Commencement
Program

Commencement
Program
Our Mission

The mission of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is to make lives better through excellence in education, research, health care and community engagement.

Strategies for achieving this mission are:

• Educating a diverse student body to become excellent health care providers and scientists.
• Engaging in research to understand health and disease.
• Commercializing discoveries, as appropriate, to benefit the public.
• Providing compassionate and culturally proficient health care.
• Engaging our community to improve health.
• Influencing thoughtful advances in health policy.

Our Purpose

The purpose of The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio is to provide the best in health careers education, biomedical research, patient care and community service to San Antonio and the South Texas/Border Region. Through undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate programs, the faculty is committed to educating health professionals who will provide excellent patient care and research that can be applied to treat and prevent disease.
Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine
Mission

The mission of the Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine is to provide responsive and comprehensive education, research and service of the highest quality in order to meet the health-related needs of the citizens of Texas. In all aspects of fulfilling this mission, the Long School of Medicine is committed to demonstrating particular sensitivity to and focus on the South Texas region while fostering the broadest diversity and inclusion that ensures successful achievement of the institutional priorities to:

• Cultivate a pervasive, adaptive and respectful environment promoting diversity, inclusion, equity, professionalism, humanism and opportunity.
• Provide exemplary medical education and training to a diverse body of health career professionals at all levels while fostering a commitment to scholarship, leadership and life-long learning across the educational continuum.
• Build and sustain recognized leadership, and advance scholarship excellence across the biomedical and health-related research spectrum.
• Deliver exemplary and compassionate health care to enhance every patient’s quality of life.
• Serve as a responsive resource to address community health needs whether local or global.
• Attain health equity for the diverse patient population of South Texas.
The Order of Exercises *

Processional
The audience is asked to remain seated for the procession. Additionally, guests are requested to please silence all cell phones for the duration of the ceremony.

Academic Procession
Florence Eddins-Folensbee, M.D., Marshal
Nehman M. Andry, M.D., Assistant Marshal
Nida "Joy" Emko, M.D., Assistant Marshal
Omid B. Rahimi, Ph.D., Assistant Marshal
Dina R. Tom, M.D., Assistant Marshal

Presiding
Robert Hromas, M.D., FACP
Dean, Long School of Medicine
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Greetings
William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
President
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Chiufang Hwang, M.D.
President, Long School of Medicine Alumni Board of Directors

Gerald Q. Greenfeld, Jr., M.D.
President, Bexar County Medical Society

Commencement Address
Vice Admiral Raquel C. Bono
United States Navy, Retired

Conferring of Degrees
William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP

Administration of Physician’s Oath
Deborah L. Conway, M.D.
Associate Dean for Curriculum
Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Long School of Medicine
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Address
Class Representatives

Closing Remarks
Robert Hromas, M.D., FACP

Recessional
Guests are requested to please refrain from leaving until after the recessional.

*Anticipated order of exercises prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Candidates for the Degree
Doctor of Medicine
May 17, 2020

Tahera Mustafa Abdulali
Internal Medicine Residency
University of Connecticut School of Medicine
Farmington, Connecticut

Firas Yousef Abdulla
Psychiatry Residency
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Tyler
Tyler, Texas

Rohan Srinivas Adiga ‡
Transitional Internship
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Edinburg, Texas
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Yimage Ahmed

Aliyah Ali
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NYU Winthrop Hospital
Mineola, New York

Chidimma Felicia Amuneke-Nze
Obstetrics-Gynecology Residency
Sinai Hospital of Baltimore
Baltimore, Maryland

Christian Andoni Aquino **
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University of Mississippi Medical Center
Jackson, Mississippi

Naeem Bayaa
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University of Washington School of Medicine
Seattle, Washington

Arya Bekhradi
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Chicago, Illinois

Molly Rae Bergen
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Baylor University Medical Center
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Kalli Ann Burdick
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Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Cody Lee Carnes
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St. Louis, Missouri

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Stephen Roy Velez
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Idaho Advanced Clinical Track
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Rachel Paige Walker
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San Antonio, Texas

Dylan Jarod Walter
Internal Medicine Residency
MedStar Health/Georgetown University Hospital
Washington, D.C.

** M.D./M.P.H. Graduate
†††† M.D. with Honor
Adam Joshua Farrell Wandell
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Residency
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

Lulu Wang
Internal Medicine Residency
Methodist Hospital
Houston, Texas

Amanda Leigh Wedelich
Pediatrics Residency
Nicklaus Children’s Hospital
Miami, Florida

Averi Elizabeth White
Internal Medicine Residency
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas

David Justin Wilde
Internal Medicine Internship
HCA Healthcare
USF Morsani College of Medicine/Medical Center Trinity
Trinity, Florida

Brinley Marie Williams
Obstetrics-Gynecology Residency
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Matthew James Willis
Pediatrics Residency
Baylor College of Medicine
Houston, Texas

Joseph Daniel Wortman
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency
Vidant Medical Center/East Carolina University
Greenville, North Carolina

Alia Martha Yaghi
Obstetrics-Gynecology Residency
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas
Petar Georgiev Yanev  
Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency  
MedStar Health/Georgetown-National Rehabilitation Hospital  
Washington, D.C.

Yuki Yoshiyasu † ††  
Otolaryngology Residency  
The University of Texas Medical Branch  
Galveston, Texas

Kirubel Zeleke  
Family Medicine Residency  
Ohio State University Hospital  
Columbus, Ohio

Maggie Zhang  
Psychiatry Residency  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
San Antonio, Texas

† Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society  
†† M.D. with Distinction in Research
Achievement Awards

Admissions and Outreach Hall of Fame Award
Ifeoluwapo Abraham Bankole  Chelsea Elizabeth Mendonca
Cameron Randall Crane  Elliott Scott Moss
Lauren Alyssa Deschner  Alyssa Ciera Smith
Olivia Flynn Hunt  Abigail O’Neil Souryal
Lorelle Renee Knight  Nicholas Mark Stansbury
Leah Katherine McGuire

American Academy of Neurology and Department of Neurology
Medical Student Prize for Excellence in Neurology
Sheetal Rama Hegde

Aust Award for Outstanding Performance
on the NBME Surgery Examination
Austin Carter Smith

Bates Family Medical Scholarship
Rachelle Yukiko Hamblin
Chelsea Elizabeth Mendonca
Alexis Janie Ramos

Charles R. Bauer, M.D. Student Award for Excellence in Emergency Medicine
Lorelle Renee Knight

Department of Surgery Student Merit Award
Angela Giang Tien Le

Ryan Folsom Student Memorial Award
Patrick Michael Ryan

Fuller-Giffen Award in Psychiatry
Alejandra Elizabeth Morfin Rodriguez
Alyssa Ciera Smith

O. Roger Hollan, M.D. Award in Internal Medicine
Amanda Eunice Cruz
Rebekah Muenich

Virginia H. Johnson, M.D. Memorial Scholarship
Angela Giang Tien Le

Senior Kline Award in Pathology
Dana Most
Jeffrey Alexander Sanford

Dr. & Mrs. A.D. Mabel Major Endowed Scholarship in Family Practice
Cara Caitlin Forsythe Pride

John A. Mangos, M.D. Award in Pediatrics
Brett Read Ipson
Matthew James Willis

Medical Dean’s Award
Alexander Oderhowho

James E. Pridgen, M.D. Endowed Presidential Scholarship
Angela Giang Tien Le
John S. Primomo, M.D. Endowment Awards
Excellence in Academics
Juan Edgardo Vargas Fernández

Excellence in Community Service
Chelsea Elizabeth Mendonca
Chisato Nishikawa
Alexis Janie Ramos

Excellence in Geriatrics
Christina Ann Fleres
Joshua Jiashyue Li

Excellence in Research
Christina Ann Fleres
Rachelle Yukiko Hamblin
Chelsea Elizabeth Mendonca

Pruitt Award for Outstanding Surgery Research Project
John Clayton Myers

Charles A. Rockwood Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Orthopaedics
Samuel Stephen Ornell

Dr. Margaret Schleifer-Nachimson Award
Andrew Joseph Braun

School of Medicine Alumni Association
Paul Cutler Award for Clinical Excellence
Victoria Francis Arnold

School of Medicine Alumni Association
Merit Awards
Rachelle Yukiko Hamblin
Corey David McNeilly

School of Medicine Alumni Association
Carlos Pestana, M.D., Ph.D. Award
Emily Danielle Henkel

Senior Medical Student Research Award
Yuki Yoshiyasu

Senior Student Achievement Award for Department of Neurosurgery
Michael Timothy Bounajem

Dr. Ken and Peg Sirinek Scholarship in General Surgery
Angela Giang Tien Le

Student Affairs Excellence in Service Award
Averi Elizabeth White

Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Student Award
Eden Tewabech Sirak

United States Public Health Service
2020 Excellence in Public Health Award
Andrew Joseph Braun
Paul C. Weinberg, M.D. Memorial Endowment Award
Rose Ann My Huynh
Brittany Lynn Schall
Nicholas Mark Stansbury
Brinley Marie Williams
Aliâ Martha Yaghi

Veritas Faculty Mentorship Award
Nida “Joy” Emko, M.D.
Thomas F. Patterson, M.D.

Veritas MS4 Mentor in Medicine Leadership Award
Callie Suzanne Marshall
Lara Danielle Slesnick

Veritas MS4 Mentor in Medicine of the Year Award
Codey Hoang Viet Pham
Permanent Honors

Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society

ΩΩΩ is a national society organized for the promotion of scholarship and research in medical schools, the encouragement of high standards of character and conduct among medical students and graduates and the recognition of high attainment in medical science and practice and related fields by alumni and faculty. Election is based on academic excellence in all required courses and the highest ideals in the profession of medicine. Acceptance is limited to no more than one-sixth of the total number of graduates.

Amr Mazen Arar  Taylor Renee Johnson  Soraya Naqvi
Pavela Grigorova Bambekova  Mitchell Alexander Katona  My Hanh Nguyen
Shelby Charmaine Barerra  Julia Calderara Kirsten  Alexander Oderhowho
Michael Timothy Bounajem  Donghwan Lee  Codey Hoang Viet Pham
Kevin T. Chorath  Callie Suzanne Marshall  Anna Margaret Pritchard
Matthew Kyle Cochran  Corey David McNeilly  Keri Jinju Rowley
Caleb Jordan Davis  Matthew Eric Milam  Patrick Michael Ryan
Kaley Kalia El-Arab  James Michael Miller  Blake Ann Seeker
Emily Danielle Henkel  Nicolas Alexander Morton-Gonzaba  Austin Carter Smith
Rose Ann My Huynh  Rebekah Muenich  Abigail O’Neil Souryal
Joshua Michael Ilitis  Lauren Marie Murphy  Nicholas Mark Stansbury
Michael Timothy Bounajem  Donghwan Lee  Yuki Yoshiyasu

Marvin Forland, M.D. Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society

The GHHS recognizes those students who, throughout their medical education, have reflected the behaviors and values that are of significant importance in adhering to the principles of humanism and in manifesting humanism as an essential human trait within the individual.

Rohan Srinivas Adiga  Cassandra Aimee Jones
Victoria Francis Arnold  Thomas Chi-Han Lu
Pavela Grigorova Bambekova  Callie Suzanne Marshall
Jaclyn Ann Boozalis  Leah Katherine McGuire
Nicholas William Brady  Prem Sankaran Menon
Chirag Ashok Buch  Alejandra Elizabeth Morfin Rodriguez
Sean Joseph Catlett  Dana Most
Zachary Thomas Coates  Rebekah Muenich
Jacob Hunter Creighton  Soraya Naqvi
Ola Elechi  Nathaniel Nevitt
Madeline Elise Flores  Vinh-Son Van Nguyen
Cara Caitlin Forsythe Pride  Erin Makenzie Rainosek
Ruby Susan Gibson  Blake Ann Seeker
Rachelle Yukiko Hamblin  Eden Tewabech Sirak
Rose Ann My Huynh

Doctor of Medicine with Honor

The M.D. with Honor designation is awarded to students who have maintained a 4.0 grade point average throughout the curriculum.

Amr Mazen Arar  Emily Danielle Henkel  Lauren Marie Murphy
Michael Timothy Bounajem  Joshua Michael Ilitis  Alexander Oderhowho
Kevin T. Chorath  Angela Giang Tien Le  Blake Ann Seeker
Caleb Jordan Davis  Donghwan Lee  John Phillip Thompson
Jurjen Carel de Jong  James Michael Miller  Joy E. Tsai
Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Medical Education

The M.D. with Distinction in Medical Education Program provides medical students with an opportunity to spend part of their medical school career participating in activities focused on different components of teaching and educational research. This program is designed to instruct and train medical students in multiple domains of medical education and to emphasize the educational duties that physicians have in all aspects of their work.

Anna Margaret Pritchard
Keri Jinju Rowley

Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Medical Humanities

The M.D. with Distinction in Medical Humanities provides medical students with the opportunity to spend part of their medical school career exploring the interdisciplinary program offerings in the Center for Medical Humanities & Ethics (CMHE). Students will produce a capstone project, which demonstrates a sustained work of academic research or sustainably fills a specific and substantial need for a selected community within one of four tracks supported by the CMHE: Community Service, Global Health, Arts and Humanities, and Medical Ethics.

Jaclyn Ann Boozalis
Rose Ann My Huynh

Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Research

The M.D. with Distinction in Research is awarded to students who have completed at least 640 hours of mentored basic, clinical, translational or social sciences research over the course of their medical school tenure. Additional requirements include maintaining good academic standing, presenting a poster at Medical Student Research Day, and producing an approved, first authored manuscript describing their work.

Shelby Charmaine Barrera
Michael Timothy Bounajem
Kevin T. Chorath
Ruby Susan Gibson
Daniel Christopher Glade
Sheetal Rama Hegde
Taylor Renee Johnson
Mitchell Alexander Katona
Samuel Stephen Ornell
Erin Makenzie Rainosek
Yuki Yoshiyasu

Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health

The dual M.D./M.P.H. program prepares physicians to treat individuals and populations via training in biostatistics, epidemiology, behavioral science, public policy and environmental health. This four-year program allows students to accomplish an M.D. from the Long School of Medicine and an M.P.H. from the School of Public Health at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

Christian Andoni Aquino
Andrew Joseph Braun
Timothy Paul Buckley
Jelina Marie Villadelrey Castillo
Cara Caitlin Forsythe Pride
Rachelle Yukiko Hamblin
Emily Danielle Henkel
Aileen Huaihao Hsi
Mitchell Alexander Katona
Amy Sooyon Kimm
Callie Suzanne Marshall
Richard Devlin McGuire
Rebekah Muenich
Shankar Mulloth Nandakumar
Soraya Naqvi
Erin Makenzie Rainosek
Natalie Lauren Tips

Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Philosophy

The dual M.D./Ph.D. program prepares physician-scientists to become accomplished health care providers and investigators with problem-solving knowledge and skills, trains physician-scientists in the conduct of clinical and translational research in culturally diverse settings, and develops future leaders in academic health care and biomedical research. The M.D./Ph.D. program is seven to eight years in length.

Jeffrey Daniel Cooney
Kathryn Susan Hinchee
Brett Read Ipson
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
Long School of Medicine

Robert Hromas, M.D., FACP
Dean

Carlos A. Rosende, M.D.
Executive Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs

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Vice Dean for Inclusion and Diversity
Chief Diversity Officer

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Vice Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

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Vice Dean for Finance

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Vice Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Designated Institutional Official

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Vice Dean for Research

Janet F. Williams, M.D.
Vice Dean for Faculty

Deborah L. Conway, M.D.
Associate Dean for Curriculum

Donald M. Dougherty, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Research

Robert M. Esterl, Jr., M.D.
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Julianne Flynn, M.D.
Associate Dean for Veterans Affairs

Joshua T. Hanson, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Dean for Student Affairs

Judianne Kellaway, M.D.
Associate Dean for Admissions and Outreach

M. Philip Luber, M.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education
Robert J. Nolan Jr., M.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Jan E. Patterson, M.D., M.S.
Associate Dean for Quality and Lifelong Learning

Patrick M. Sung, D. Phil.
Associate Dean for Research

José E. Cavazos, M.D., Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for the M.D./Ph.D. Program

Jon A. Courand, M.D., FAAP
Assistant Dean of Wellness Programs for Graduate Medical Education

Jennifer L. Peel, Ph.D.
Assistant Dean for Graduate Medical Education

Stephanie L. Reeves, D.O.
Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

Barbara S. Taylor, M.D., M.S.
Assistant Dean for the M.D./M.PH. Program
Department Chairs

Michael T. Berton, Ph.D.
Manzoor Bhat, M.S., Ph.D.
Mark D. Bonnen, M.D.
Robin L. Brey, M.D.
John H. Calhoon, M.D.
John R. Floyd II, M.D.
Alan Frazer, Ph.D.
Tim Hui-Ming Huang, Ph.D.
Carlos R. Jaén, M.D., Ph.D.
Daniel A. Johnson, M.D.
Marsha C. Kinney, M.D., M.S.
M. Philip Luber, M.D.
Frank R. Miller, M.D.
Pamela M. Otto, M.D.
Steven R. Pliszka, M.D.
Robert H. Quinn, M.D.
Amelie G. Ramirez, M.P.H., Dr.P.H.
W. Brian Reeves, M.D.
Ralph J. Riviello, M.D.
Randal D. Robinson, M.D.
Frank A. Rosinia, M.D., M.H.C.M.
Steven R. Seidner, M.D.
Ronald M. Stewart, M.D.
Patrick M. Sung, D. Phil.
Robert S. Svatek, M.D., ad interim
Monica Verduzco-Gutierrez, M.D.
Christi A. Walter, Ph.D.

Microbiology, Immunology and Molecular Genetics
Cellular and Integrative Physiology
Radiation Oncology
Neurology
Cardiothoracic Surgery
Neurosurgery
Pharmacology
Molecular Medicine
Family and Community Medicine
Ophthalmology
Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
Medical Education
Otolaryngology
Radiology
Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences
Orthopaedics
Population Health Sciences
Medicine
Emergency Medicine
Obstetrics and Gynecology
Anesthesiology
Pediatrics
Surgery
Biochemistry and Structural Biology
Urology
Rehabilitation Medicine
Cell Systems and Anatomy
The University of Texas System
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Chairman, Tyler

Janice Longoria
Vice Chairman, Houston

James C. “Rad” Weaver
Vice Chairman, San Antonio

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Christina Melton Crain, Dallas
R. Steven Hicks, Austin
Jodie Lee Jiles, Houston
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Kelcy L. Warren, Dallas

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Daniel R. Dominguez, El Paso

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Francie A. Frederick, J.D., Austin
The University of Texas System Administration

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Chancellor

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Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Scott C. Kelley, Ed.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs

David L. Lakey, M.D.
Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer

Randa S. Safady, Ph.D.
Vice Chancellor for External Relations, Communications and Advancement Services

John M. Zerwas, M.D.
Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

Amy Shaw Thomas, J.D.
Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs

Stacey Napier, J.D.
Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations

Daniel H. Sharphorn, J.D.
Vice Chancellor and General Counsel
The University of Texas
Health Science Center at San Antonio
Executive Leadership

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
President

Andrea Marks, M.B.A., CPA
Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

Eileen T. Breslin, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing

Robert Hromas, M.D., FACP
Dean, Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine

Peter M. Loomer, B.Sc., D.D.S., Ph.D., MRCD(C), FACP
Dean, School of Dentistry

David C. Shelledy, Ph.D., RRT, FAARC, FASAHP
Dean, School of Health Professions

David S. Weiss, Ph.D.
Dean, Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Heather Adkins, M.S.
Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communications Officer

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Vice President and Chief of Staff, Office of the President

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Vice President for Research

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Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer

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Executive Vice President for Facilities Planning and Operations

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Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

Jacqueline Lee Mok, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic, Faculty and Student Affairs
Deborah H. Morrill, M.S.
Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Chief Development Officer

Amy S. Tawney, M.B.A., SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer
Honor Cords
Green and gold cords indicate membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.
Gold cords indicate membership in the Gold Humanism Honor Society.
Light blue cords indicate Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Medical Education.
White cords indicate Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Medical Humanities.
Blue cords indicate Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in Research.
Salmon pink cords indicate dual Doctor of Medicine/Master of Public Health.
Blue and green cords indicate dual Doctor of Medicine/Doctor of Philosophy.
Red, white and blue cords indicate service in the United States Armed Forces. The cords are provided in appreciation of their service to our nation and defense of the freedoms we enjoy.

Hippocratic Oath
(Modern version)
I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. This awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

(Adapted from The Modern Hippocratic Oath written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna, former Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University)
Academic Ceremony and Regalia

Commencement ceremonies are grounded in ancient religious, educational and civic rituals. Today’s ceremony begins with a grand procession led by the Marshal, followed by the President, Dean, Dignitaries, Assistant Marshals, Faculty and Graduates. Inspiring to observe, the procession demonstrates unity and collegiality among health care professionals while highlighting their distinctiveness with symbols of robe, cap, tassel, hood and cord.

The University Mace

The Marshal leads the academic procession carrying the president’s academic mace, a polished brass scepter that represents The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio’s authority to educate students and grant degrees. The mace is decorated with the university seal and the caduceus, an ancient depiction of two snakes wrapped around a winged staff, sometimes used as a symbol of the medical profession.

The Academic Regalia

The contemporary tradition of wearing academic regalia for university ceremonies dates to the 11th and 12th centuries, when the great European universities were being established. At that time, students organized themselves into guilds, or associations, called universitates. Members of the universitate wore distinctive gowns to identify their group and differentiate between apprentices and masters. A “bachelor” was a man who assisted another and was usually an apprentice within the guild. A “master” was recognized by guild superiors as having reached a high level of expertise and was licensed to practice and teach as a full-fledged guild member.

The Robe

During the medieval period, men and women alike wore long robes as everyday clothing. The simplicity or elegance of the individual’s robe identified them as peasants, clergy, students or royalty. To some extent, similar distinctions are made in today’s academic regalia. For example, the bachelor’s robe is simply designed with long pointed sleeves. It is said that the sleeves were originally used by the student, or apprentice, to carry scrolls on which their lessons were written. The master’s robe is similar in style, but the long, oblong sleeves are closed. The doctor’s robe is the most elaborate, with a long, flowing body, velvet trim on the front and large bell-shaped sleeves with three velvet bars. Typically, academic robes are made of black fabric, but some universities have respectfully adopted other colors for doctoral gowns.

The Hood

The hood is a symbol of achievement — the means by which the degree and the college awarding the degree are readily recognized. The size and shape emphasize the degree level — the Doctor being the largest, followed by the Master and the Bachelor. The colors in the satin lining are those approved and authorized by the college or university conferring the degree. The colors for The University of Texas graduate are orange and white…the color of the velvet border and robe and sleeve, if any, indicates the degree earned (dark blue for Philosophy, light blue for Education, gold for Science, etc.).

Degrees and Colors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Color</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dentistry</td>
<td>Lilac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>Light Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine Arts</td>
<td>Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>Purple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Science</td>
<td>Lemon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td>Kelly Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Apricot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
<td>Olive Green</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Dark Blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Health</td>
<td>Salmon Pink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Gold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterinary Science</td>
<td>Gray</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During today's ceremony, many faculty will be wearing doctoral hoods of varied colors that indicate the degree-granting university and the person’s academic discipline. Some faculty wear hoods for the Doctor of Philosophy, trimmed in dark blue velvet, which represents mastery of learning and scholarship in any academic discipline and does not represent the academic discipline of philosophy.

Individuals with master's and doctoral degrees wear elegant hoods lined and trimmed with satin and velvet that tell about the person’s academic history and credentials. Hoods were originally worn by monks to cover their shaved heads in cold weather and, when removed from the head, the hood could be used as a container for collecting alms. The master’s hood is 3½ feet long, and the doctoral hood is longer and wider.

The Cap and Tassel

In the United States, two styles of caps are worn with academic robes: the mortarboard, a flat, stiff board that appears to balance on the head, and the tam (short for tam o’shanter), a soft hat made of velvet. Generally, mortarboards are covered with black fabric; tams may be of various colors, depending on the wearer’s academic field or the institution’s tradition. The square, flat shape of the mortarboard represents the book, a symbol of scholarship. Falling off the side of the mortarboard or tam is a tassel, which symbolizes the university mace.

This Commencement Program represents a list of students expected to fulfill all the degree requirements in their respective programs as of May 9, 2020. Although the list is verified by the Dean’s Office prior to publication, we apologize in advance for any inadvertent omission or inclusion of names.

Some information adapted from:

Notes