

# THE CURRENT SAUCE



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THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

## 02 NEWS

Have you ever wondered what it takes to host a graduation ceremony? Read more about it in our article where we dive deeper into commencement ceremonies.

## 03-04 ARTS & LIVING

Read our guide for graduates to make sure that you have everything ready for graduation day. Also, in this issue we feature an NSU alum who has been working as a professional since graduation.

## 01, 05 SPORTS

After years of playing a sport they love, athletes reflect on their days on the field and look forward to life after graduation. In our other story, we look into student-athletes' eligibility to play during a season and graduation rates of the Demons.

## 06 VIEWPOINTS

The length of your stay in college depends on various factors, but just because you may stay longer than the average student doesn't make you less successful.

# How opportunities and challenges shaped student-athletes for their future

By Heidi Gauthier  
Reporter



Photo by Katie Grace Rion. Addison Patterson is preparing to graduate from NSU and head to graduate school. When done playing basketball, he plans to coach.

As spring graduation approaches for Northwestern State University of Louisiana, active discussion about "what is next" is swarming campus. What are the post-graduation plans for the graduating Demon student-athletes?

Originally from Friendswood, Texas, Ashlyn Svoboda came to NSU in 2021, where she has played as a libero for the Lady Demons volleyball team for all four years. According to NSU Athletics, Svoboda finished her career ranked third on the digs leaderboard with 1,453 digs.

Svoboda will graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in general studies with a concentration in social science and a minor in biology.

"Leaving college volleyball behind is bittersweet, but I am ready for the next chapter in my life. After graduation, I am thinking about coaching volleyball on a different level because I am not ready to let go of the sport," Svoboda said.

Addison Patterson, Mississauga, Canada native, transferred from the University of Oregon and Tallahassee Community

College to play at NSU for his last season. As an undergrad at NSU, he competed as a guard for the men's basketball team.

"Patterson was named second-team All-Southland Conference in his first season at Northwestern. He is the first Demon named to the All-Southland team since the 2022-23 season," according to NSU Athletics.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in liberal arts at NSU, he plans to transfer to another university next semester, where he will attend graduate school and play basketball one more year. Patterson's graduate school is not yet determined.

"When I am done with basketball as a player, I plan on getting into coaching and player development. I love being a player for a team, and I want to experience the coaching side of basketball," Patterson said.

Emily Mougia, senior health and exercise science major, plans on staying one more year at NSU after graduation to play on the Lady Demons soccer team. An injury in the season-opening took the midfield defensive player out of the game for her senior season.

Mougia's journey on the team started as a freshman in 2021, after leaving her hometown of Sachse, Texas. She now holds the position of team captain for the second consecutive season.

"Leaving college sports behind is definitely scary, I have played this sport since five years old," Mougia said.

Mougia sees herself potentially using her sports experience to coach within her community in the future, but her main focus is to obtain her doctorate degree in physical therapy with an interest in sports medicine. While playing one last season with NSU, she will be applying to physical therapy graduate schools.

All three student-athletes shared how their athletics careers prepared them for life after college. Patterson learned valuable lessons at all the institutions he transferred from.

"Being a student-athlete has prepared me in all areas of life. Aspects such as learning from adversity, dealing with hardships like injuries and time man-

agement have all improved from being a student-athlete," Patterson said.

Svoboda explained that skills like leadership, teamwork and discipline are important to her. These qualities are something that she learned while playing sports and she explained that it will help her in her next chapter in life.

"Sports teach you a lot of life lessons. Life lessons that are hard for some people to grasp," Svoboda said.

Although Mougia hasn't finished her time on the soccer field yet, she shared the hardships that she had to fight through that she will transfer to her career.

"You have to learn how to balance everything going on in your life. You have to balance class, homework, practice and missing class for away games. Sports teach you discipline, time management and leadership," Mougia said.

From their time at NSU, student-athletes have learned valuable life experiences from their sports that will help them navigate their future professions.



Photo by Lalaina Wood. After graduating this Spring 2025 semester, Emily Mougia plans to play soccer at NSU for one more year as a graduate student.



# NSU prepares for upcoming graduation ceremonies

By **Victoria Rodrigue**  
News Editor



Illustration by **Stephani Bradley**.  
One tradition that never fails during a graduation ceremony is group selfies.

From the president's office to student engagement, Northwestern State University of Louisiana is preparing for the upcoming graduation season. As arrangements move forward, there are several moving parts that make commencement ceremonies successful at NSU.

NSU will host three commencement ceremonies on May 14 and 15 in Prather Coliseum, honoring graduates from the College of Business and Technology; the College of Education and Human Development; the College of Nursing and School of Allied Health; the College of Arts and Sciences and the Louisiana Scholars' College.

Barbara Prescott who works with the Office of the Registrar oversees the planning of graduation like the setup of the stage and seating. Prescott is also in charge of clearing candidates for graduation, printing cards with candidate information and getting graduates lined up for the ceremony.

"The Office of the Registrar coordinates with Physical Plant Services for ceremony setup, University Police for security and accommodations, the School of Creative and Performing Arts for the emcee and musicians, the Military Science Department for ROTC cadet participation and assistance, the Purple Jacket

and Blue Key honor societies for their service assisting candidates during the ceremonies and vendors for professional photography services and lighting," Prescott said.

Greg Handel, executive vice president and provost and dean of the graduate school, is responsible for presenting all candidates with their degrees, recognizing honor graduates along with those graduating with distinction and reading the names of graduate students who will receive their degrees.

According to Handel, commencement costs are relatively low outside of printing diplomas and cover expenses.

The NSU Foundation manages various programs, including scholarships, professorships and chair funds, fundraising and development operations, college and departmental support and other university-related programs, according to Laurie Morrow, executive director for the NSU Foundation.

"The NSU Foundation provides financial support for the spring and fall commencement ceremonies to provide a memorable experience for students and their families," Morrow said.

Marcus Jones, executive vice president and chief operating officer for the Uni-

versity of Louisiana System, oversees operations for the nine universities in the UL System and noted how commencement ceremonies look different across the state.

"You have institutions that go all out and then you have institutions that - depending on budget - sometimes may not have as grand of an affair," Jones said. "Overall, it's a huge celebration for the student who has achieved this milestone in their life."

As commencement approaches, those who play a key role in organizing the ceremonies reflect on the significance of the event.

"Graduation is a monumental event that marks the culmination of years of hard work and perseverance for our students," Prescott said. "The importance of commencement ceremonies is evident in the high participation rate, the tears, the laughter, the pure joy we see in the faces of our graduates and their friends and family, as they celebrate this major life achievement."

The upcoming commencement ceremonies at NSU are the result of careful planning and collaboration of many departments and individuals to ensure that every detail is accounted for.

## The Current Sauce Staff

The Current Sauce is the official student-run newspaper for Northwestern State University. The content and stories within the paper may not necessarily reflect the views of administration, faculty and staff.

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## DOSE OF SAUCE Newsletter Sign up

Join The Current Sauce's weekly newsletter: Dose of Sauce. Each Friday at 1 p.m., the newsletter will feature the stories posted in the past week and highlight photos and things happening around campus. Use the link below to sign up or use the link on our Instagram bio!





# Are you ready for graduation? Here's a guide to make sure you are

By Isabel Juarez Rubio  
Arts & Living Editor

The moment has finally come, senior year. The long wait is finally over, but how exactly do you apply for graduation? Senior year can be stressful but don't let your graduation stress you, just follow these steps.

Firstly, check your eligibility and that you meet the graduation requirements. You need to have completed a certain number of credit hours in your major and be in good academic standing.

"They need to meet all the requirements in their degree works and the second point I want to remind students whoever submits their graduation application their degree works will be at 98%," Jessica Zhang, department head of New Media, Journalism and Communication Arts, said.

To find your degree works go to your myNSU account, under the QuickLinks menu select 'Degree Works' and your information should be shown.

"Somehow our system sets 98% as the correct percentage for graduation, and your percentage unfortunately cannot be over 98% or under 98%. Under usually means you are still lacking a few classes to graduate. Over the percent can mean a few different things," Zhang said. "Oftentimes, maybe you got a D in your minor area and you are supposed to get all grades at C or above, it is the student's responsibility to talk to their department head to fix this."

After you have checked your eligibility on your degree works and qualify for the requirements, talk to your advisor or department head to make sure everything is correct and you are set to graduate.

Once your advisor or department head gives you the thumbs up on graduating, then you can move on to the next step which is to apply for graduation.

Applying for graduation is fairly simple. First, go to your myNSU account, then select NSU Connect from the QuickLinks menu, go to the student tab and select 'Student Records.' Then, click on 'Apply to Graduate' and follow the instructions to complete your application. If you are a Spring graduate of 2025 the deadline to apply for graduation was March 1, 2025. You want to make sure you apply for graduation within the first three months of the semester.

You can also find this guide here on "How-to-apply-for-graduation."

After applying for graduation, make sure your application has been received. To view your application under student records go to 'View Application to Gradu-

ate' and confirm all of your information. After that is done, you can now proceed to order your cap and gown. You can do this directly at the NSU Campus Store located at 912 University Parkway or you can order online at the Jostens webpage.

You can also do all of this during events like Grad Fest or Senior Send Off, organized by the NSU Alumni Association. Usually, these events happen early in the semester, the ring ceremony/senior send off will happen in the Natchitoches NSU campus at the Collins Pavillion on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Grad Fest is an opportunity for graduating seniors to visit booths with information about becoming an alumni, but most importantly is a chance for you to take a senior headshot that can be purchased later and will be included in the yearbook. During this special event, you can also order announcements, class rings and enjoy the event with a few other graduating seniors.

Since purchasing a cap and gown can be pricey, programs like the 'Gowns for Grads' were made. This program allows graduating students to rent caps, gowns, tassels, chords and stoles at no cost.



The program "Gowns for Grads" was started by Jennifer Shaw, the research associate for the Title IV-E program.



Photos by Isabel Juarez Rubio. Students can buy a cap and gown at the NSU bookstore.

The program is donation-based and continues to grow due to support from the NSU community, students and faculty.

Jennifer Shaw, research associate for the Title IV-E program, started this effort by gathering a few donated caps and gowns from her friends for her students and has grown the program since.



The program "Gowns for Grads" allows students to rent caps, gowns, stoles and more at no required cost.

"So now I take donated caps, gowns, cords, stoles, I take it all. I've got a QR code that links to our foundation account. I beg for students who borrow items to donate. They get to keep their tassels as a souvenir, but those tassels cost me like \$8 a piece so if they can just donate like \$10, I can buy tassels for next semester," Shaw said.

To apply to rent a cap and gown visit here. If you would like to donate your cap and gown, you can drop them off on the third floor of Kyser Hall in room 343H or at the NSU police station with Captain Wesley Harrell. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the foundation click here.

With only a few weeks left for the May 14 and 15 commencement ceremonies, it's important to let families from out of town know to start booking their stays early, at least a month prior. This is due to so many people coming into town and staying in hotels, you want to make sure you or your family have a place to stay.

If you are a Spring 2025 graduate, make sure to check out this important information including commencement ceremony dates, academic attire and the breakdown of the ceremony.

Most importantly don't forget to enjoy this special day, make sure to invite all your friends and family.



# From student to storyteller, Daviion Telsee

By **Rebecca Smith**  
Reporter



Photo by Chris Reich.

During his time at NSU, Daviion Telsee found that storytelling was one of his true passions.

For many, college is a time of exploration and growth, a crossroads where passions and purpose collide. For Daviion Telsee, a Fall 2023 graduate of Northwestern State University of Louisiana, this journey was no different.

Telsee, who initially started as an engineering major, found himself at a turning point during his sophomore year.

“Journalism wasn’t my focus at the beginning,” he said. “I was trying to figure out what was right for me. But when I switched to communications, everything started to click.”

Through the communications program, Telsee discovered a love for storytelling, fueled by his passion for sports media and connecting with others. Watching professionals like Colin Vedros, an anchor and reporter at KALB-TV in Alexandria, and Jordan Johnson, a photojournalist for KTAL in Shreveport, navigate the field inspired him to take journalism seriously.

“Seeing how they paved the way made me want to follow in their footsteps and figure out my own path,” he said.

Since graduating, Telsee has embraced the challenges and rewards of a journalism career at KALB-TV. However, transitioning from college to the professional world wasn’t without its hurdles.

Adapting to new editing software and balancing creative instincts with journalistic structure were some of the challenges that pushed him to grow.

“You need to be willing to learn, ask for help, and pivot when things don’t go as planned,” Telsee said.

One of his most memorable career moments came when he returned to NSU for Journalism and Media Day.

“Being able to come back where it all started was special,” he said. “It showed that we can come from the same program and find our own success. It’s about giving back – whether it’s advice, knowledge or just your time.”

Reflecting on his time at NSU, Telsee highlighted the invaluable lessons of adaptability and community.

“Northwestern taught me to accept the unexpected and keep pushing forward. The culture of family there is something I carry with me every day,” he said.

The university also prepared him to step out of his comfort zone, meet new people and adapt to unfamiliar environments – skills that remain crucial in his career today.

For aspiring journalists, Telsee offered simple but heartfelt advice.

“Keep your head down and keep work-

ing. Take it day by day – it’s not a race,” he said. “Build your resume, make connections and embrace the process, even when the future feels uncertain. And most importantly, remember to enjoy your student days and the journey that lies ahead.”

Balancing creativity with the discipline of journalism has defined much of Telsee’s career. With minors in creative writing and film, he drew on these skills to enhance his storytelling while learning to adapt to the rigid structure of AP Style.

“Creative writing taught me to still be myself in my stories, but I had to follow the rules. It’s about finding that balance,” he said.

His film studies further shaped his visual storytelling, giving him a deeper understanding of tone, lighting and mood.

As he looks to the future, Telsee remains driven by his passion for storytelling and connecting with people.

“What excites me the most is the impact I have on people through telling their stories,” he said. “That’s why I do this job every day – with my best foot forward.”

To this year’s graduating seniors, Telsee shared encouraging words. “Stay true to who you are. Don’t let the world change you – stand firm in your beliefs,” he said. “Make connections, put in the work, and

trust the process. Something great is always brewing, even when you can’t see it.”

Telsee’s journey is a testament to resilience, adaptability and the power of passion. From his time at NSU to his career in journalism, he has shown that with hard work and determination, the possibilities are truly limitless.



Photo by KALB-TV.  
Daviion Telsee currently works for Channel 5 KALB-TV, a local station based in Alexandria, Louisiana.



# NSU athletics maintains student-athletes NCAA eligibility and graduation rates

By Kallie Bourgeois  
Copy Editor

**N**orthwestern State University of Louisiana's athletics not only offers academic support services to student-athletes but also makes them aware of the standards they must uphold.

According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), student-athletes must follow a certain standard to maintain eligibility in their sport as they make progress toward a degree. The NCAA has separate standards that reflect the philosophies and goals of each division.

For NSU's student-athletes, they must follow the rules of Division I. According to the NCAA, 40% of required coursework for a degree must be completed by the end of the second year, 60% by the end of the third year and 80% by the end of the fourth year.

"The Division I standards currently in place (both percentage-of-degree requirements and the minimum grade-point average standards) are supported by data that show student-athletes who are most likely to graduate will in fact meet these standards," the NCAA website states.

Student-athletes are also allowed up to five years of eligibility and athletically related financial aid. Dustin Eubanks, associate athletic director for internal operations, addressed what happens if a student-athlete receives their degree within four years, but still wants that extra year of playing time.

He explained that student-athletes can enroll in graduate school, secondary undergraduate major programs, post-baccalaureate certifications or other academic programs to maintain eligibility for the fifth year.

In the 2024-2025 post-graduate student-athlete data, there are 15 graduate school enrollees, four post-graduate or secondary undergraduate majors and two post-graduate baccalaureate certificate enrollees, which means that all of these students are currently benefiting from NCAA eligibility rules.

The NCAA explained that Division I student-athletes must earn at least six credit hours each term to be eligible for the following term and must meet the minimum grade-point average requirements related to the school's GPA standards for graduation.

Eubanks looks at two types of gradu-



**Photo by Amy Lee.**  
Graduate student Madison Brown will continue studying athletic administration at NSU after her NCAA eligibility ran out.

ation rates which include the Federal Graduation Rate and the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate (GSR).

The Federal Graduation Rate indicates the percentage of freshmen who entered and received athletics aid during the given academic year who graduated within six years.

The GSR adds to the first-time freshmen of the Federal Graduation Rate, to those students who entered midyear as well as student-athletes who transferred into an institution and received athletics aid. According to Eubanks, the GSR also subtracts student-athletes who left an institution prior to graduation, had prior athletic eligibility remaining and were academically eligible to compete if they had returned to the previous institution.

For NSU, the Federal Graduation Rate for student-athletes has slightly decreased over the past five years, while the GSR has remained stable.

Eubanks explained that the only way to stabilize the Federal Graduation Rate is to retain student-athletes at NSU, but the transfer portal and Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) deals have made it difficult for institutions to do so.

He believes that NIL has increased each year since its inception. "People and businesses associated with other pro-

grams had money, but as much money as they would have after one year," Eubanks said. "As years progress, people become more and more accustomed to NIL. More planning was going into offering bigger and better NIL deals to student-athletes.

In 2020, the Federal Graduation Rate was at 50% and the GSR was at 84%. In 2021, the Federal Graduation Rate was at 61% and the GSR was at 87%. The Federal Graduation Rate was at 71% and the GSR was at 88% in 2022.

Eubanks added that there were more NIL opportunities in July 2022 than there were in July 2021, which is why there's an increase in the Federal Graduation Rate.

"On the 71% graduation rate, it is interesting to see how it coincides with the legalization of NIL. The 2022 graduation rate was based on the entering freshman class of 2015 to 2016. They allow students 6-years to graduate. That would mean the 2020 to 2021 academic year would have been the last year for a student-athlete to graduate and have a positive impact on the Federal Graduation Rate percentage.

The Federal Graduation Rate was at 54% and the GSR was at 86% in 2023, while the Federal Graduation Rate was at 56% and the GSR was at 87% in 2024.

According to Eubanks, 50 student-athletes entered the transfer portal in the 2020 to 2021 academic year, and transferred to another school for the Fall 2021 semester. In 2022, the number increased to 53 student-athletes. The number increased to 66 student-athletes, meaning that they transferred to another school for the Fall of 2023 semester.

Last year, there was an all-time high of 97 student-athletes who transferred in the Fall 2024 semester.

"We're currently at 29 for this year, but there are still additional opportunities for student-athletes in all sports to enter the Transfer Portal. Hopefully, we don't hit the 97-mark again this year," Eubanks said.

He shared that many student-athletes enter the transfer portal for better benefits for certain NIL deals, like the Fork 'EM Collective and other institutional programs.

"So when kids hear about the transfer

portal, NIL, they want those kinds of things. And we do have an NIL program, but obviously, it's not as big as some of these other institutions, right? Also, the resources that we have, we're pretty proud about the resources we provide, but obviously, there are bigger institutions that have more money and more resources," Eubanks said.

The NCAA policies prevent athletics from persuading student-athletes. "If they come to us and they say they want to enter the transfer portal, we can't stop them from doing that. We'd be breaking the rules if we did that," Eubanks said.

Although there is nothing that NSU as an institution can do to stabilize the declining federal rate, NSU athletics makes sure student-athletes are aware of what could be affected if they enter the transfer portal.

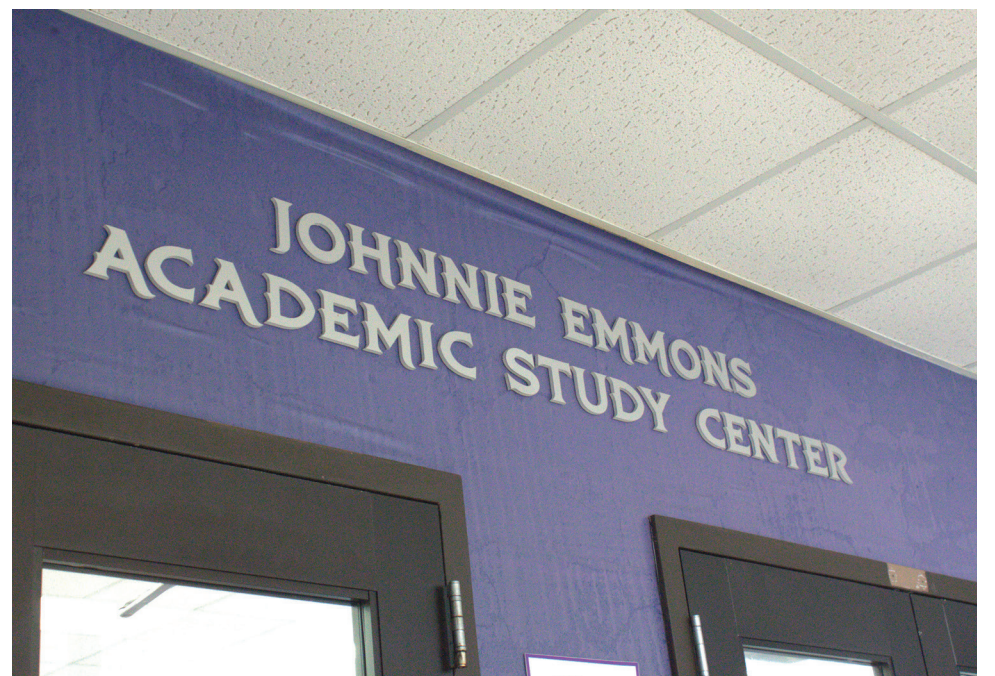
"What we try to tell the kids whenever they make a decision, if they were to leave here, let's not just think about entering the transfer portal because you think the grass is going to be greener on the side of the fence," Eubanks said. "You need to think about what's best for you, which is degree-wise right? The number one thing that we hang our hat on is them getting that degree."

Eubanks added that NSU had a high fall academic progress rate by the NCAA of 99.5%, which means that student-athletes are making progress or have graduated out of those who received an athletic scholarship. "We're pretty proud of that as well," he said.

After receiving two Accelerating Academic Success Program grants from the NCAA, the Johnny Emmons Academic Center has had major upgrades to how athletics approaches maintaining eligibility.

"We're going to be applying for another one. We've gotten \$100,000, and we've had to match that with \$20,000 per year. We've used that to purchase computers and a charging station for laptop computers," Eubanks said. "We've also used that to fund summer school, which is very important in trying to not only maintain eligibility but also help some of those kids that are short prior to going into that next year."

As the landscape for student-athletes changes, the NCAA rules and requirements serve as a basis that all student-athletes must follow to maintain eligibility.



**Photo by Kallie Bourgeois.**  
The Johnnie Emmons Academic Study Center provides student-athletes with resources to succeed in the classroom.



# Is the super senior stigma considerate of the college experience?

By Nina Ovalle  
Viewpoints Editor

A bachelor's degree must be completed within four years. If you are to take a longer time to graduate, then clearly you are falling behind due to your lack of motivation. Clearly, you were slacking. Clearly, you were not focused enough.

This is the mindset often associated with the concept of "super senior." A super senior refers to any student who attends a four-year institution for more than four years, according to ThoughtCo.

I say this stigma is ridiculous and inconsiderate to the plethora of reasons a person may need more time to complete their degree. Who came up with four year bachelor's anyway? Who is to say that it's wrong or bad to graduate outside of it? In my opinion, the four year plan has become a little too orthodox and doesn't allow people to acknowledge that some tracks just don't end up being only four years.

For example, Richie Salzer, senior music business major, began his college experience as a computer information systems major in Fall 2020 but made the choice to switch his major to his current degree. This change added an extra year to his degree, thus giving him official super senior status as of Fall 2024.

"I actually came in here with extra credits applied to my degree and everything, so I honestly could have graduated earlier than the intended four years, so when I learned that I was gonna be a super senior, I was a little upset about it," Salzer said.

The stigma surrounding the super senior did not directly affect Salzer, however, he acknowledged that these ideas exist even at NSU.

"Some people view it as a bad thing, because it's like you've been with these people, you spent time and effort and it was set up for you to complete in four years and if you don't then that almost kinda seems like a massive failure on your part, but it doesn't have to be," Salzer said.

Ultimately the decision to change his major was best for his happiness, his education and his future, despite having added an extra year. He had his own reasons, in his own individual experience, to stray from the orthodox four years and that shouldn't ever be seen as a bad thing. In the end, if it's best for you then that's what you do. Every single person goes through an individual experience and that is okay.

Christopher Paglio, senior communication major, shared his thoughts behind being a non-traditional student, as well as a super senior, and how it has been

best for his life course.

"I wasn't getting where I wanted to be. It made more sense to go somewhere with schooling than stay stuck where I was," Paglio said. "Everybody is much younger than me, and I feel kind of out of place but I'm glad to get all of my school done."

As a super senior, Paglio feels it's important to remember to keep going no matter what.

"Go ahead. Your goal is there, graduation is there. Just claw your way to it," Paglio said.

Even with all the negative opinions of others, super seniors are no different than any other student working toward their degree, clawing their way to it. Quite frankly, the more student stories I hear, the more ridiculous super senior stigma sounds.

Josias Ramos, senior violin performance major, shared some of the opinions regarding super senior status, which he has heard in his five years at NSU.

"I've heard some opinions here. Some people understand that circumstances and things happen, but at the same time I think some people think, 'Oh you were just being lazy or you were just skipping classes,' but for me, it wasn't necessarily that," Ramos said.

Ramos is originally from Honduras and explained that when he came to the U.S. to study at NSU, he did not know exactly what he wanted to do other than study music. He felt that it would be beneficial to add another degree and decided on

health and exercise science as a double major with violin performance. However, things don't always go to plan. Halfway through his college experience, Ramos made the decision to drop his health and exercise science degree, but an extra year had already been added to his degree.

"Everyone goes through different things and it doesn't necessarily mean that I am either better or worse. We're all equal and we're just trying to make it through college," Ramos said. "Everybody has their own journey, everything happens for a reason and God has put you in a place for a reason and in my experience, I am here for a reason."

Jesus Calderon, junior business administration and music business double major, also acknowledges that all students are working toward the same goals.

"Each person is different and everybody is just trying to find themselves here at school. They take their time, there's no need to rush," Calderon said.

As a double major, Calderon is set to graduate outside of the orthodox four years. He began his college experience knowing that he would graduate in five, but this never seemed out of the ordinary to him despite any stigma.

"You need more time to think about what you are going to do. You need more time for your classes. There is no rush, be a super senior, I think it's a good thing," Calderon said. "It's even better for me because I have more time to think about what I'm gonna do after, for my masters and all that I'll have more time to apply."



Photo by Juliana Nobles Pacheco. Josias Ramos, violin performance major, has been a student at NSU for five years and will be graduating in Spring 2025

You never know a student's circumstances. Taking more than four years to graduate can be the result of several individual choices or reasons that are best for said students. Therefore, to stigmatize the super senior is overly inconsiderate and, quite frankly, outdated. If you're a super senior hater in 2025, grow up. Every student's journey is unique and every journey deserves respect, no matter how long it takes.



Photo by Tyra Jones. CJ Paligo has attended college for over 5 years, working toward a major in communication while gaining writing and photography experience along the way.



Submitted by Richie Salzer. Richie Salzer (left), a fifth-year student with a music business major, poses with NSU graduate Diego Maldonado (right).



### NSU Graduation Word Search

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.



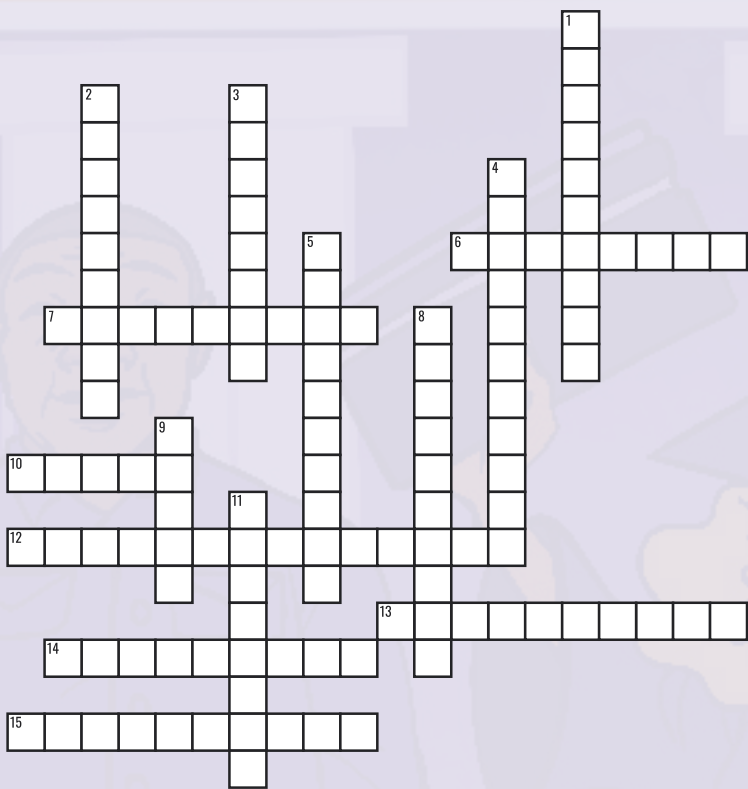
**Word Bank**

1. Art
2. Business
3. Campus
4. Columns
5. Communication
6. Degree
7. Demon
8. Diploma
9. Education
10. Fork em
11. Graduation
12. History
13. Isabella
14. Major
15. Northwestern
16. Science
17. Studies
18. Technology
19. University
20. Vic



### NSU Majors Crossword

Answer the clues each themed after majors at Northwestern State University.



**Across**

6. A group of seven notes in a musical scale a \_\_\_\_\_ scale.
7. 93% of communication is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The capital city of the Inca Empire.
12. A method of teaching that emphasizes student-centered learning.
13. A programming language known for its use in web development.
14. The act of a character speaking their thoughts aloud.
15. The longest side of a right triangle.

**Down**

1. A symbiotic relationship where one organism benefits at the expense of another.
2. A figure of speech that involves an exaggeration for emphasis.
3. The university that Philip Zimbardo performed his infamous 1971 experiment with fake inmates and prison guards.
4. Painting technique that uses small dots of color to create the image.
5. Term for the change in behavior by buyers or sellers in the market in response to a change in price for a good or service.
8. The branch of engineering that deals with the design and construction of machines.
9. The largest artery in the body.
11. A court order requiring a person to appear in court or produce documents.

Illustration by Stephani Bradley.







Lilith Rose Cloudet,  
Double major in Criminal Justice and  
Computer Information Systems



Hayley Keeler,  
Fine and Graphic Arts with concentration in  
Graphic Communications



Allison Florez Bermudez,  
Communication major



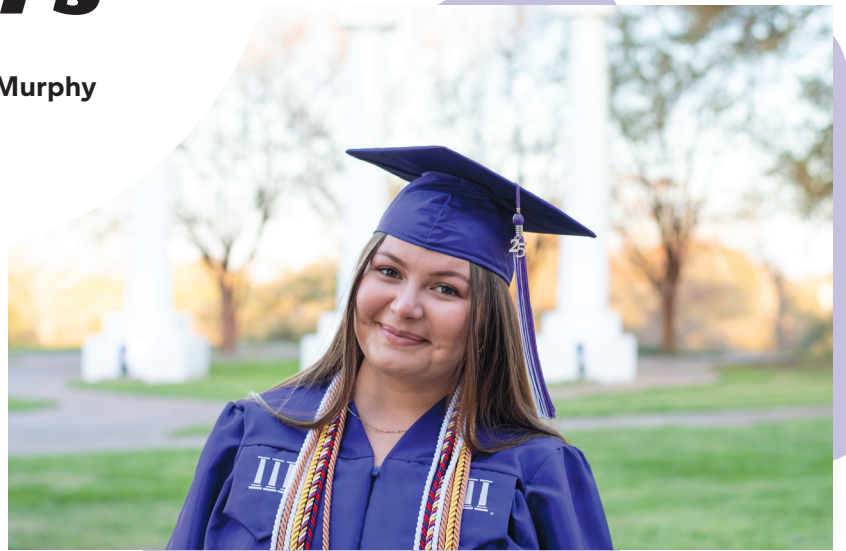
Lia Portillo,  
Communication major

# Spring 2025 Graduating Seniors

Photos by Madelyn Murphy



Caroline Franks,  
Biology major



Nina Ovalle,  
Hospitality Management and Tourism



Tyra Jones,  
Health and Exercise Science major



Marissa Rowsey,  
Communication major