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1-4-2019

Ouachita reports 99% placement rate for most recent graduating class

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Recommended Citation

Ouachita News Bureau, "Ouachita reports 99% placement rate for most recent graduating class" (2019). *Press Releases*. 585.

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OUACHITA
BAPTIST UNIVERSITY



NEWS

For Immediate Release

Ouachita reports 99% placement rate for most recent graduating class

January 4, 2019

For more information, contact OBU's chief of staff, Keldon Henley, at henleyk@obu.edu or (870) 245-5405.



Arkadelphia, Ark. – Ouachita Baptist University announced today that 99 percent of the recent graduating class are employed in some capacity or furthering their education. That number exceeds the national average for colleges and universities by 15 percent.

The results are based on Ouachita's Senior Survey, relying on standards established by the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). In the survey, graduates fall into one of the following categories: full-time employment, graduate school, part-time employment, and those who are still seeking employment.

The timeline established by NACE for collection and reporting of employment data is December 31 of each year.

The results generate a "career outcomes rate," sometimes called a placement rate. Ouachita's rate of 99 percent compares to a national average of 84 percent. More than 80 percent of Ouachita's recent graduating class completed the survey compared to a national average of 64.5 percent.

"I am very proud of our graduates," said Rachel Roberts, Ouachita's director of career and calling. "Employers continue to express how well-prepared Ouachita students are, both in their approach to the job search and for on-the-job responsibilities. They are well-rounded employees with excellent relational and technical skills, integrity and work ethic."

Of the recent Ouachita graduates, 43 percent report attending graduate or professional school, which is the highest in recent history.

"Ouachita's commitment to strong career outcomes for our graduates has led us to start a new bachelor's degree in nursing, explore new graduate programs and strengthen key partnerships with those who will employ our graduates in the future," said Dr. Ben Sells, Ouachita president. "Ouachita is rising to anticipate, innovate and achieve so that the students of today will be able to rise to the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow."

Sells said that this success indicates that Ouachita students are able to graduate “doubt-free.”

“They know what they want in their careers, and employers as well as graduate schools seek our graduates in greater numbers because of the faith, scholarship, growth, character and community that an education from Ouachita imparts,” he said.

Ouachita Baptist University, a private liberal arts university in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is in its 132nd year as a Christ-centered learning community. It is consistently ranked among the “Best National Liberal Arts Colleges” by *U.S. News & World Report*. The university has an average student/faculty ratio of 13:1. Its seven academic schools include business, Christian studies, education, fine arts, humanities, natural sciences and social sciences. Additionally, Ouachita offers more than 20 study abroad opportunities with partner institutions around the world. www.obu.edu

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