

THE BLADE EDUCATION

SPRING 2024 EDITION



Sunday, March 3, 2024

**The Students' Guide to Colleges, Universities
& Other Career Opportunities**

SPONSORED CONTENT

THE Owens IMPACT

Changing lives for the better in northwest Ohio

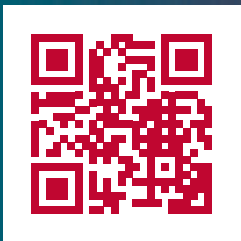


Al Mitchell
Major: Nursing

Sabrina Myers
Major: Culinary Arts

Joe Smith (aka Dr. Jay Thomas)
Major: Broadcast Media Technology

Owens Community College is proud to be Ohio's first community college featured on the award-winning show, The College Tour. Hear from our students and watch the full episode, plus *Coffee with the President* and *Ask Admissions*: owens.edu/thecolletour



Apply today!  owens.edu

Your success starts here.



OWENS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Owens On the National Stage

Diagnostic Medical Sonography Student Accepted in Emerging Leaders Program



CIARA LITTLEFIELD

The opportunities students receive at Owens Community College go beyond what is offered in the classroom. This year, Ciara Littlefield, a diagnostic medical sonography student, was accepted into the Society of Diagnostic Medical Sonography (SDMS) Emerging Leaders Program. The program gives participants leadership opportunities designed to engage in meaningful dialogue and projects related to their future careers and leadership volunteerism.

Littlefield, a Columbus native, attended another college to pursue education before deciding she wanted to be in the medical field. In 2022, she figured out exactly what her future would hold. “Growing up, my mom was diagnosed with breast cancer and had multiple ultrasounds,” she said. After undergoing ultrasounds herself, Littlefield looked into different medical programs and came across imaging; ultrasound immediately caught her attention. “I wanted to help others just like the sonographers did for me and my family.”

The reputation of the diagnostic medical sonography program drew Littlefield to Owens. She said she heard great things about it and when she arrived, everything she had heard about the program was true. “The program has been a huge reason for my great experience at Owens. It was and still is the hardest thing I have endured,” Littlefield said. The instructors in the program helped

Littlefield push through the program but presented her with great learning opportunities. “I feel so unbelievably lucky to be at a school where I have such great opportunities like SDMS.”

Littlefield is the second Owens student accepted to the national program, following Halle Delos Reyes, a May 2023 graduate who was accepted into the 2023 cohort. “Students learn from the beginning just how important it is to be in their professional societies,”

“I feel so unbelievably lucky to be at a school where I have such great opportunities...”

said Cathy Ford, Dean of the School of Nursing and Health Professions. As students continue through their education, faculty will talk about leadership opportunities within those organizations. “This goes to show from the very beginning, students are learning their healthcare discipline and learning to be a professional within that division.”

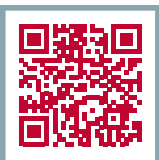
Future students in the School of Nursing and Health Professions will learn in a renovated and expanded \$31 million healthcare education center that will be



fully operational by 2025. In addition to learning their discipline, students will be able to use an interprofessional education and simulator center. “Students will learn in a collaborative environment from each other. This has been shown to improve patient care through increased communication and knowledge of patient needs,” said Ford.

As a member of the SDMS Emerging Leaders Program, Littlefield hopes to grow deeper in her passion for sonography. “I feel as if this program will only enhance my enthusiasm for ultrasound as well as learning how to become the best tech, coworker and person I can be,” she said.

Littlefield will graduate in May 2024.



To learn more, visit owens.edu/sonography

Your success starts here.



OWENS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Is Going Back To School One Of Your Top Resolutions? How To Make Higher Education Work For You

(Brandpoint) — You may be thinking about completing your education to pursue your career goals – or even enter an entirely new field. But if you've been out of school for a while, how can you make your resolution a reality? Between work, family and other obligations, the idea of going back to college can seem challenging. Fortunately, there are several ways you can make today's technology, your life experience, your employer and flexible educational opportunities work for you.

To help get you started, here are some ways to maximize your time, energy and financial investment to help you reach your educational goals and check that resolution off your list.

Set your own pace and schedule

These days, there are more available options than ever before to access highly flexible educational opportunities. Many institutions of higher education of-



fer online/remote or hybrid classes that make it easier to fit them into your busy schedule.

When researching opportunities, ask about specifics of different learning modalities, such

as whether remote/online classes are synchronous (you attend remotely but at set times, making it easier to engage in real-time interaction) or asynchronous (you can engage with class materials on your own timetable), or how often hybrid classes expect you to participate in person, and where.

You may also consider a school that offers competency-based education (CBE) as an effective way to potentially meet your educational needs more efficiently. Through this flexible learning model, you earn credentials by demonstrating mastery through multiple forms of assessment. Look for a program that is also designed to develop and measure high-demand skills. This will help you demonstrate your capabilities to employers.

Get credit for previous experience

Just because you've been out of school for a while doesn't mean you've stopped learning. Many schools today acknowledge the value of adult learners' experience by offering credit for prior learning (CPL) or experiential learning opportunities, which grant college credit for skills and knowledge you've gained outside of school, such as during military service.

It's always worth asking a higher learning institution what their CPL policies are, and what kind of assessment is required to be granted college credit. Assessments could include (but are not limited to) examinations, certifications, licenses or a review of a portfolio of your work. CPL is one effective way to help you save time, money and effort when you're working toward a degree program.

Seek flexible, affordable online general education courses

On the road to earning an undergraduate degree, virtually every college or university requires certain general education courses. These classes are typically the necessary prerequisites for taking more advanced courses in any field of study as you work toward a degree. They include introductory classes in a variety of subjects including English, composition, math, science, history and more.

If you haven't completed some of these crucial classes yet, there are affordable options to help you complete these courses at your own pace. Sophia Learning is an online learning platform that allows students at any stage of their higher education journey to complete college-level general education courses that are ACE-recommended for college credit.

Sophia offers over 60 high-quality, general education college-level courses, available through a \$99/month subscription. Students can move through the courses at their own pace, making Sophia extremely flexible for busy working adults.

This option provides an affordable alternative pathway to completing general education requirements, offering an integrated experience for students. This means your Sophia subscription includes all your course materials and learning coaches. Visit [Sophia.org](https://www.sophia.org) to learn more about flexible options for completing general education courses.

Explore employer-sponsored tuition benefits

To help attract, retain and upskill employees, many companies today offer education benefits such as tuition assistance – even for part-time employees in some companies – and your coursework does not always need to be directly related to your job. According to the LinkedIn Workplace Learning Report 2023, providing learning opportunities has become a priority for organizations that are working to improve retention. Ask your employer about their tuition assistance program, as this can save you money as you work to increase your value as an employee. Some employers also offer these benefits to spouses and children of employees, so that is another avenue to explore.

Using these tips, you can start exploring the possibilities for achieving your educational goals, no matter where you are in your educational journey.



The Various Educational Paths To Follow In Pursuit Of Various Careers In Nursing

METRO CREATIVE

The field of nursing is vast. While providing medical assistance and support to patients is at the heart of any nursing career, the road to becoming a nurse varies.

There are many pathways to becoming a nurse, and each requires a specific amount of education, training and testing. Here's a deep dive into the various professional degrees associated with nursing, courtesy of NurseJournal.org and Nurse.org.

Certified Nursing Assistant

A certified nursing assistant is how many people first enter the field of nursing. CNAs are not nurses, but they help nurses provide medical care. Becoming a CNA requires completion of a program that can last 12 weeks, a CNA certification exam and state (provincial) licensing.

Licensed Vocational or Practical Nurse

To become an LVN or LPN, individuals must finish a one-year program to receive a diploma, and pass the NCLEX-PN licensing exam. State or provincial licensing also is required.

Registered Nurse

Prospective registered nurses can take two different paths. They can opt to get an associate's degree in nursing (ADN), which involves a two- to three-year program. After completion of that program, candidates must pass the NCLEX-RN exam. Aspiring RNs also can pursue four-year degrees and earn a bachelor's of science in nursing (BSN). They must then pass the NCLEX-RN exam. Those enrolled in associate's or bachelor's programs can expect to take an array of classes, some of which may include Nursing Care for Elder Adults and Mental and Behavioral Health Nursing.

There is evidence that patient outcomes may be improved under the care of BSN-prepared nurses, according to the American Association of Colleges and Nurses. As a result, many hospitals prefer BSN-prepared applicants. Those with a BSN also may be able to advance to leadership and administrative roles more easily.

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse

Prospective APRNs will need a master's of science in nursing to pursue this career path. This involves a post-graduate program that will require in-person clinical hours and a passing grade in a certification exam in the area of specialization. Others go further to obtain a doctorate of nursing practice degree, which is a bit more involved. APRNs can enjoy careers as Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Leaders, Clinical Nurse Specialists, Certified Registered Nurse

Anesthetists, or Certified Nurse Midwives, with salaries averaging around \$115,000. Those with MSN or DNP degrees also may take non-clinical routes, becoming administrators, informaticists, educators, or researchers.

Individuals thinking about nursing careers can do their research to learn which level of schooling best aligns with their interests. More information is available at Nurse.org.



Mercy College

MERCY COLLEGE AND MERCY HEALTH INTRODUCE PAID CLINICAL TIME FOR FINAL SEMESTER NURSING STUDENTS

Mercy College of Ohio, in collaboration with Mercy Health, continues to create innovative initiatives to build the healthcare pipeline while revolutionizing the final semester experience for Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) students.

The Early Career Decision program offers a unique opportunity for students to turn their required clinical hours into compensated experience, reducing financial stress and creating a seamless pathway to employment.

Jamie Tooman, BSN Program Director at Mercy College says, "We are excited to provide this opportunity to students to receive compensation for clinical hours during their final semester. The plan is to expand the number of students and Mercy Health hospitals participating in this program."

BSN students at Mercy College have the chance to apply for paid clinical hour positions prior to their final academic term, allowing them to focus more on their studies and patient care.

Selected students will receive compensation for their 154 clinical hours during the critical final semester, providing a significant financial boost and potentially reducing the need for additional employment.

Upon successful completion of the program and passing the NCLEX, participants will transition into nursing roles at Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital.

Students who participate in the Nurse Immersion program commit to work at Mercy Health – St. Charles Hospital for 18 months post-graduation.

For more information, visit www.mercycollege.edu.



Start or Advance Your Healthcare Career



MercyCollege
of Ohio

EDUCATION FOR LIFE

mercycollege.edu/edu2024



Scan for
Program
Information



419-251-1313 | 1-888-80-MERCY | 2221 Madison Avenue, Toledo, OH 43604



BGSU IS RANKED THE
#1 university in Ohio
 – BIG OR SMALL, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE –
for student experience.
 – THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



bgsu.edu

Experience the BGSU difference

A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

The welcoming atmosphere that thousands experience during their initial visit to campus is authentically Bowling Green State University — an institution with a deeply embedded culture of prioritizing student success as a core part of its mission to create public good.

BGSU ranks No. 1 in Ohio among all universities — public or private — for student experience, and for the fourth year in a row, BGSU holds the top spot in the Midwest for students who say they made the right choice in their college decision, according to The Wall Street Journal.

These rankings are reflected in real-time as BGSU welcomed one of its largest and the highest-achieving freshman classes in history last fall and reached a historically high retention rate for first-year returning students.

“That ‘feeling’ students have when they come to our campus is their recognition of the level of support we offer,” said Dr. Glenn Davis, leading the University’s new Division of Student Engagement and Success as vice president. “At its core, we define student success by centering students in everything we do.

This includes everything from unparalleled campus engagement and support services to relevant, high-impact research to innovative degree programs that prepare students for the careers of tomorrow.

As a top university for veterans and military-connected students, BGSU is continually recognized for its unmatched support in and out of the classroom. In addition to being named the No. 1 university in the Midwest for veterans and military students by Military Times, BGSU is also ranked No. 1 in Ohio for its online bachelor’s programs for veterans by U.S. News & World Report.

COMMITTED TO STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Life Design at BGSU is a significant differentiator. Dedicated to supporting the whole student, Life Design leverages design thinking principles to help students explore what they want to do and who they want to become while shaping their college and career journeys.

With two dedicated centers, BGSU is the first university in the country to build a Life Design program of this magnitude available to all undergraduate students.

Located in the heart of campus, the Geoffrey H. Radbill Center for College and Life Design features inclusive and collaborative spaces for students to work with Life Design coaches as they create their college experience and gain tools and skills to design their lives.

The Kuhlin Hub for Career Design and Connections provides spaces for students to engage in conversations that help them become career- and life-ready.

BGSU is among the few universities in the country with career connectors focused solely on growing its network of corporate partners to create career opportunities for students.

PROGRAMS THAT MEET WORKFORCE NEEDS

Students at BGSU can choose from more than 200 undergraduate majors and more than 70 graduate programs, all taught by world-class faculty committed to student success.

Investing in in-demand academic programs that meet workforce needs, BGSU provides an education of value through comprehensive degree offerings, innovative industry partnerships and impactful research opportunities that create public good.

“BGSU is positioned to meet the critical workforce needs of Ohio and beyond,” said BGSU President Rodney K. Rogers. “As a public university for the public good, we are steadfast in our commitment to creating and enhancing relevant academic programs that provide opportunities for our students and for the public.”

Working with industry partners, BGSU is creating and adapting academic offerings to support student success in the classroom and workforce.

With an increasing need for highly skilled engineers, BGSU is bolstering its existing engineering offerings with three innovative degrees that blend science and application to meet workforce demands.

The University is also addressing the ongoing pilot and nursing shortages through in-demand degree offerings in both fields. Building on its storied tradition as a teacher training institution, BGSU continues to be one of the largest producers of teachers in Ohio with multiple degree choices in education and human development. Additional offerings in key career fields like architecture, business, computer and data science, construction management, physical therapy and resort and attraction management all continue to draw interest from current and prospective students.

BGSU BOWLING GREEN
 STATE UNIVERSITY

How To Determine If Graduate School Is The Right Next Step After Graduation

METRO CREATIVE

Millions of students will walk across a stage at graduation ceremonies and receive their bachelor's degrees this spring. That feeling can be unlike any other, marking the culmination of years of hard work and schooling that began nearly 20 years earlier. Though many students look forward to entering the workforce upon receiving their bachelor's degrees, some ponder if graduate school should be their next step.

A 2021 report from the American Council on Education revealed that more than 1.7 million students were enrolled in graduate education in Fall 2020 at institutions that participated in a survey conducted for the report. A decision regarding graduate school is seldom easy. In addition to the academic rigors of graduate school, tuition is costly. Cost is no small consideration, as the ACE survey found that 43 percent of grad students in Fall 2020 were part-time. Part-time students are typically ineligible for financial aid, which means students will have to pay out-of-pocket or apply for loans to finance their schooling (Note: Lenders may restrict student loans to full-time students.) Paying out of pocket is a significant commitment, as the Education Data Initiative indicates the average cost of a Master's degree in Business Administration in 2022 was just under \$62,000.

Much is at stake as graduates ponder whether or not graduate school is the right next step for them. The following are some factors students can consider as they try to make this decision.

Professional need

Certain professions require more than a bachelor's degree to gain employment. For example, a student who aspires to teach at a college or university will likely need more than a bachelor's degree. Adjunct professors, who are part-time faculty members hired on a contractual basis, typically need a master's degree (though a bachelor's degree and professional experience is sufficient for some positions). A doctoral degree is often a requirement to become a full-time tenure-track professor. When considering grad school, prospective applicants should determine if an advanced degree is a requirement to work in their desired field. If so, the decision is essentially made for them. If not, applicants must decide if the cost and rigorous workload is worth it.

Candidacy

Another consideration is each individual's candidacy. Students considering grad school should realistically assess their academic performance as an undergrad. Was the performance strong enough to gain entry into a top-tier graduate program? This is an important consideration, as top-tier programs typically have much higher endowments, which means they can more effectively help students offset grad school costs through grants and other types of financial aid. Students can still gain a lot from grad school if their undergrad performance wasn't enough to earn financial aid for postgraduate work. But in such instances, students may need to finance the degrees on their own.

Earning potential

Earning potential also merits consideration. As noted, some professions require postgraduate degrees. But many do not. However, that does not mean students have little to gain from earning an advanced degree in a field where no such degree is required. For example, a recent analysis from the National Association of Colleges and Employers found that the average starting salary for individuals with a master's in Finance was 15 percent higher than the average starting salary for individuals with just a bachelor's degree. The same survey found that a master's in Computer Science translated to a 32 percent higher starting salary than a bachelor's. In such instances, a master's could be well worth the investment.

Recent college graduates can consider a host of variables as they try to decide if graduate school is the right next step after receiving their degrees.



discover 
EXCEPTIONAL
JOB SKILLS TRAINING **AT NSCC**

CALL OUR ADMISSIONS TEAM
TO GET STARTED TODAY! | 419.267.1320

 NorthwestState.edu
APPLY TODAY



Siena Heights University

Siena Heights University (SHU) is a private, Catholic university founded in 1919 by the Adrian Dominican Sisters. For over a century, Siena Heights has lived by the mission of assisting people to become more competent, purposeful, and ethical through a teaching and learning environment which respects the dignity of all. This is accomplished by utilizing a liberal arts approach to learning, which educates the whole person and develops students not just academically, but also personally.

SHU's residential campus is located in Adrian, Michigan, and offers a wide range of extracurricular activities for students to involve themselves in, such as participation in athletics, the arts, or clubs. Over 65 percent of the student body at Siena Heights uphold the status of student-athletes, and the average GPA of the combined athletic teams was 3.15 for the Fall 2023 Semester. SHU has 26 different athletic programs where scholarship opportunities are available. Most recently, Siena Heights became the first university in Michigan to offer women's flag football as a varsity sport! Flag football will begin its inaugural season during the 2024-2025 academic year. Scholarships at Siena Heights are also granted for academics and the arts, both of which serve as a foundation of Siena's strengths as a university. Students involved in the arts have access to the state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center, a \$12 million facility noted as one of the best in the Midwest!

While its extracurricular opportunities run deep, SHU's goal-oriented academic programs are integral to its success as an institution that prepares students for their professional and personal lives. Siena Heights operates on an average 14:1 student-to-faculty ratio, and these small class sizes allow students to form lifelong connections with their professors and peers. These connections serve them well beyond their undergraduate education, as many students have job opportunities immediately after graduating or are accepted into a graduate program of their choosing.

Siena Heights University welcomes students of all backgrounds and walks of life, including traditional-age college students, as well as working and non-traditional students. Siena Heights University boasts a strong online program known as SHU Global. SHU Global offers associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees for individuals looking to enhance their education or finish their degree. SHU Global's Online Bachelor's program has been consistently nationally ranked by the U.S. News & World Report since 2014. For the eighth consecutive year, SHU Global's Online program is the top-ranked program in Michigan and also received a ranking for Best Online Bachelor's Program for Veterans! SHU Global accepts up to 90 transfer credits toward a bachelor's degree, some of which can be gained through professional experience, certificates, and licensures, which results in saving thousands of dollars in tuition costs.

For more information on all things Siena Heights — including what path is best for you — please visit sienaheights.edu.

SIENA HEIGHTS UNIVERSITY
1919

**COMPETENT.
PURPOSEFUL.
ETHICAL.**

We offer:

- Associate's
- Bachelor's
- Master's

Advance your education today!

LEARN MORE!



SUMMER PROGRAMS



JOIN US at Toledo Ballet for dance camps, intensives, and our summer session classes!

JUNE 10 - 14
Intensive with Aliane Baquerot-Wilson for Levels 3+

JUNE 17 - 21
Intensive with Colby Damon for Levels 3+

JUNE 24 - July 25
Toledo Ballet Summer Session All Levels

JUNE 24 - 28
Nutcracker Exploration Camp
Ages 7-12

JULY 8 - 12
Pirates & Princesses Dance Camp
Ages 4-5 & Ages 6-8

JULY 15 - 19
Bluey Dance Camp
Ages 4-5 & Ages 6-8

JULY 22 - 26
Outer Space Dance Camp
Ages 4-5 & Ages 6-8

ARTSTOLEDO.COM/TB-SUMMER

Toledo Alliance for the Performing Arts

TOLEDO BALLET OFFERS SUMMER CAMPS

TOLEDO BALLET'S 2024 SUMMER PROGRAM includes dance camps for young dancers ages 4-8. Toledo Ballet summer camps are the perfect opportunity to learn new skills, stay active, and make new friends! Summer Dance Intensives for intermediate and advanced students will take place June 10-14 with Olympic rhythmic gymnast and Broadway dancer Aliane Baquerot-Wilson and June 17-21 with choreographer and ballet specialist Colby Damon. These intensives will include lessons in classical ballet, contemporary ballet, musical theater, pointe, variations, and health and wellness. Classes will meet daily and students will have the opportunity to work with the Guest Artist, Eric Otto, and Laura Otto throughout the week.



THE BLADE

Unlimited access wherever you go.



Your daily insights on breaking news, local milestones, sports, weather, and so much more!

Subscribe at toledoblade.com/start

eBlade

Bluffton University

Welcome to Bluffton University

Since 1899, our faculty and staff have dedicated themselves to helping students like you find your talents, your passions and, ultimately, your way. Starting with the Great Adventure in your very first semester, you'll be challenged to ask the big questions in life. And, surrounded by a village of support, you'll find your truth! Welcome to Bluffton University: a place of academic excellence, a community of belonging and a world of opportunity.

Experience Adventure

We embrace classroom learning, but we also know you've had a lot of years experiencing education in the same way. That's why we developed the Bluffton Blueprint — classes that help you come to new understandings through action and hands-on practice.

In your first semester, you'll take part in the Great Adventure to the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee! There you'll bond with your classmates, and with the help of mentors, you'll reflect on your goals, your values and your role in society. These classes give you the tools to develop a framework to overcome the challenges of life. By graduation, you'll be ready to answer the same question John the Baptist is challenged with in Luke 3:10-14 "What then shall we do."

Experience Connection

To excel academically, you need to be both challenged and supported. Our professors are experts in their fields and serve as academic advisors. Tell them your goals, and they'll put you on a path to exceed them.

Ask Bluffton students why they choose to be Beavers, and you'll get many of the same responses.

- It just feels right from the moment you step on campus.
- You're not just a number filling a seat.
- People go out of their way to help you succeed here!



It starts on move-in day where student-athletes, faculty and staff are waiting to help you carry your boxes to your room and extends through graduation. Bluffton professors are invested in your success and will know your name within the first few days (or hours) of class.

Experience Teamwork

We're Division III, compete in the Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference and have an uncommon mascot. Why are we the Beavers? In the 1920s, longtime coach A.C. Burcky suggested the Beaver because Bluffton student-athletes are resourceful, don't tire easily and work to leave the world a better place. Through our Virtue-Driven Athletics program, you'll learn to take the lessons learned on the field and transform them into habits of excellence off the field. At Bluffton, there may be 19 sports, but we are all part of one team.

Experience Bluffton

We are committed to your success in college and in all the years that follow. Join us, and you'll realize why we are a College of Distinction and continually selected to the Top Tier by "U.S. News and World Report."

- Alumni serve and live in all 50 states and 70 countries.
- 98 percent of graduates are employed, in graduate school or completing long-term service within six months of graduation.
- 100 percent of Bluffton University students receive financial aid.

EXPERIENCE

BLUFFTON

- **Starting with the Great Adventure in your first semester, you'll be challenged to ask the big questions in life!**
- **Unsure of a major? That's okay, faculty will mentor you through Bluffton University's Design Your Life Program.**
- **98% of graduates are employed, in graduate school or completing long-term service within six months of graduation.**



Get started today!
www.bluffton.edu/visit





THE BLADE

Your Digital Marketing Partner



There are 217,000+ individuals within 30 miles of Toledo who are interested in continuing their education.
(The Blade, 2024)

Over 75% of full-time students took action after seeing an ad on a social media site or app.
(SalesFuel, 2023)

Over 73% of college tuition buyers responded to video pre-roll ads in the past year.
(SalesFuel, 2023)

Trust The Blade to develop the perfect strategy to increase enrollment!

