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OU Online Summer Newsletter, 2026

A Message from the Vice Provost for Online Education

As we prepare for the fall semester, we are excited to welcome back our returning OU Online students and extend a special welcome to those joining us for the first time. This fall also brings the added honor of welcoming a new cohort to our expanded portfolio of online undergraduate programs launching this August.

This expansion reflects OU's continued commitment to creating high-quality pathways to an OU degree through online delivery.



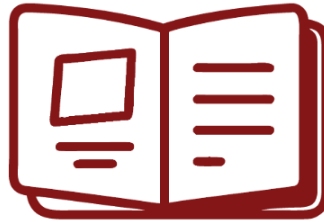
those balancing coursework with work, family, military service, and other responsibilities.

This summer, we also launched a new [OU Online career site](#) to help students connect their degree programs with their professional goals. The site brings together career resources, skill-building tools, labor market information, and opportunities to explore next steps, all in one place.

Welcome to the fall semester. We are glad you are here, grateful for the faculty, advisors, student support teams, colleges and partners who support your success, and excited to cheer you on throughout the year ahead.

Dr. Liz Karr

Vice Provost for Online Education



Fall courses start on

AUGUST 24, 2026



Career Development Resources Have a New Home!

Looking for career support? We've made it easier than ever to access the resources you need to prepare for your next professional opportunity.

Our **Career Development Hub** has moved to a new location within the OU Online website, creating a central destination for career exploration, job search support, and professional development resources. We encourage you to **bookmark the new page** so you can easily return whenever you need career guidance throughout your academic journey.

The hub provides access to:

- Career planning and exploration resources
- Resume and cover letter guidance
- Interview preparation tools and tips
- Job and internship search strategies
- Direct access to **Handshake**
- Information on connecting with the **OU Central Career Center**
- Additional resources to support your professional growth and career goals

Whether you're just beginning to explore career options, preparing for an upcoming interview, or searching for your next opportunity, the Career Development Hub offers valuable tools and support to help you succeed.

Take a few minutes to explore the new site and make it your go-to career resource throughout your time at OU Online. We look forward to supporting your career journey!

Visit the Career Development Hub!

New to OU Online? Join a Live Orientation Session!

Starting a new program is exciting, and we want to help you feel confident, connected, and ready for your first day of class.

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orientation sessions. Whether you're looking for guidance on what to expect in your first semester, tips for navigating online learning, or opportunities to connect with fellow Sooners, we have a session for you.

Available opportunities include:

Your Guide to OU Online – Explore key systems, student resources, and practical tips to help you navigate online learning with confidence.

- Register for Your Guide to OU Online Orientation
 - Your Guide to OU Online [August 5:](#) 10:00 AM CDT
 - Your Guide to OU Online [August 19:](#) 12 PM CDT
 - Your Guide to OU Online [September 2:](#) 9:00 AM CDT

Sooner Magic Sessions – Connect with OU traditions, meet other incoming students, and discover what makes the Sooner community special.

- Register: [Sooner Magic August 12th at 4:00 PM CDT](#)

Student Spotlight

Meet Sampson Bagley, Bachelor of Science in Construction Management

I am currently pursuing my degree in Construction Management through OU Online. I am from North Carolina and own Bagley Builders LLC, a veteran-owned general contracting



Coast Guard Reserve. I enrolled in OU Online because I wanted to continue building my knowledge of construction management, leadership, estimating, scheduling, and project controls while still being able to run my business and serve my community.

My favorite part of the OU Online experience has been being able to apply what I am learning directly to real construction projects.

The coursework has strengthened how I approach estimating, project planning, documentation, communication, and decision-making in the field. I also appreciate the flexibility of being able to continue my education without having to step away from my professional responsibilities.

Balancing school with work, family, and military responsibilities takes discipline and planning. I try to stay organized by setting aside time each week for coursework, keeping a running task list, and working ahead whenever I know a busy project or Coast Guard obligation is coming up. My wife has also been a huge source of support throughout the process.

My advice to other online students would be to treat school like a commitment on your calendar, not something to fit in only when you have extra time. Stay ahead

look for ways to connect classwork to your real-life goals. Online learning gives you flexibility, but you still have to be intentional with your time.

After graduation, my goal is to continue growing Bagley Builders into a strong, trusted construction company that serves residential, commercial, and public-sector clients. I want to build a company known for quality work, professionalism, and doing things the right way. I also hope to use my education and experience to create opportunities for others in the construction industry and continue serving through the Coast Guard Reserve.

Staff Spotlight



Alex Sanchez, Career Advisor at the Career Center

As a Career Advisor at the OU Career Center, I work with students at every stage of their career journey.

Whether you're creating your first resume, preparing for an interview, exploring career options, searching for internships or full-time jobs, or making a career transition, I'm here to provide personalized guidance and support.

One of the most valuable resources available to OU Online students is our one-on-one career advising. Every student has unique goals and experiences, so each

letter reviews, interview preparation, job and internship search strategies, career exploration resources, and guidance on navigating career changes.

Students can connect with me by scheduling an appointment through Handshake. Appointments are available both in person and virtually through Zoom, making it easy for online students to access our services regardless of where they are located. We also offer in-person drop-in advising at the Career Center every Tuesday through Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., giving students another convenient way to receive quick career support without scheduling an appointment.

Students should take full advantage of Handshake, as it serves as the central hub for Career Center resources. Through Handshake, students can schedule appointments, search for internships and full-time jobs, register for career fairs and workshops, and connect with employers who are actively recruiting OU students.

A typical coaching session begins with a conversation about the student's goals, questions, and current career stage. Together, we'll identify the best strategies and resources to help them move forward. My goal is to provide individualized support, practical tools, and actionable next steps so students leave each session feeling more confident, prepared, and empowered to achieve their career goals.

Meet the Team Behind Your OU Online Experience!

Ever wonder who's working behind the scenes to support your journey? Get to know the dedicated professionals from our team making your OU Online experience possible!

Jeff Hicks,
Student Success Coach

Student Success Coach for OU Online. In this role, I support undergraduate students as they pursue their bachelor's degrees while balancing the demands of work, family, and everyday life. I help students navigate university processes, connect them with academic resources, celebrate their successes, and develop strategies to get back on track if they encounter challenges.



Throughout each semester, I stay in regular contact with my students to ensure they feel supported and encouraged every step of the way.

I have worked in higher education for 14 years, with most of my career dedicated to serving adult learners who are balancing college alongside working, parenting, and other responsibilities. What I enjoy most about working with online students is their determination. Working adults and busy parents continually inspire me with the commitment, motivation, and courage it takes to return to school and invest in their future.

My passion for this work is also personal. I earned my own degrees while working full-time, so I understand firsthand the challenges of balancing multiple responsibilities while pursuing higher education. That shared experience helps me connect with students and reminds them that they are capable of reaching their goals.

When students ask for advice, I always share three tips: keep an organized calendar that includes work, school, and personal commitments; communicate regularly with your professors; and lean on your support system, whether that's family, friends, classmates, or your Student Success Coach.

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with my wife and our three boys, who are 2, 5, and 7 years old and keep life fun, busy, and full of adventure.

Graduating in **SUMMER OR FALL?**

Save the date for the OU Online
Graduation Reception!



Friday, December 18th
2:00–4:00 p.m.
Norman Campus



MORE INFO TO COME!



New Businesses Join Industry Pathways Initiative

OU's Industry Pathways initiative keeps growing, creating even more opportunities for employees across Oklahoma and beyond to advance their education and careers. Our newest additions are Our Blood Institute, MidFirst Bank, and the Oklahoma City Zoo, further strengthening connections between OU and leading organizations statewide.

Through these relationships, employees can benefit from reduced tuition for OU Online programs, making it more affordable to earn a degree. Participants also benefit from enhanced visibility and engagement.

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and the continued development of Oklahoma's workforce.

Get Involved!

Career Development Hub | Head to the hub for all things career development and support!

Student Celebration Form | We want to celebrate you on our social media! 🎉

Student Testimonial Form | Share your story and inspire others!



Student Support Resources

[Career Development Hub](#)

[Tutoring Services/Writing Center](#)

[Accessibility and Disability Resource Center](#)

[Soonercard ID \(Mobile\)](#)

[Library Services](#)

[Student Life](#)

[Graduate Student Life](#)

[Technology Support](#)

[Veteran Student Services](#)

[Engage Platform](#)

[Sign-Up Form](#)

If there is a resource you would like included in this list, please email online@ou.edu.

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