

SPRING GRADUATION



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Spring Graduation Ceremonies
- Finals Week Success
- Spotlight on Graduates
- Upcoming Events
- Campus Connections



ONLINE STUDENT SERVICES
Coaching for Academic Readiness, Excellence, and Success

Topper Walk and Commencement Ceremony

Thursday, May 7, 6:30 pm CST

Line up near the Charles Hardcastle Kentucky Building at 6:00 p.m. Topper Walk begins at 6:30 p.m. Commencement ceremony immediately following the Topper Walk. (rain or shine)



8:00 am
E.A. Diddle Arena

Gordon Ford College of Business



10:30 am
E.A. Diddle Arena

Potter College of Arts & Letters



1:00 pm
E.A. Diddle Arena

Ogden College of Science & Engineering



3:30 pm
E.A. Diddle Arena

College of Education & Behavioral Sciences



College Recognition Ceremonies

Friday, May 8, 2026

Celebration of Spring and Summer 2026 graduates gather in Diddle Arena's Auxiliary Gym to line up 1 hour in advance of ceremony time.



6:30 pm
E.A. Diddle Arena

College of Health & Human Services



Did you miss the Spring Grad Fair? Graduates can pickup their regalia at the WKU Store. Graduates will need to submit an order for their regalia via the Herff Jones ordering site prior to pickup.

Congratulations!

CLASS OF
2026

College Recognition Ceremonies- May 8
www.wku.edu/commencement/

TIPS FOR FINALS WEEK SUCCESS

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how to relax before finals

- Remember it is only an exam, not a reflection of who you are as a person



- Get a good night's sleep beforehand. It is hard to do your best with no rest



- Eat sensibly. It'll help you feel comfortable and stay alert



- Stop studying about an hour before the exam and use that time to relax



- Develop positive self-talk, stop thinking "I'll fail" and think "I'll do my best"



- Relax during the exam. When anxious you should stop, close your eyes and take slow, deep breaths



- Don't think about what you "should've" studied, just focus on what you can do now



WKU Online | DISTANCE LEARNING TESTING CENTER

Located in Bowling Green, KY
South Campus, Academic Wing C113



- [Register for an exam in Bowling Green](#)
- [Register for an exam at another location](#)
- [Additional testing options](#)



(270) 745-5122 dltc@wku.edu

wku.edu/testing/students.php

PROGRAM REFLECTION

We want to hear from you! Your feedback on our coaching program is incredibly valuable. By sharing your thoughts, questions, or suggestions, you'll help us enhance the program to better meet your needs and support future students. Your voice matters—take a moment to help us grow and improve!



Your Coaching Team

Summer SESSIONS

WKU Online

MAY SESSIONS BEGIN: 5/11
JUNE SESSIONS BEGIN: 6/1
JULY SESSIONS BEGIN: 7/6

DOES NOT REQUIRE ADVISING PRIOR TO REGISTRATION, ALTHOUGH IT'S STRONGLY RECOMMENDED.

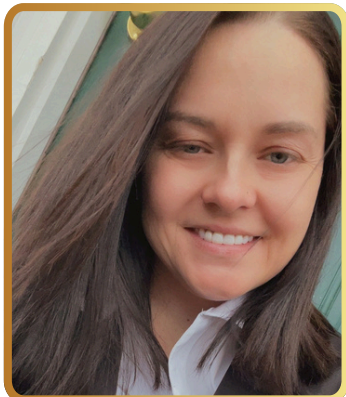
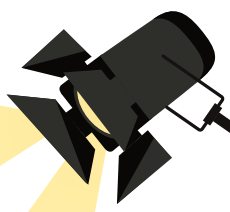
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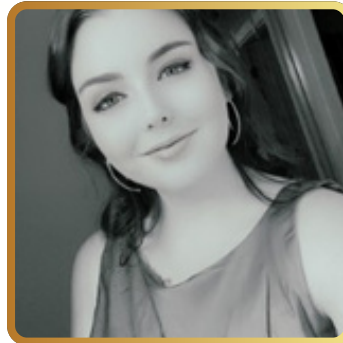
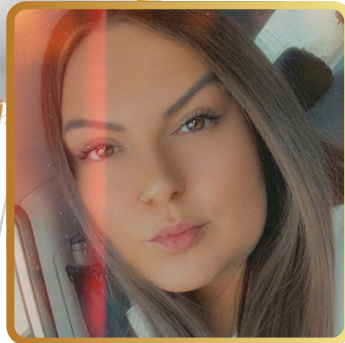
Grad Spotlight



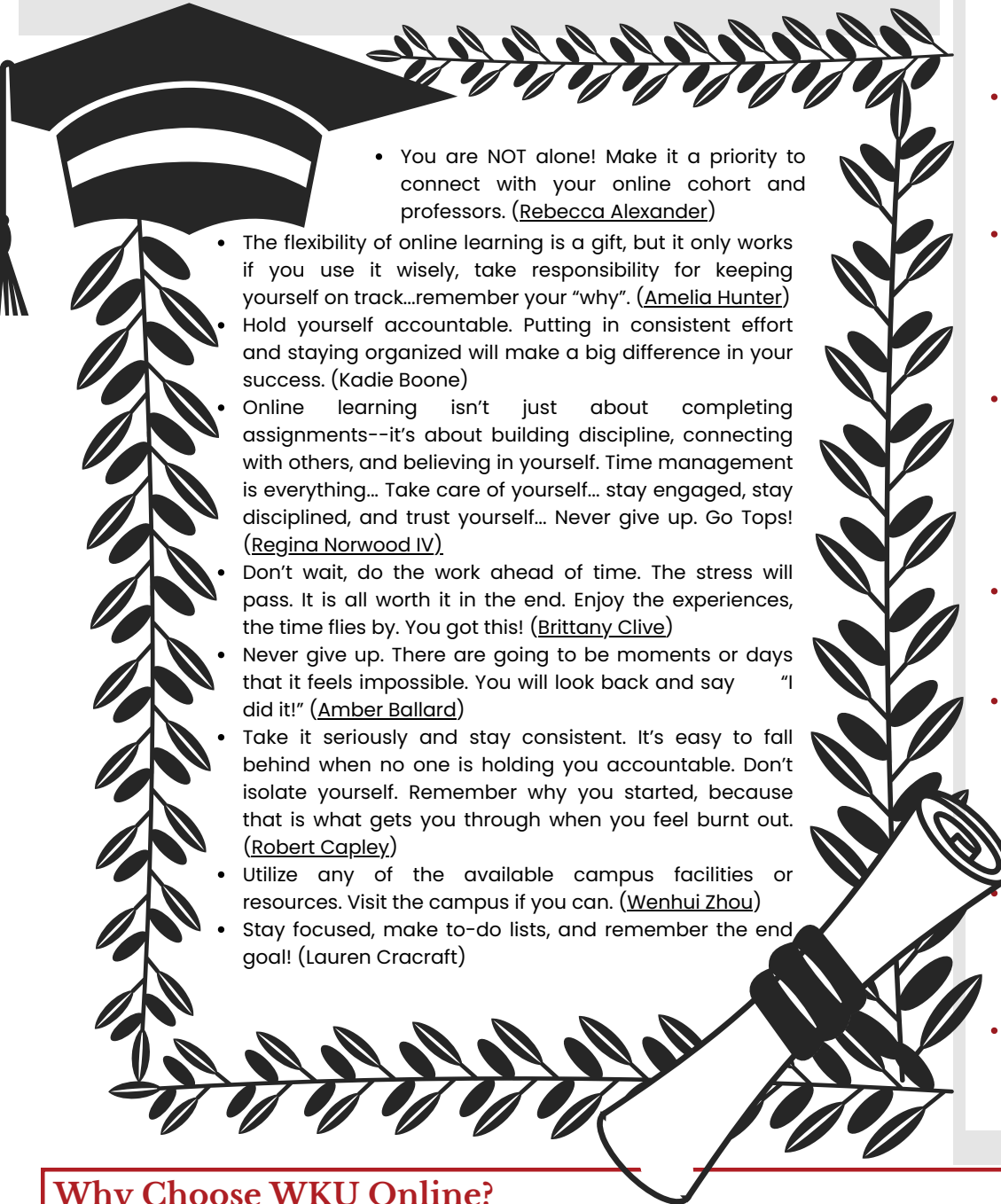


2026

Grad Spotlight



ADVICE FROM GRADUATES



• You are NOT alone! Make it a priority to connect with your online cohort and professors. ([Rebecca Alexander](#))

- The flexibility of online learning is a gift, but it only works if you use it wisely, take responsibility for keeping yourself on track...remember your "why". ([Amelia Hunter](#))
- Hold yourself accountable. Putting in consistent effort and staying organized will make a big difference in your success. ([Kadie Boone](#))
- Online learning isn't just about completing assignments--it's about building discipline, connecting with others, and believing in yourself. Time management is everything... Take care of yourself... stay engaged, stay disciplined, and trust yourself... Never give up. Go Tops! ([Regina Norwood IV](#))
- Don't wait, do the work ahead of time. The stress will pass. It is all worth it in the end. Enjoy the experiences, the time flies by. You got this! ([Brittany Clive](#))
- Never give up. There are going to be moments or days that it feels impossible. You will look back and say "I did it!" ([Amber Ballard](#))
- Take it seriously and stay consistent. It's easy to fall behind when no one is holding you accountable. Don't isolate yourself. Remember why you started, because that is what gets you through when you feel burnt out. ([Robert Capley](#))
- Utilize any of the available campus facilities or resources. Visit the campus if you can. ([Wenhui Zhou](#))
- Stay focused, make to-do lists, and remember the end goal! ([Lauren Cracraft](#))

ONLINE LEARNING TIPS AND ADVICE

- Online learning requires strong habits and self-discipline...setting a consistent schedule...actively engage and connect.
 - [Karigan Wilson](#)
- Dedicate time to your classes and classwork. It's easy to let them fall to the side when you're not in person...focus on your education!
 - [Heidi Coles](#)
- Treat it like a real class; set a schedule and stick to it. Stay organized by tracking deadlines. Engage actively. Break work into small, manageable tasks. Protect your focused time.
 - [Ari Harshfield](#)
- Keep up with the emails and information provided. Buy a good planner/calendar and write down all due dates... Never be afraid to reach out to professors... someone else in your class may have the same questions so ask and share.
 - [Daphney Grisham](#)
- Stay on top of your course work. Communication with professors. They are there to help you.
 - [Casey Neal](#)
- Stay organized and plan your study time like it's a work shift. Don't procrastinate, because online classes pile up fast. Give yourself grace on the busy days.
 - [Stephanie Sizemore](#)
- Stay ahead and study anytime you can.
 - [Elizabeth Karr](#)
- Discipline, structure, and a clear sense of purpose. Treat it like non-negotiable commitments by building schedules that block out dedicated time for coursework.
 - [Collin Irwin](#)
- Stay consistent, maintain a line of communication, ask questions, and build a routine that gives you flexibility.
 - [Lily Trego](#)

Why Choose WKU Online?

- "...I needed the flexibility to continue working full time and take full time credit hours." ([Aalyah Gillock](#))
- "I work at WKU...I've been taking online courses for years and they're incredibly flexible for those of us who have work schedules that may not be compatible with "regular class hours." ([Jeremy Logsdon](#))
- "Online classes worked best for my family's needs. They allowed me to work full-time while pursuing a degree at my own pace and convenience." ([Amanda Springer](#))
- "I chose to take WKU online courses because I'm a mom of two... I could work toward my goals while being present for my kids and managing responsibilities." ([Abby Hicks](#))
- "I needed a program that fit my life as a working professional while still challenging me academically... The flexibility made it possible, the quality kept me motivated." ([Christy Arnett](#))



UPCOMING EVENTS

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EVENTS

[Campus Recreation and Wellness Calendar](#)

[WKU Events Calendar](#)

[WKU Sports Calendar](#)

[Summer 2026 Academic Calendar](#)

[Registration Guides](#)

As finals approach, remember your WKU Online coaching team believes in you and all the hard work you've put in! Reach out if you need extra support or just a bit of encouragement. We're cheering you on.

Best of Luck. You've got this!



Final Exams: May 4-7

270-725-3028

ONLINE.SUCCESS@WKU.EDU

wku.edu/online/coaching/

WKU
Online | ONLINE
STUDENT
SERVICES

On Demand Registration

Summer 2026

Register via

- TopNet
- Phone
- In-person
- Note: If using Financial Aid, fill out request form in TopNet under the Financial aid tab

ENROLL 5/1



270.745.4158

ondemand@wku.edu

wku.edu/ondemand

UPCOMING EVENTS

May

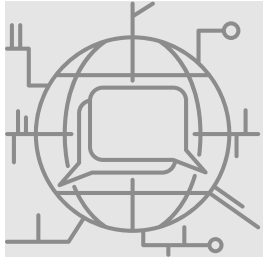
- Spring Finals Week
 - May 4-7
- Commencement
 - May 7
- College Recognition
 - May 8
- Summer Term Begins
 - May 11
- Final Grades for Spring '26
 - May 12

June

- June Session Begins
 - June 1

July

- July Session Begins
 - July 6



CAMPUS CONNECTIONS

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SUCCESS IS JUST A CONVERSATION AWAY!

As the end of the semester approaches, remember your Academic Success Coaches are here to support you through the stress or challenges you may be facing. Whether it's your first meeting or you're returning, we're ready to help you tackle final exams and finish the semester strong. Connect with us in Online Student Services to schedule a session and let's make these last weeks your best yet!



- (270) 745-3028
- online.success@wku.edu
- [Online Appointments](#)



Suitable



FINALS WEEK IS UPON US. CELEBRATE THE HIGHS AND LOWS OF THE SEMESTER.

The team in the WKU Counseling Center recommend everyone take time to reflect over the semester and memorialize accomplishments. Not so much in a critical tone, but in a simple acknowledgement of efforts and goals.

Ask yourself:

- What is the best class I attended this semester?
- How did a professor, staff member or peer help me to affirm my career choice?
- In what ways did I learn, develop, and grow this semester?
- What is the biggest challenge I experienced this semester? How am I working to overcome it?
- What did I learn about myself this semester? How can I become a better human?
- What did I learn about others this semester? How has that helped me to better interact with others in the future?



CONGRATULATIONS, OGDEN COLLEGE GRADUATES!

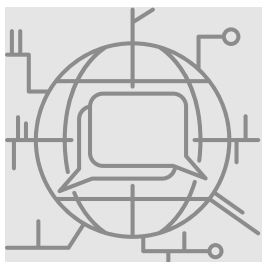
It is with hard work and dedication that you are celebrating this incredible accomplishment!

Our online students are often juggling multiple responsibilities while pursuing higher education goals, and we're proud of you for making it to this point! We can't wait to see what's next for you.

WKU Counseling Center

<http://www.wku.edu/heretohelp/>

(270) 745-3159



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PCAL IN THE NEWS:

Gift Establishes Janet C. Frockt Professor of Technical Design at WKU

Through a philanthropic gift from Ryan Frockt and his father, Richard Frockt ('67), the Janet C. Frockt Professor of Technical Design position was recently created within the Department of Theatre and Dance in the Potter College of Arts & Letters (PCAL) at WKU. Click [here](#) to read more!

Department of Theatre & Dance: Behind the Scenes

Go behind the scenes with the Department of Theatre & Dance for their recent productions, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and Evening of Dance! Click [here](#) to read more!

WKU Student Selected for Fulbright UK Summer Institutes

Emma Childress, a second-year first-generation college student studying English and Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies, has been selected for the Fulbright UK Summer Institutes, one of the most renowned and selective summer scholarship programs operating worldwide. Click [here](#) to read more!

The Second Act: How Amarah Pryor-Wells Turned Rejection into a Gilman Scholarship Win

It's one thing to witness the beauty of another place through film, but it's another to actually be there. From Jane Austen's house to the sets of Netflix's Bridgerton show, Amarah Pryor-Wells, a film and advertising major with an American sign language studies minor from Madison, Alabama, is doing just that. Click [here](#) to read more!

SGA President Rush Robinson Connects Philosophy and Student Leadership

Rush Robinson of Benton, KY, wears many hats. He is a triple major in Philosophy, Psychology, and Sociology, as well as the Student Government Association President and Student Regent for the WKU Board of Regents. In an interview with Dr. Landon Elkind, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Rush discusses how his coursework in philosophy has positively impacted his leadership roles. Click [here](#) to read more!



WKU College of Education & Behavioral Sciences wku.edu/cebs

TEACHER EDUCATION STUDENTS: Registration, Advising, and Scholarship Reminders

Click [here](#) to check the registration calendar for upcoming semesters.

Registration is Open!

- ✓ Schedule and attend your advisor appointment. Clinical and methods courses will fill quickly.
- ✓ Review your degree audit in TopNet and come prepared with questions.
- ✓ Begin working on Teacher Scholarship opportunities through the WKU School of Teacher Education. See if you can qualify to be fully funded!

Click [here](#) for scholarship information!

Grow Your Own & Apprentices

If you are identified as a Grow Your Own student or Apprentice, now is the time to begin conversations with your district about your fall job placement. Do not assume the placement will automatically align with your major requirements.

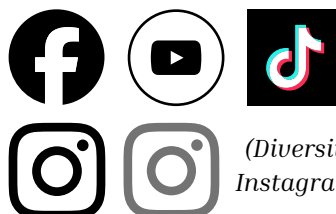
Advocate for a position that allows you to complete:

- Required observation hours
- Field assignments
- Major-specific clinical expectations

VIRTUAL CHAT with DEAN BROWN

WKU | PCAL

Register now for an online "Patio Chat" with PCAL's Dean, Dr. Terrance Brown. Complete the link below to set up a meeting virtually to discuss your unique experience as an online student, ask questions about PCAL programs, and get to know the Dean.

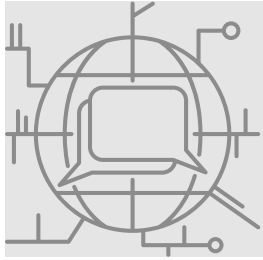


(Diversity Instagram)



For example, if you are an Elementary Education major, working in a middle school setting can make it difficult to meet required observation hours unless there is a clear agreement for release time without penalty.

If you need additional support regarding advising, job placements, or next steps, please do not hesitate to reach out to [Angela Nagel](#) or [Josiah Super](#) in the School of Teacher Education.



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WKU Career Development Center

careerhelp@wku.edu

(270) 745-3095

Please visit for more information about the Career Center.



Career Coaching

Resume Help

Career Guides and Planning

Informational Handouts and Resources

Upcoming Career Fairs



College of Health & Human Services



Recognition Ceremony

IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026

6:30 PM

E.A. DIDDLE ARENA

PLEASE ARRIVE TO THE AUXILIARY GYM BY 5:30 P.M. WITH YOUR CAP, GOWN, AND READER CARD



Spring 2026 Graduate Hooding Ceremony

WKU's Gordon Ford College of Business is proud to host the Hooding Ceremony for student who have completed their Master's degree programs within our college. Please join fellow faculty, staff, and administrators in gathering to recognize our graduates' achievements.

Hooding Ceremony Highlights:

Date: May 7, 2026

Time: 4:30 pm CST

Location: Houchens Industries Auditorium (rm 1001 A), Amy and David Chandler Hall, WKU Main Campus

RSVP: [Please click here](#) to submit your RSVP

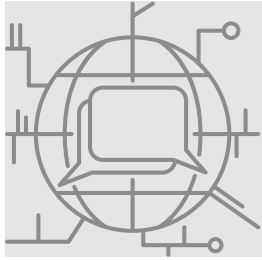


JULIE JONES
STUDENT WELLNESS NAVIGATOR
julie.jones@wku.edu



JOANNA SHAKE
STUDENT WELLNESS NAVIGATOR
joanna.shake@wku.edu

CHHS prepares health and human services professionals who will work to improve the quality of life in their communities and beyond. We recognize this effort must start with improving the quality of life for our students while they are in college. Focusing on the 10 dimensions of wellness (or the wellness wheel), we encourage balanced, optimal wellness for CHHS students. Reach out to us!



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WKU
FIRST GEN

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 FirstToppers Officers and the F1rstGen Ambassadors! We are excited to see your impact on first-generation students next year!

F1rstGen Ambassadors for 2026-2027:

New	Returning
Chelsea Cottrell	Dallas Lockhart
Martha Onda	Tyreasha Morris
Moriah McDowell	Camyrn Douglas
Jonathan Gil	Sunny Jaglan
Melany Gonzalez	
Rawa Sam	

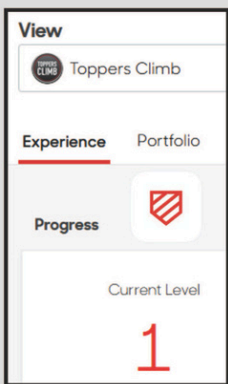
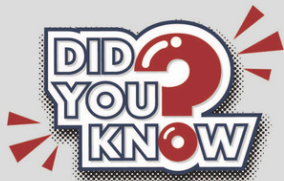
First-Generation Student Association (FirstToppers) Officers for 2026-2027:

President: Nathalia Arechiga Zamarron
 Vice-President: Jamie Barradas-Vazquez
 PR Marketer: Coumba Cisse
 Secretary: Alona Hill
 Treasurer: Sunny Jaglan
 Philanthropy: Martha Castro



First Gen on the Hill

Upcoming event and resource information for first-generation college students attending WKU.



Good grades are important, but your engagement outside of class is also valuable! Leveraging career services, participating in student organizations, and pursuing other outside-the-classroom experiences builds and demonstrates **valuable skills that employers consistently want in job candidates!**

But, outside-the-classroom engagement doesn't appear on your **academic** transcript, so how can you keep up with all of the things you do?

The new Suitable app is the tool to capture your WKU Experience! It includes a **Scorecard, Portfolio, and Co-Curricular Record** that include all of the activities "completed" in Suitable.

As use of Suitable becomes more established, WKU staff will present activities through the app so your engagement is captured automatically.

Ready to learn more and see what may already be on **your** Scorecard?

Visit WKU.edu/WKUExperience Scroll to "What is the Suitable App?" and follow the links to see how to view and share your journey!

WKU
Experience
 Scorecard, Portfolio,
 Co-Curricular Record

WKU FIRST GEN

Thank you for your engagement with first-gen programming!

Make it Count Winners
 \$250 Completion Grant

- Talaya Guest
- Coumba Cisse
- Racheal Menees
- Angelique Neema
- Nathalia Arechiga Zamarron
- Martha Castro
- Adanely Ambriz Velasquez
- Camila Arechiga Zamarron
- Sandy Cruz
- Jonathan Gil
- Cristan Lucas
- Olivia Tharp
- Malachi Allen
- Jamie Barradas-Vazquez
- Kelsey Clinard
- Natasha Gomez-Legorreta
- McKaylee Howard
- Ciin Lun
- Tyreasha Morris
- Victory Okoroji
- Skylar Vacanti