care tailored to each patient’s needs. Corewell Health and OU fostered a relationship when we partnered to build the resident medical program, and we will give our continued support to the OU nursing program. We also are engaged with OU nursing leadership in scholarship programs designed to introduce students to nursing at our Corewell Health hospitals and empower them to begin their nursing careers.”*

— Carole Fraga, Talent Acquisition Consultant, Corewell Health



*“[Shayna] has been my paragon in this nursing journey, giving me the motivation, confidence and foresight to start a second career.”*

— Robert Taylor, on his decision to transition out of a career in the steel industry and into nursing, after observing his wife’s work as a nurse

In his career as a nurse, Robert Taylor draws inspiration from the profound impact he can make on individuals’ lives during their most vulnerable moments. Fueled by the belief that treating the person — not just the disease — is the ultimate victory, he always remembers the transformative power of kindness and a smile.

An Oakland University education has empowered him to boldly step into a demanding field, starting in the ICU after graduation and laying a solid foundation for future career development. As a Golden Grizzly, Taylor is not just a scholar, but a force for positive change selflessly dedicated to bettering lives.

**SCHOOL OF NURSING**

**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

**99%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

**\$70,000**

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

**SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES**

- Ascension
- Corewell Health
- Detroit Medical Center
- Henry Ford Health System
- Trinity Health

**SELECT JOB TITLES**

- Critical Care Nurse
- Emergency Registered Nurse
- Oncology Registered Nurse
- Pediatric Registered Nurse
- Registered Nurse



# SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

**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

**\$48,389**

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

**100%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

**97%**

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU

## SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- BorgWarner
- Lake Orion Community Schools
- Romeo Community Schools
- Troy School District

## SELECT JOB TITLES

- Early Childhood Teacher
- Elementary School Teacher
- HR Coordinator
- HR Generalist

## WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

*"We have been very lucky to have numerous OU graduates and current students be a part of Rocket Companies, and each of them comes in eager and ready to take on whatever the day brings them. It is a priority to hire students and alumni from Oakland University purely because we know their talent is top-tier. Thanks to our continued partnership with this university, we have seen that the courses and resources provided to these students create phenomenal professionals!"*

— Jade Ortiz, Senior Talent Relationship Manager, Rocket Companies Inc.



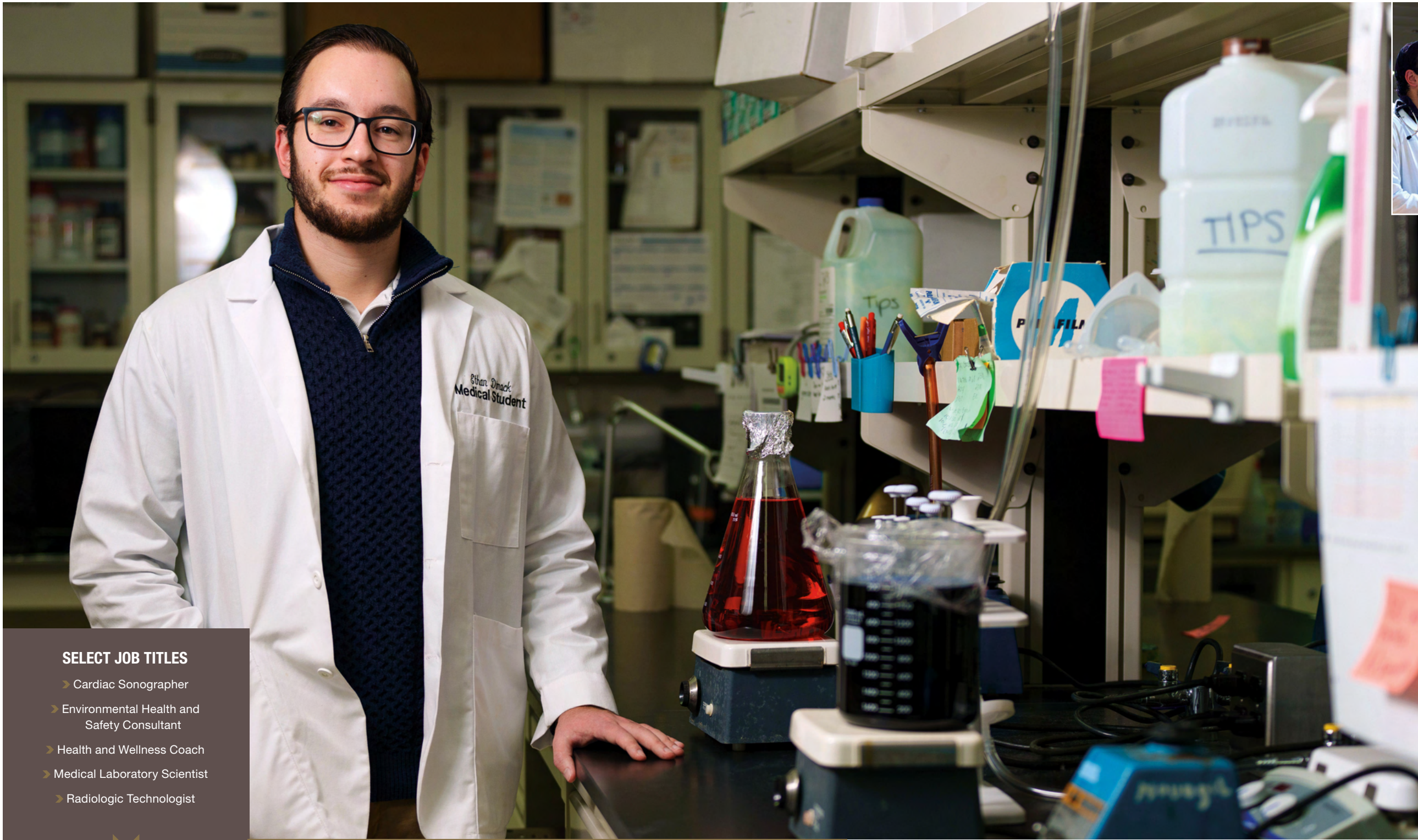
*"Advocating for fair treatment, equal opportunities and employee rights provides me with a sense of purpose and contribution toward a positive workplace culture."*

— Eliza Wiseman

**Eliza Wiseman**, an inspired human resources professional, shapes positive work environments through continuous learning and diversity initiatives. Known by her peers as a dynamic problem-solver and dependable advocate for their needs in the workplace, she contributes to organizational success daily.

OU fortified Wiseman's HR expertise with a solid foundation, practical wisdom and crucial soft skills. This unique preparation has equipped her for the intricate challenges of modern HR dynamics.





As a current medical student at Oakland University, **Ethan Dimock**, inspired by the support and experiences gained over six years at the university, dreams of giving back to the community and improving his future patients' health.

Dimock actively advocates for marginalized voices, viewing the education and growth gained as invaluable tools. He recognizes the responsibility of practicing as a physician and believes his time at OU has thoroughly equipped him for the task.



*“For people who have dreams of going into the healthcare field, there really is no better place than **Oakland University**. You will be molded into an individual who holds the values of compassion, dedication and lifelong learning at the core of their identity and carries them throughout their professional career.”*

— Ethan Dimock

**SELECT JOB TITLES**

- > Cardiac Sonographer
- > Environmental Health and Safety Consultant
- > Health and Wellness Coach
- > Medical Laboratory Scientist
- > Radiologic Technologist



**SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**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

**98%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

**37%**

are enrolled in continuing education

**SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES**

- > Ascension
- > Corewell Health
- > Detroit Medical Center
- > HealthQuest Physical Therapy
- > Team Rehabilitation

**WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING**

*“Ford Motor Co. has had a long-standing relationship with Oakland University. Within the School of Health Sciences, we have been actively recruiting environmental health and safety master’s and bachelor’s students and alumni for over a decade because the degree coursework is applicable to automotive and manufacturing. Undergraduate and graduate curricula are up to date and include advances in the industry, **so the OU graduates are ready to step into our open positions with a solid understanding of our business.** Oakland University hires are successful in their roles, which is positive for Ford Motor Co. in this ever-changing, always competitive industry.”*

— Wendy L. Burkett, CSP, Senior Director, Global Safety, Ford Motor Co.





Operations management graduate **Taylor Squicciarini** finds inspiration in continuous learning. By attending numerous training sessions, spearheading projects and establishing relationships with leadership, Squicciarini is forging her career at BorgWarner on her terms. She discovered the automotive and e-mobility supplier at an OU career fair and landed an internship, eventually leading to her full-time role as senior facilities coordinator.

Squicciarini's Oakland University education played a pivotal role in kickstarting her career. She is now a lead ambassador for the university, enthusiastically supporting fellow students in achieving their career dreams.



*"To be a Golden Grizzly is to be an open-minded citizen, willing to learn at any time."*

— Taylor Squicciarini

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

**91%**

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

**\$62,000**

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

**99%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

**86%**

had an internship or internship-like experience while at OU

### SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- > BorgWarner
- > General Motors
- > FANUC
- > FORVIA
- > Plante Moran
- > PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- > Rocket Companies

### SELECT JOB TITLES

- > Accountant
- > Account Manager
- > Financial Analyst
- > HR Generalist
- > Logistics Planner
- > Marketing Specialist



### WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

*"Recruiting at Oakland University is very special. The students are engaging, easy to start a conversation with, and very professional and kind. That completely fits the talent I am looking for, coming from a CPA firm, as they will be working with our clients and representing our brand. Go Golden Grizzlies!"*

— Bill Stec, Manager of Recruitment & Campus Relations, Yeo & Yeo





Amiesha Williams, an Oakland University graduate with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies, is profoundly inspired as a substitute teacher at the International Academy of Macomb, where she positively impacts students' lives and breaks communication barriers through her passion for teaching sign language.

Empowered by her education to address challenges within the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, Williams is unwavering in her commitment to fostering inclusivity in employment, emerging stronger from personal hardships and standing ready to embrace the boundless possibilities of her future.

*"I have faced immense personal challenges while attending college for the first time alongside my son and unexpectedly losing him. In the face of this devastating loss, I continued to encounter numerous setbacks, including dealing with my husband's loss of sight, which rendered him unable to work, losing my home and being thrust into the role of sole provider to my household and primary caregiver to my husband. **Despite these hardships, I persisted, successfully obtaining my degree along with complementary minors.**"*

— Amiesha Williams



## BACHELOR OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

**90%**

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

### SELECT TOP EMPLOYERS HIRING GRADUATES

- Corewell Health
- Oakland University
- University of Michigan
- UWM (United Wholesale Mortgage)

**\$52,000**

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

### SELECT JOB TITLES

- Customer Experience Specialist
  - Editor
  - HR Assistant
  - Office Manager
  - Process Manager
  - Underwriter

**21%**

are enrolled in continuing education

**100%**

of employed graduates are employed in Michigan

### WHAT EMPLOYERS ARE SAYING

*"Since the inaugural graduating class at the International Academy of Macomb (IAM) in 2012, I've witnessed many graduates continue their academic journey at Oakland University. As a proud OU alum, I can personally attest to the enriching experiences students gain. It's heartening to see IAM alumni, who are also OU alumni, return to share their achievements with the IAM staff, creating an inspiring connection. **We sincerely appreciate the value of a regional institution like Oakland University and the myriad opportunities it affords students.**"*

— Laura Strong, Ph.D., Principal, International Academy of Macomb



## 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, 2022, and June 30, 2023. Results were collected through December 31, 2023, 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 colleges and institutions, and was distributed electronically. Summer graduates were emailed the survey in late October. Winter and Spring graduates completed the survey on the commencement fair platforms. 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 upon 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, who are 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/](https://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](mailto:careers@oakland.edu) | [oakland.edu/cldc](http://oakland.edu/cldc) | (248) 370-3250 | Social: @oucareers

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