



BAYLOR UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

August Fifteenth, Two Thousand Twenty
Waco, Texas

Commencement Program

August Fifteenth, Two Thousand Twenty
Waco, Texas

“The Immortal Message”

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Linda A. Livingstone, Ph.D.
President

Invocation

Malcolm Foley
*Special Advisor to the President for Equity and
Campus Engagement*

Message to Graduates

President Livingstone

Benediction

Nancy Brickhouse, Ph.D.
Provost

Conferral of Degrees

President Livingstone

“That Good Old Baylor Line”

Degrees Conferred August 15, 2020

The Robbins College of Health and Human Sciences

Presented by Rodney G. Bowden, *Dean*

Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences

Apparel Design and Product Development

Rayne Choi Apodaca [Ⓢ]
Melissa Lee Nowitzky

Apparel Merchandising

Lakin Alexandra Hinton

Child and Family Studies

Kristen R. Bolen

Interior Design

Yaxin Lan

Nutrition Sciences

Reagan Lynne Brashears

Bachelor of Arts

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Helena Isabel Rivera Bali

Bachelor of Science in Education

Exercise Physiology

Kaleigh Jeanette Dozois

Jared B. Gonzales

Jakob D. McClain

Taylor McGehee

Charles William Post

Charles Carter Short

Health, Kinesiology, and Leisure Studies

Devin Deon Chafin

Andrew Garrett Garcia
Bryson Bernard Jackson
Rodney James Sneed II
Deonte Jermaine Williams
Maxwell Alexander Willis

Health Science Studies

Brianna Kim Brown

Godfrey Evbuomwan

John Patrick Finn

Bailey Flint

Emily Gray

Mason Neil Hopkins

Brian C. Lee

Ivan Salazar

Jackson Taylor Sharp

Nicholas M. Ton

Madison Wells

Recreation

Todd Morgan Duesler

Joy Jessica Lamb

Jacob B. Murdock

Thomas Gordon Vermillion

Mary Kathryn Williams***

Bachelor of Science in Public Health

Sahar Azkar Choudhry

Rebecca Devaraj

Alexa Keith

Athena Nhu Le

Lindsay Nicole McMillan

Amy Sanchez

Camryn Taylor Scheets

The Diana R. Garland School of Social Work

Presented by Jon E. Singletary, *Dean*

Bachelor of Social Work

Kayelee Christine Ellis

The School of Engineering and Computer Science

Presented by Dennis L. O'Neal, *Dean*

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

Isaiah Solomon Bullard

Cameron Craig Cole

Leah Elias Elias

Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Diego Cruz Maldonado [Ⓢ]

Hyung Zin Lim**

Adam Bradley Naumann

Austin Clark Vint

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Julian Raed Maso

Yishuo Wang, Mathematics

Tyler Reed Watson*

Garrett Thomas Yero

The School of Music

Presented by Gary C. Mortenson, *Dean*

Bachelor of Music

Pedagogy

Alexis LaRue Estrada

*cum laude **magna cum laude ***summa cum laude

[Ⓢ] Completed Baylor Interdisciplinary Core requirements

The Hankamer School of Business

Presented by Terry S. Maness, *Dean*

Bachelor of Business Administration

Accounting

Baylee Bryton Black
Shelby Lynn Corolla
Julia Elizabeth Howe
Michael Lucas McWhirter
Charles Evan Mock
Harrison Gage Tipton
Joseph Henry Waibel VI
Cameron Wharton Wiles 🏠

Baylor Business Fellows

Joshua Mark Baker, Economics,
Biology 🏠**
Elizabeth Nei'Lani Humber,
Accounting

Austin Winfield Medley,
Finance 🏠**
Cassidy Jean Nemeck,
Journalism
Katerina Anatolia Orgunov,
Accounting, Marketing 🏠**

Economics

John Edward Sanchez, Jr.

Entrepreneurship and Corporate Innovation

Robert Jason Brown
Jacob Miller Sloan, Real Estate

Finance

Harris Franklin Cashen
Zane Caleb Johnson

Management

Ryland Spencer Cox

Management Information Systems

Xinyue Jiang**
William Archibald Norton III
Jonathan Robert Wunsch

Marketing

Madison Delaney Apuan, Film
and Digital Media*
Constantin Frederic Frantzen
Katherine Elizabeth Hude
Collin Loch McDuffee
William Tyson Nickle
Abigail Marie Powell
Frances Elizabeth Wheeler,
Film and Digital Media
Drayton Reed Williams

Real Estate

Garrison Alexander Edwards,
Risk Management and
Insurance
Jalen Paul Pitre, Marketing

Sports Sponsorship and Sales

Johnathan Nathan Razo

Supply Chain Management

Chiyuan Shen

The School of Education

Presented by Shana Hagan-Burke, *Dean*

Bachelor of Science in Education

Integrated Studies

Anna Catherine Bowman
Blakeley Caldwell

Angelica Gloria Fitting
Anthony Gasso, Jr.
Caleb Theodore Mann
Justin Philip Wilson

The College of Arts and Sciences

Presented by Lee C. Nordt, *Dean*

Bachelor of Fine Arts

Studio Art

John Harrison Michael
Singletary

Theatre Performance

Nicholas T. Carlin
Damian Vincent Lassetter

Bachelor of Science in Aviation Sciences

Aviation Administration

Christian Hunter Reflogal ♦
Haden Matthew Calvert
Adam Parish Conner
Anthony M. DeLeon
Dylan C. Eastin
Caleb Ryan Gober
Joseph William Goudey
James Riece Hulett
Daniel Ernest Mayfield IV
Lily Katherine Moorhead**
Samuel E. Vilicic

Bachelor of Science

Anthropology

Derek Arteaga
Claudia Nicole Godinez
Zhihao Shen

Applied Mathematics

Siddharth Yadav

Biochemistry

Emmanuel Che Ebeh
Jie Jin

Biology

Camila Acuna Gallego
Chioma Ebubechukwu
Anyanti
Esther Bahn
Hannah Lauren Clamp
Claire Christine Costanza
Victoria Darby
Rutger Johan Fury**
Daryosh Ghaisariee
Jayla Nicole Harsley
Brandon James Helget
Elizabeth Kennedy
Rochak Khatri 🏠*
Aaron Rajesh Patel
Noah Davis Patton
Michael David Rankins
Jonathan Stephen Schmidt
Ricardo David Stuart
Bao Vo

Economics

Dennis Eugene Knowles 🏠

Environmental Health Science

Reiley Layne Jones
Megan Elizabeth O'Brien

Environmental Science

Dane Bradley Rinehart

Geology

Amber T. Garcia
Michael Patrick Clarkson
McNair
Jeremiah Adonai Robinson
Noah Robert Zimmer

Mathematics

Eric Spencer Charles Rovelo

Neuroscience

Brigitte Nicole Lewis
Devin Lee Mangold 🏠
Simbarashe Anthony
Masando, Jr.

Psychology

Aliana Laurel Cheney
Nathan Lee Garcia
Kirsty Rachel Wyatt

Science Research Fellows

Aeleia Frances Hughes 🏠***

Bachelor of Arts

Anthropology

Marcus E. Guerrero

Biochemistry

Beatriz Rasgado Lopes

Biology

Kolton Paul Fletcher

Communication

Jhefferson Blunt
Adam Paul Brenner, Jr.
Watson Holmes Brown
Angellyn Hope Busano
Brett Carlson Cole
Brianna J. Coleman
Hayden Reese Harlan
Matthew Ryan Ho
Matthew Dean Holloway
John Russell Noreen
Victoria Maryetta Norwood
Shaniza Nizar Prasla
Deauzya Kee'Shanna Richards
Courtney Brianne Roberson
Gabriella Annalise Satterlee
Thomas Josiah Sugg
Dennis Matthew Summers
Gibson Quinn Terry
Anna Olivia Townsend
Zikang Zhao

*cum laude **magna cum laude ***summa cum laude

🏠 Completed Baylor Interdisciplinary Core requirements

★ Receiving Commissions as Second Lieutenants, United States Army

🏠 Completed Honors Program requirements

♦ Receiving Commissions as Second Lieutenants, United States Air Force

Communication Specialist

Peyton Dean Hibbard
Rhyce Mckenzie Woodhill

Economics

Chelsea Megan Barcenas
Alejandra Medina
Xinyuan Shu, Mathematics
Hadee Zabad

Environmental Studies

Cayden Davis Hershey
Avani Priya Verma

Film and Digital Media

Sam Bass
William P. Bingham, Jr.
Madison Lane Collins
Joseph Anthony Davis
Kareem El Arab
Kirby Gamel
Cora Hill
Armstrong Lee Simms

History

Benjamin Morrison Aaron
Connor John Cope
Andrew Justice Person

International Studies

Dacie Ann Bradley
Qinyi Li

Philosophy

Michael Issachar Deshay
Ozric Travyon Martinez
Hannah Margaret Jacobs
Sutton

Political Science

Austin Trea Anderson
Antonius Bassili Abdelmalek
Attia
Alyssa Shea Baum
Clémence Boboy
Joshua Joseph Bradley
Liam Alexander Diebel

Christopher K. Hines
Ashlyn Shaun Hudson
Zach McCarthy
Ike Ogwu
Kade James Orsburn
Spencer Dale Rupe
Katherine Elizabeth
Terminella**
Austin Cole Vasek

Professional Writing

Paige Elizabeth Hutton

Professional Writing and Rhetoric

Brady Robert Dunlop
Paul Daniel Vanderbroek

Psychology

Sage Marisol Banta
Christina Joy Braddee
Carolina A. Cardona
Alondra Contreras

Ajah CI'Mone Eiland
Richelle Mianne D. Gonzaga
Shan Lalani
Madelyn Ann Lang
Payal Pravin Patel
Megan Sharockman

Religion

Sidney Nicole McGinty

Sociology

Brianna Fagan

Spanish

Helen Caroline Gutierrez

Studio Art

Brittany Ray Jordan

University Scholar

Shivani Bobbala
Claire Katherine Gostomski
Deborah Hope Hanagan
Marc Anthony Shidid
Natalie Celeste Widdows

The Graduate Program in the Diana R. Garland School of Social Work

Presented by Jon E. Singletary, *Dean*

Master of Social Work

Tiara Barnwell
Kayla Beck
Leslie Erin Billington
Kaitlin H. Binnington
Taylor Nicole Burks
Meaghan Clemons
Ivy Whittington Colbert
Alize Maria Lucia Duncan

April Dunlap
Jennifer Ashley Estes
Kenzie Mary Feuerbach
Stephanie Lynn Garcia
Cheryl Marie Gomez
Kayla Bercegeay Haygood
Jasmine Monique Jones
Rachael Kraft
Jennifer Lynn McGowan

Naomi Mignerey
Rhiannon Marie Morgan
Jqriyya R'Na Nelson
Serenity Shantel Nicholas
Melyssa Perkes
Nichole Elise Pruitt
Samantha Lynn Read
Shyniqua Sims Rice
Samantha Rose Roberts

Edwardo S. Rodriguez
Madison Ruth Scott
Nathaniel Jacob Shumsky
Cynthia K. Terrell
Maegan C. Vance
Ashleigh Danielle Villarreal
Antoinette Lillian Vincent
Bailey Renee Zito

The Graduate School

Presented by J. Larry Lyon, *Dean*

Master of Engineering

Kenneth R. Ulibarri, Jr.

Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering

Mahitha Roy

Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Salah Uddin Ahmed

Master of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering

George Makuachukwu
Onwubuya

Master of Music Performance

Liang Wang, Piano Pedagogy
and Performance

Master of Accountancy and Bachelor of Business Administration

Accounting
Katy Buchanan Hart *
Caleb David Hartig,
Baylor Business
Fellows, Accounting,
Entrepreneurship and
Corporate Innovation ***
Lauren Elaine Hopkins,
Baylor Business Fellows,
Accounting, Political
Science *
Madeleine Blaine Keiper,
Baylor Business Fellows,
Accounting, Management
Holden Connor Lyons

Master of Business Administration**Online Business Administration**

Caleb John Baucom
Lindsey Belcher
Matthew Billiot
Darren A. Brown
Mahshid Caras
Jennifer Clark
Emily Rose Clatterbuck
Ryan Craft
Scott Darley
Julian William Feiss
Justin Curtis Gantt
Jesse James Glider
David Wayne Greene
Christopher Lee Hazlewood
Joshua Samuel Korn
Stetson Lawrence Langwell
Jennifer Alexis Luth
Jordan Christian Lyons
Michael Francis Mersinger
Cassidy Moss

Brandon Ty Patterson
Michele Lynn Reid
Adrian Paul Ruelas
Shelby Katherine Scoggins
David Spinks
Daniel Trejo-Serrano

Master of Health Administration and Master of Business Administration

Health Care Administration
Rebecca G. Barrera
Robert Christopher Bowe
Keith Patrick Buehler
Jonathan Byrd
Jack C. Carda
Elizabeth Jennie Carpenter
Jordan DeMay
Garth Benjamin Evers
Crystal Michelle Faucett
Alysia Marie Franco
Lewis E. Gorman IV
Patricia Green
Thomas Lee Hansen

*cum laude **magna cum laude ***summa cum laude

⊕ Completed Baylor Interdisciplinary Core requirements

♣ Completed Honors Program requirements

Gregory Wayland Hare
William Christe Harris III
Thomas John Holmes
Donald D. Ingram II
Brittany Sabra Jaccaud
Jonathan E. Jordan
Cyrus Hossein Kardouni
Garrett Kuipers
Austin C. Otocky
Robert Bradley Reeder
Taylor Sutton Ridge
Tabitha A. Sierra
Jennifer L. Stidley
Benjamin R. Stone
Thomas F. Wieland, Jr.

Master of Health Administration

Health Care Administration

Harold O. Baring
Darin Ray Bingham
Dean Cocozza
Cassandra Ellington
Courtney Folderauer
Zachary Godwin
Rebecca Hacker
Carter Lafitte Laur
Sanders C. Lee
Keith Lloyd Mahannah
Allyn A. McGrath
Ashley Dawn Mount
Walter Lawrence Parker IV
Mallory Pinger
Khalid Ramil Rodriguez
Anthony T. Salvant
Meagan Sykes
Tram N. Ung
Alexandra Vane
Rhonda Marcia Wells
Kimberlyn Morgan Whitaker
Kyung Ran Zimmerman

Master of Science in Nursing

Nursing Leadership and Innovation
Somi Kim
Megan Senftleben

Doctor of Science in Occupational Therapy

Jamie Dawn Bell
Residency, Occupational Therapy
Brooke Army Medical Center
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

James Maxwell Contessa
Residency, Occupational Therapy
Brooke Army Medical Center
Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Master of Science in Education

Curriculum and Instruction

Madelyn Lee Greenleaf
Bethany Joy Lavallais
Jordan Ashley Wade

Educational Psychology

Caitlyn Bainum
Claire Louise Benschoter
Jessica Faith Brown
Irene Nicole Fait
Sha' Niya Chanyell Marie Jacobs

Austin Louise McGrewHaynes

Luis Morissette
Leslie Ornelas
Samantha Denise Rivera
Andrea Gabriela Toledo Castillo

Jacqueline Zambrano

Sports Management

Michael Dry
Sarah Elizabeth Edmondson
Matthew Richard Gillette
Harrison Taylor Hanna
Hayden Eugene Johnson
Makai Mason
Grant Michael McLaughlin
Jiayao Chee Qi
Sara Kathryn Stevens

Master of Arts in Teaching

Jonathan Allan Martin

Master of International Journalism

Morgan Elise London

Master of Science

Chemistry
Antonetta Arlene Axup
Ricardo Aldington Francis

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Taylor Kate Aldrich
Emily Nicole Alsup
Shannan Bloomstrand
Karianne Boxell
Emma Conover

Sarah Grace Cowell
Lyndee Crawford
Megan Elizabeth Golden
Karlee Kenney
Andrea Jill Lynn
Angel Statricee Puuwai Roach

Computer Science

Timothy Luke Arterbury
Suresh Karki

Environmental Science

Amjad Dabi

Exercise Physiology

Thomas Donald Cardaci

Geology

Wynne Marcus Casteel III

Mathematics

Elena Christie Covill
Rebecca Ruth Harvey

Nutrition Sciences

Sheridan Faye Glaske
Menghan Li
Rachael Nicole Reddy

Sports Pedagogy

Viktoryia Kisialeva

Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts

Communication
Sidney Elaine Dietze***

Master of Arts

Communication
Ryan Miller McNamara
Heather Penna

Curriculum and Instruction

Madison Anne Cunningham

English

Jonathan Scruggs

History

Samantha Leanza Ortiz
Eric Wilson

Physics

Zachary N. Liege
Robert William Verrill

Political Science

Douglas Harvey Lensing
Matthew Wells

Psychology

Kayla R. Gilley
Paige D. Womble

Sociology

Alonso Octavio Aravena Mendez
Ruiqian Li

Theatre Arts

Kahre Amelia Hope Hiles
Michael Stone

Doctor of Physical Therapy

Byron Presson Barbour
Natalie Beale
Lydia Blondin
Brian Richard Carlson
Spencer Paul Carrier
Monica Chan
Kaeryn Laine Corcoran
Daniel Dettman
Megan Willey Dial
Jesse Hughes
Ryan Jensen
Matthew Manzo
Paige Elizabeth Miller
Mark S. Nash
George Brett Pulvermacher
Zachary Jay Robbins
Lorrie Marie Santoy
Richard Keith Smith
Abby Christine Specht
Marie B. Timm
Alexa Werner
Emily Anne Rose Whitby
Joseph Stephen Wise
Haley Yaw

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Nurse-Midwifery
Megan Kathleen Moody
Jennifer Anne Rockhold
Nurse Practitioner
Haley Dresner
Keara Roná Johnson
Amanda King
Lauren Blair Linthicum
Annalynn Ngoc Nguyen

Doctor of Musical Arts

William Benjamin Stegner
Performance Document, Church Music/Organ Performance:
"Variation Form and Techniques in the Hymn-Based Organ
Works of American Composers in the Twentieth and
Twenty-First Centuries."
Mentors: Dr. Isabelle Demers and Dr. David W. Music

*cum laude **magna cum laude ***summa cum laude

Doctor of Psychology

Amanda Blair Proctor

Dissertation, Clinical Psychology: Dimensions of Partner Interactions and Disclosure Predict Different Trauma Related Outcomes in Couple Relationships

Mentor: Dr. Keith P. Sanford

Laurie Hughes Russell

Dissertation, Clinical Psychology: The Development and Initial Validation of the Baylor Emotional Reasoning Questionnaire (BERQ)

Mentor: Dr. Thomas A. Fergus

Elizabeth Elaine Slonena

Dissertation, Clinical Psychology: Effects of a Brief Mindful Hypnosis Intervention on Stress Reactivity

Mentor: Dr. Gary R. Elkins

Katherine Eleanore Stratton

Dissertation, Clinical Psychology: The Metacognitive Model of Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD): Further Examining of Theoretical Underpinnings

Mentor: Dr. Thomas A. Fergus

Doctor of Philosophy

Zhonqiang Qiu

Dissertation, Biology: The Extracellular Matrix of the Nematode Caenorhabditis elegans: A Model to Study the Role of Cell-Matrix Interaction in Animal Development

Mentor: Dr. Myeongwoo Lee

Chase H. Smith

Dissertation, Biology: Resolving the Evolutionary History of Multiple Groups of Freshwater Mussels (Bivalvia: Unionidae)

Mentor: Dr. Robert D. Doyle

Jeremy Miller Quintana

Dissertation, Chemistry: Synthesis and Bioconjugation of Small Organic Molecules for Immunomodulation

Mentor: Dr. Robert R. Kane

Lindsay Renee Knofski

Dissertation, Curriculum and Teaching: Leading with Love: A Qualitative Case Study Exploring Preservice Teachers' Developing Understanding and Implementation of Culturally Responsive Teaching in a Literacy-Centric Field Experience

Mentor: Dr. Lakia M. Scott

Russell Miller

Dissertation, Curriculum and Teaching: Pursuing Higher Education: A Case Study of Successful Language Learners in U.S. Public Schools

Mentor: Dr. Lakia M. Scott

Kristen Lenae Padilla-Mainor

Dissertation, Educational Psychology: Content Validity Evidence for the Verbal Behavior Milestones Assessment and Placement Program

Mentor: Dr. Jessica S. Akers

Rebecca Jane Tipton

Dissertation, Educational Psychology: Perceived Stress in Gifted Adolescents: An Exploratory Study

Mentor: Dr. Eric L. Robinson

Meagan Anthony

Dissertation, English: Mis(s)representation: Female Communities in Mid-Nineteenth Century Novels

Mentor: Dr. Kristen Pond

Aaron Patrick Cassidy

Dissertation, English: Milton's Cryptic Figures

Mentor: Dr. Phillip J. Donnelly

Rachel Lynn Kilgore

Dissertation, English: More than Metaphor: Fielding, Sterne, Austen, Browning, and the Rising Novel as Drama

Mentor: Dr. Kristen Pond

Caitlin Elizabeth Lawrence

Dissertation, English: Reimagining the Conte de Fées: Female Fairy Tales in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth Century England and Their Exploration of the World In-Between

Mentor: Dr. Joshua King

Joshua Wayne Pittman

Dissertation, English: 'al heora iwilla': Violence and Identity in La₃amon's Brut

Mentor: Dr. Hope W. Johnston

Loren Brown Warf

Dissertation, English: The Specter of the American Civil War in British Writing of the Mid-Nineteenth Century

Mentor: Dr. Kristen Pond

Subin Yoon

Dissertation, Environmental Science: Detailed Molecular and Isotopic Characterization of Carbonaceous Aerosols to Assess Air Quality Issues in Urban Areas: The San Francisco Bay Area and the Houston Metropolitan Area

Mentor: Dr. Rebecca J. Sheesley

Russell E. Browder

Dissertation, Entrepreneurship: Intermediation and Disintermediation of Resources for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in the Maker Movement

Mentor: Dr. Peter G. Klein

Eric Gustavo Carvalho da Mota

Dissertation, Entrepreneurship: Entrepreneurship in the Public Interest: Varieties, Effects, and the Performance of Entrepreneurial Arrangements

Mentor: Dr. Peter G. Klein

Jinyu (Anna) Long

Dissertation, Entrepreneurship: Toward a Process View of Entrepreneurial Action: An Empirical Investigation of Activities, Mechanism, and Outcomes

Mentor: Dr. Matthew S. Wood

- Bulbul Ahmmed
Dissertation, Geology: Numerical Modeling, Uncertainty Analyses, and Machine Learning for Decision Support in the Geosciences
Mentor: Dr. Scott C. James
- Kyrie A. Baumgartner
Dissertation, Geology: Filling the Gaps in the Floral Record: Implications for Paleobotanical Paleoclimate Proxies
Mentor: Dr. Daniel Peppe
- Katherine Heather Breen
Dissertation, Geology: Machine Learning and Remote Sensing in the Physical Sciences: Applications in Earth Surface and Atmospheric Modeling
Mentor: Dr. Scott C. James
- Jiajun Jiang
Dissertation, Geology: New Approaches to Characterize and Simulate Reservoirs by Machine Learning and Model-coupling Strategies
Mentor: Dr. Scott C. James
- Ryan William Erck
Dissertation, Higher Education Studies and Leadership: Thriving Through Relationships: Exploring the Influence of Interactions on College Student Success for Living-Learning Community Students
Mentor: Dr. Rishi R. Sriram
- Peter Opp Leestma
Dissertation, Information Systems: The Digitized Infant: A Field Study of Entangled Emotions and Affordances
Mentor: Dr. Dorothy E. Leidner
- Uchenna Peters
Dissertation, Information Systems: From Analytics Investments to Revenue Generation: A Three-Stage Process to Value Creation with Business Analytics
Mentor: Dr. Hope Koch
- Kaitlan Nicole Beretich
Dissertation, Kinesiology, Exercise Nutrition, and Health Promotion: Stages of Change in Dietetics Practice.
Mentor: Dr. LesLee K. Funderburk
- Matthew N. Peterson
Dissertation, Kinesiology, Exercise Nutrition, and Health Promotion: An Investigation of Acute Exercise and FGF21
Mentor: Dr. LesLee K. Funderburk
- Victoria Kathryn Hudgins
Dissertation, Mathematics: Orbits, Pseudo Orbits, and the Characteristic Polynomial of q -nary Quantum Graphs
Mentor: Dr. Jonathan M. Harrison
- John Anderson Miller II
Dissertation, Mathematics: An Explicit Description of Pieri Inclusions
Mentor: Dr. Markus Hunziker
- Derek McAllister
Dissertation, Philosophy: Fallow Season: Depression and its Forebears
Mentor: Dr. C. Stephen Evans
- Adam Lee Myers
Dissertation, Philosophy: The Fate of Nature: Ethical Naturalism in Historical and Critical Context
Mentor: Dr. John Haldane
- Yunus Prasetya
Dissertation, Philosophy: Pragmatism and the Theory-Dependence of Explanatory Judgments
Mentor: Dr. James A. Marcum
- Brandon Rickabaugh
Dissertation, Philosophy: The Conscious Mind Unified
Mentor: Dr. Alexander R. Pruss
- Blake Birmingham
Dissertation, Physics: Nanoscale Chemical Imaging with Novel Fiber Tip-Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy and Microscale Study of Surface Reactions on Monolayer MoS₂
Mentor: Dr. Zhenrong Zhang
- Christopher Michael Madrid
Dissertation, Physics: First Search for Pair Production of Scalar Top Quarks Decaying to Top Quarks and Light-Flavor Jets with Low Missing Transverse Momentum
Mentor: Dr. Jay R. Dittmann
- Travis Higdon Whyte
Dissertation, Physics: Deflation Methods in Lattice QCD
Mentor: Dr. Walter Wilcox
- Matthew Sean Binder
Dissertation, Psychology: Acute Agomelatine Administration Does Not Attenuate Deficits in Vocalizations, Inflammation, or Excitation in Kainic Acid Treated Pups
Mentor: Dr. Joaquin N. Lugo
- Lacy K. Crocker Papadakis
Dissertation, Religion: "The Windows of Heaven": Temple Windows in the Hebrew Bible and in Comparative Ancient Near Eastern Evidence
Mentor: Dr. Joel S. Burnett
- Marcus Stephen Jerkins
Dissertation, Religion: The Restoration of All God's Children: The Gentile Mission and the Salvation of Black-Skinned People in Luke/Acts
Mentor: Dr. Mikeal C. Parsons
- Molly C. Klanderaman
Dissertation, Statistics: Multivariate Fault Detection and Isolation
Mentor: Dr. Amanda S. Hering

Commencement Traditions

A History of Baylor Commencement

Baylor University was chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1845 and Baylor trustees voted to grant certificates and diplomas in 1854, following a similar policy of Brown University, a Baptist school in Providence, Rhode Island. That same year Baylor celebrated its first official commencement at Independence, Texas, with the granting of an A.B. degree to Stephen Decatur Rowe. The following year the University granted a degree to the first woman graduate, Mary Kavanaugh Gentry. By 1856, the number of graduates increased to six men and two women.

The University moved from Independence to Waco in 1885 and commencement ceremonies were likely held each spring in the chapel of Old Main. Starting in 1903, commencement ceremonies were held in the chapel of Carroll Library. After the 1922 Carroll Library fire, the third floor chapel was not rebuilt and a new chapel-gymnasium structure served as the venue.

In 1930, commencement ceremonies were moved to Waco Hall, the newly constructed Baylor facility funded by the City of Waco. In 1943, the spring ceremony reflected the effects of World War II, when 43 of the 282 degrees conferred were given "in absentia" due to students serving in the armed forces.

By the early 1950s, commencement was held at either Municipal Stadium or Baylor Stadium (later known as Floyd Casey Stadium). Spring commencements moved to the Heart of Texas Coliseum from 1956 to 1988. With the completion of Ferrell Center in fall 1988, Baylor commencement ceremonies returned to campus. In 2009, spring graduation was expanded to three ceremonies over two days and more than 1,800 students participated.

From 400 to more than 800 students graduate in summer and fall ceremonies.

In 1889, the University began holding summer ceremonies, which were held at a local Baptist church, then Waco Hall and now Ferrell Center.

In 1984, the tradition of December ceremonies was begun. The December 2011 commencement marked the first time that two winter ceremonies were held.

Separate ceremonies are held for George W. Truett Theological Seminary and Baylor Law School.

Participating in Commencement

Conferral of an academic degree is a separate event from the public commencement ceremony that symbolically commemorates that academic achievement. Baylor students who participate in commencement ceremonies are considered candidates for a degree. The final awarding of degrees and honors is contingent upon the satisfactory completion of the appropriate requirements by each candidate. Degree conferral is not official until grades are posted and candidates are certified as having completed all requirements. Only then do graduates receive their diplomas.

Academic Regalia

Academic dress traces its beginnings to the Middle Ages. When English universities were forming in the 12th and 13th centuries, scholars were also clerics and they adopted robes similar to those of their monastic orders. Caps were a necessity in drafty buildings and capes with hoods attached were needed for warmth. In 1895, the Intercollegiate Commission specified a code that was adopted by American institutions of higher learning to standardize the regalia worn by faculty and graduates. It has stood virtually unchanged to present time.

The bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves, while the gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The doctoral gown, which may be worn open or closed, is trimmed down the front with velvet and has three velvet bars on the bell-shaped sleeves. These facings and crossbars may be black or may be the color distinctive to the discipline to which the degree pertains.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of American regalia. At Baylor, hoods are worn for the master's degree, the education specialist degree, and all doctoral degrees. The doctoral hood is longer and marked by a wider velvet binding. The color of the velvet edging of the hood indicates the degree; the color of the lining represents the university that confers the degree.

Colors for the various disciplines include white for the Master of Arts; gold for Master of Science; Fine Arts, brown; all music degrees, pink; social work, citron; business administration, drab; divinity and theology degrees, red; law, purple; education, light blue; nursing, apricot; engineering and computer science, orange; public health, salmon; Doctor of Psychology, dark blue; Doctor of Science, golden yellow; and Doctor of Philosophy, royal blue. All master's degree candidates wear black tassels with the appropriate hood.

The University introduced unique doctoral regalia in 1995, its sesquicentennial year. The gown is forest green with dark green velvet crossbars on the sleeves, outlined in gold braid. The velvet on the matching doctoral hood reflects the degree. A velvet, eight-sided tam with gold bullion tassel completes the regalia.

The Diploma

The design of the diploma was introduced in 2000 and features an original pen-and-ink drawing of Pat Neff Hall by Baylor art professor Berry Klingman. The diploma is 14 inches x 11 inches horizontal. Signatures of the chair of the Board of Regents, the president, the provost, and the appropriate dean, along with a gold embossed seal, are on the diploma.

Graduating with Latin Honors

Undergraduate students are eligible for graduation with Latin honors by meeting the following GPA requirements:

Cum Laude	3.75
Magna Cum Laude	3.85
Summa Cum Laude	3.95

Only Baylor University residence credit is considered in calculating these averages. Once final GPAs are calculated, students graduating with a 4.0 GPA will receive Alpha Chi medallions.

The Honors Program

The Honors Program offers smaller, distinctive classes and encourages an in-depth approach to learning with close faculty contact. Students choose this program for the opportunity to delve more deeply into courses and a topic of their choosing by engaging in independent research opportunities that culminate in the senior thesis.

Baylor Interdisciplinary Core

The Baylor Interdisciplinary Core (BIC), one of the four programs housed in the Honors College, provides students with an alternative core curriculum for their general studies requirements.

Honor Societies at Baylor

Baylor University is proud to host chapters of national and international honor societies in almost all academic departments and disciplines. These honor societies recognize scholastic excellence among undergraduate and graduate students. Students are accepted as members based on scholastic rank within their academic discipline. It also is common among many societies to include criteria relating to the character of a member, requiring leadership or service credits. Many of these organizations also have an induction ceremony for their graduates. Members of national academic honor societies are recognized in the ceremony by displaying approved insignias, cords or stoles on the standard academic regalia. Honor societies play a valuable role in student life.

The Official Baylor Ring

The Official Baylor University Ring is a longstanding tradition among alumni, visually celebrating the academic achievement of Baylor graduates. Seniors wear the ring with the Baylor seal facing them. Graduates turn the ring on graduation day so the seal is read by those who look at the ring. This change signifies their preparedness to face the world with an education in hand. Official Baylor Rings are presented in spring and winter ceremonies where they hear the Baylor story beautifully portrayed in the details incorporated into the ring's design.

Congratulations on becoming Baylor Alumni!

Baylor Alumni is the University's official alumni engagement program. It celebrates the shared memories, experiences and connections of Baylor alumni that transcend geography and span generations. It is an organization with a diversity of ways to engage and an innovative approach to growth, led by dedicated volunteers and a committed team of professionals. We are united for Baylor. Learn more at baylor.edu/alumni.

Graduates, let's stay in touch! Update your contact information at baylor.edu/contactupdate.



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That Good Old Baylor Line

*That Good Old Baylor Line!
That Good Old Baylor Line!
We'll march forever down the years
As long as stars shall shine.
We'll fling our Green and Gold afar
To light the ways of time,
And guide us as we onward go:
That Good Old Baylor Line!*