

The University of Texas  
Health Science Center at San Antonio



*School of Nursing*

*Spring 2020  
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.

## **School of Nursing Mission**

The mission of the School of Nursing is to develop diverse nurse leaders to improve health and health care through education, research, practice and community engagement.

# **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.

## **Presiding**

Eileen T. Breslin, Ph.D., RN, FAAN  
Dean  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio  
School of Nursing

## **Commencement Marshals**

Susan McDonald, Ph.D., APRN, CPNP-PC, CNS, Platform Marshal  
Rebekah Salt, Ph.D., RN, Faculty Marshal  
Heidi Worabo, D.N.P, RN, FNP-BC, Graduate Student Marshal  
Cynthia Wall, Ph.D., RN, APRN, CNE, Undergraduate Student Marshal

## **Greetings**

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

## **Commencement Address**

Sean T. Collins, Ph.D., APRN-BC  
Assistant Professor  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
Graduate School of Nursing

## **Presentation of Candidates for the Graduate Degrees**

Sara L. Gill, Ph.D., RN, IBCLC, FAAN  
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

**Presentation of Candidates for the Degree  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing**

Cynthia O'Neal, Ph.D., RN  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

**Conferring of Degrees**

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

**Recessional**

*As a courtesy to the graduating class, guests are requested to please refrain from leaving  
until after the recessional.*

*\*Anticipated order of exercises prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

**Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing  
Degree Conferred December 20, 2019**

**Mary Lee A. Potter**

Unfinished Nursing Care: A Mixed Methods Study

**Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing  
Degree Conferred February 28, 2020**

**Marisol Arizmendi Breton-Leija**

El Valor de la Amabilidad: Experiences of Predominantly Spanish-Speaking Women with Prenatal Care and Giving Birth in the United States, A Latindad Ethnographic Research

**Candidates for the Doctor of Nursing Practice  
May 8, 2020**

**Snoda Ann Alahmad**

A Quality Improvement Intervention to Decrease Return to Acute Rates in the Skilled Nursing Facility

**Tara Blackwelder**

Individual Social Determinants of Health Screening in a Pediatric Primary Care Clinic: A Quality Improvement Initiative

**Tiffany Lauren Dean**

Improving HPV Vaccination Rates in a Military Pediatric Population

**Carliss Dawn Ramos**

Decreasing the Incidence of Venous Thromboembolism in Lung Transplant Patients: An Evidence Based Quality Improvement Project

**Betty Levier-Whittaker**

Implementation of a Depresession Screening Tool in a Primary Care Clinic: A Quality Improvement Project

**Candidates for the Post-Graduate Certificate in  
Family Nurse Practitioner  
August 14, 2020**

Ellen Lima Lonsdale  
Amanda Suzanne Patton

**Candidate for the Post-Graduate Certificate in  
Adult Gerontology-Acute Care Nurse Practitioner  
August 14, 2020**

Janna Lynn Reeves

**Candidate for the Post-Graduate Certificate in  
Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner  
August 14, 2020**

Norma Linda Guerra  
Lisa Hui Heard  
Gloria Nataki Koroma  
Kalie DeAnn Shanks

**Candidates for the Master of Science in Nursing  
August 14, 2020**

Jesse Alvarado  
Natasha Bakunda \*  
Mayery Barroso  
Megan Marie Burson  
Jessica Vanessa Cavazos  
Carrie Elise Curiel  
Pratima Dahal  
Valerie Lynne Dennis  
Sweety Dmello  
George E. Dugas

\*Candidate will also receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Anastacia Flores  
Kedrick J. Floyd  
Sheryl Frank  
Gabriella Garay  
Bruce Lee Garcia  
Cynthia Elizabeth Garcia  
Denise Garza  
Lance Gutierrez  
Rebekah Cristine Guzman  
Cynthia Harris  
Jeanie Kay Heidelberg  
Lauren Christian Hood  
James Eddie Houston \*  
Jessica Kathryn Hyde  
Richard Ibitola Ibitayo  
Sue J. Jee  
Victoria Elisabeth Johnson  
Kara Danbi Kim  
Rebecca Elizabeth Landry  
Kenny Le  
Dominic Robert Liguori  
Virginia Leanne Lockey  
William Long  
Tracee J. Lucas  
Dante Eliazar Lucio  
Rodolfo Luna  
Tanner Lee Mackay  
Pedro Martinez \*  
Sean Michael McCarthy  
Megan Ann McLemore  
Brittany Mae Meeker  
Jessica Marie Montemayor  
Ashley Elizabeth Mullins  
Suseela Narayanan

\*Candidate will also receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing



Kelly Elizabeth Nash  
Ifeoma May Nkemakolam  
Mariana Obregon  
Monika Nina Papiez  
Kindra Vanessa Parks  
Melissa Carylene Pendergraft  
Shawna Leigh Prieto  
David Alexander Ridge  
Christina Marie Rodriguez  
Lorena Lee Rodriguez  
Kristin Eve Roeseler  
Adam Mitchell Sahyouni  
Paula Olaitan Sakin  
Charles Grant Sampeck  
Samantha Price San Miguel  
Jennifer Salinas  
Jessica Sarabia  
Micaela L. Sekula  
Deborah Renee Sentmore  
Juyoung Cecilia Song  
Selina Sonora  
Kari Britney Stapleton  
Rachel Kathryn Sterling  
Kimberly Marie Tench  
Stephanie Tijerina  
Peter Jerome Torcivia  
Roberto Jaime Trujillo  
Olga Vyacheslavovna Tsvetkova  
Christina Ann Tuchsén  
Hillary Nicole Turner  
Luis Javier Valdez  
Adrianna Nicole Valle  
Eduardo Vasquez  
Alexis Renee Wahlen  
Tia Donn Waikem  
Yali Wang  
Jessica Anne Webster  
Rachel Elizabeth Whitten

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Degrees Conferred August 13, 2019**

Sabah Ahmad  
Molly Nicole Alford  
Sarah Fatima Arastu  
Taylor Kristin August  
Alexis Balderas  
Rebecca Banigan  
Janesca Renée Barrera  
Elizabeth Ashley Barrett  
Kajal Suman Bhakta  
Jehf Tyler Brandenburg  
Jessica Diane Bruton  
Maritza Marie Caballero  
Vanessa Marie Campos  
Kathryn Nicole Campoverde  
Clarissa Christine Cavazos  
Aaron Eugene Chan  
Rene Odera Chidozie  
Taylor Diane Confer  
Vanessa Marie Contreras  
Chelsea Nicole Cooley  
Matthew Daniel Cortez  
Priscila Cortez  
Katherine Cleo Culbreath  
Hiral Nilam Desai  
Haley Dawn Dorsett  
Michelle Denise Dretke  
Blake R. Edwards  
Maria Yesenia Favela  
Mikaela Rae Flores  
Brandi Reneé Fujimoto  
Demi Alyssa Gallagher  
Sebastian Alexander Gallardo  
Monica Michelle Gaona  
Joann Marie Gapinski-Gonzalez

Juan C. Garcia  
Heather Rae Garza  
Alexandra Ana Gavallos  
Caitlin Marie Gilmore  
Christina Ann Gomez  
Sergio Ray Gomez  
David Lee Gonzales  
Austin James Gross  
Courtney Allison Grubb  
Tran Bao Ha  
Caitlin Elizabeth Hernandez  
Courtney Paige Herrmann  
Sydney Atlee Hollums  
Joshua Josef Komposch  
Penelope Lynn Laboy  
Mark Daniel Lerma  
Norma Lynn Lopez  
Carli Ann Luensmann  
Zohra Karimbhai Manesiya  
Cody Charles McCullough  
Elydia Anne Miles  
Kenra Marie Mills  
Nerissa Angeleah Misuela  
Kristen Elizabeth Moise  
Nazish Karim Momin  
Carlos Eduardo Monge Prudencio  
Maricris Panlilio Moore  
Linnea June Moran  
Elizabeth Grace Mate Moy  
Yasir Hussain Mohammad Najmi  
Stephanie Thanh-Thao Nguyen  
Dora Alicia Ortiz  
Bianca Nicole Reyna  
Emily Ann Rivera  
Sinead Julia Rodriguez  
Sueyshen Scarlet Rodriguez

Vanessa Anahis Rojas  
Yliana Renae Salinas  
Samantha Marie Santacroce  
Suzanne Marie Seiders  
D'Artagnan Debrae Smith  
Megan Elizabeth Solberg  
Monika Shavon St. Clair  
Alexander Stevenson  
Christopher Erick Strey  
Alyssa Cassandra Urrutia  
Anna Kate Welling  
Amberly Nicole Wilborn  
Colleen Danica Withrow  
Kailene Nicole Ybarra

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Degrees Conferred August 31, 2019**

Jacob Limas  
Joy Chidinma Ogbonna

**Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Degrees Conferred December 11, 2019**

Martha Alondra Alnawafleh  
Daniel Antonio Alvarez Gutierrez  
Trisha Atamosa  
Brenda Heather Backlund-Pearson  
Katheryn Marlee Baggett  
Chloe Noelle Baldwin  
Aaron Joshua Balles  
Cynthia Marie Banos  
Jenelle Ramirez Bueno  
Oscar Cardona-Sausedo  
Ricardo Carlos Jr.  
Jacob Tristan Carmichael

Amanda Marie Chagoya  
Kathryn Alyssa Chavarria  
Jagruti Chodvadia  
Eva Marie Coleman  
Teresa Ann Diaz  
Kayla Marie Dietert  
Kavita Gauree Dookran  
Miguel Eduardo Dutson  
Courtney Dawn Elliott  
Akudo Cynthia Epeagba  
Christiana Emiene Epeagba  
Tori Faith Erickson  
Juan Enrique Escobar Jr.  
Nicole Espinoza-Robles  
Michael William Estrada  
Angelina Smith Farias  
Paz Amor Sarsozo Farmer  
Amy Kittle Gagnon  
Aylin Garcia  
Juan Herrera Garcia III  
Joanna Lynn Garza  
Shannon Cassidy Gasaway  
Christopher Gonzalez  
Zoie Ann Gooch  
Gregory Robert Harm  
Brittany Ann Headen  
Maria Melisa Hernandez  
Melanie Lorraine Herrera  
Israel Huerta  
Bao Gia Hà  
Morgan Leann Jackson  
Samantha Brianna Jimenez  
Zhianna Imani Johnson  
Tyler Marie Desiree Jones  
Eileen Joanna Juarez Lopez  
Saher Moez Kadiwal

Christine M. Kidd  
Rebekah Adelaide Kraemer  
Daniel Luis Larios  
Owen Robert Lewis  
Briana Kristen Loera  
Sandra Ann Lucas  
Jesus Alberto Mancha  
Sheelu Markose  
Adriana Elizabeth Martinez  
Casandra Nicole Martinez  
Emily Nicole Mascorro  
Isabelle Mata  
Ryan McCann  
Kayla Marie McConnell  
Kevin Ryan McLean  
Lauren Noelle Mercado  
Rachelle J. Mettert  
Alfin V. Milton  
Ronald Scott Minard Jr.  
Evangelina Molina  
Joshua Moncivais  
Kaneisha Marie Montelongo  
Andra Vereshuan Nauls  
Rosa Nieto  
Lilia Nichole Novatnak  
Sarajane Denise O'Bar  
Oluwaseun Olufunmilola Olowoyo  
Veronica Phenix  
Autumn Aleece Powers  
Justine Dakota Puerta  
Chrishelle Mica Villanueva Pulhin  
Adriana Andrea Quiroz  
Jaz Anthony Ramos  
Steven Holland Rasberry Jr.  
Hannah Elizabeth Richardson  
Cynthia Rico

Jennifer Abigail Roche  
Amber Nicole Rodriguez  
Amy R. Rodriguez  
Oscar Navarro Romero  
Elisabeth Jane Rothbauer  
Stephany Rubalcaba  
Margarita Ruiz  
Ryan Mitchel Salazar  
Juan Angel Sanchez  
Sophia Santiago  
Brenna Elaine Schulze  
Corinne Lianna Schulze  
Kyham Faith Scrutchin  
Riya Shah  
Analyssa Isabel Sosa  
Lindsey Nicole Stephens  
Serena Valarie Tan  
Cilia E. Tejada  
Alfred Michael Terrazas-Guevara  
Chasity Andie Dawn Turner  
Alexandria Nicole Tyson  
Madelaine Kay Watts  
Jason Patrick Yuille  
Chasity Zielonka

**Candidates for the  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
May 8, 2020**

Abigail Nicole Alaniz  
Adeeb Karim Ali  
Alicia Nicole Allen  
Andrea Denise Odulio Alon Alon  
Cheyenne Isabella Alva  
Antonio D. Arteaga Garcia  
Aisha Abdulrahman Ayad

Leroy Bermea  
Alyssa Nicole Binz  
Jordan Nicole Bonds  
Jordan Matthew Bowen  
Matthew Elijah Brooks  
Elisa Marie Brueckner  
Cynthia Cabrera  
Brianna Monique Camacho  
Lindsay Camille Carnes  
Rebecca Cruz Castor  
Gabriela Costa Cavalcanti  
Yeajun Choi  
Aaron Justin Clayton  
Michelle Coudurier  
Mary Perez Cortinas  
Cene' Nicole Dalton  
Anita Victoria De Leon  
Julissa Jade Del Bosque  
Miguel Adrian Diaz  
Dariela Ethredge  
Stephanie Rose Fiedler  
Cristina Marie Flores  
Josh Anthony Gonzales Fronda  
Jacqueline Fung  
Steven Anthony Gamez  
Lorraine Garcia  
Shayla Isha Garza  
Lindsey Rose Gendron  
Gloria Danielle Ginithan  
Cristal Gonzalez  
Edith Avigail Gonzalez-Rodriguez  
Dominique Christine Guevara  
Sarah Elizabeth Hakim  
Nichole Lucky Hendricks  
Eileen Idalis Hernandez  
Cassandra Marcella Holmes  
Neal Hungerford



Kristin Nicole Hunter  
Travis Isley  
Jensen Sarah Janecka  
Ramiro Jimenez  
Vicki Glaeser Kelly  
Christian Seewon Kim  
Carrigan Lynn Krieger  
Amanda Marie Lewis  
Silvina Lopez  
Michala Jenay Lucas  
Ayled Victoria Maldonado  
Elisabeth Brooke Mangels  
Elizabeth Mariah Marcum  
Ashley Nicole Martinez  
Gabriela Martinez  
Stephanie Nicole Martinez  
Bradley Allen McHazlett  
Marcelle Nicole McRae  
Patricia Veronica Medina  
Francesca Louise Mercado  
JiEun Moon  
Diana Marie Morales  
Madison Gayle Morris  
Jasmine Marie Nava  
Ashley Vi Nguyen  
Jessica Andrea Ortiz  
Ivonne Alejandra Oyervidez  
Lucero Palacios-Solis  
Sara Peña Tur  
Jessica N. Ramirez  
Veronica Ramirez  
Karla Lizette Ramirez-Naquin  
Moses Anthony Ramos  
Rene Ramos  
Precious Destiny Rayfield  
Mileena Aisha Reese  
Veronica Janette Riojas

Kandis Faith Ripps  
Bianca Isabel Rodriguez  
Jasmine La'Rae Rodriguez  
Rene Rosales  
Bryanna Paige Saeid  
Valerie Salas  
Brittney Lyne Sanchez  
Bryan Patrick Sanchez  
Annette Barraza Santos  
Sarah Marie Saucedo  
Alexandrea Lea Seaton  
Jason Michael Sepulveda  
Kaitlyn Nicole Skowron  
Arianne Elizabeth Staley  
Emily Elizabeth Stone  
Taylor Kennedy Thome  
Meredith Paige Tolcher  
Jacqueline Torres  
Katherine Ann Truxell  
Emily Lynn Valdez  
Skyler Lance Vanderhoof  
Allison Vanderleest  
Joshua Daniel Vela  
Angelique Marie Waller  
Brandon Dale Whiteside  
Ciara Nicole Zamora  
Juan Filemon Zuniga

**Candidates for the  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
August 14, 2020**

Lindsey Morgan Adams  
Lynn Georgia Anenye  
Mary Anker  
Montserrat Guadalupe Arevalo  
Daisy Marie Avalos  
Daniel Trenton Baird  
Alexander Scott Beasy  
Darius Lamar Bible  
Corey David Bigelow  
Nancy Hunt Calderon  
Lindsey Ann Carrillo  
Baylie Ann Clark  
Kasey Day  
Juan Carlos De Leon  
Jillian Jae Dean  
Rachel Elizabeth DeSantis  
Vanitaa Varshaa Dookran  
Felicia Chinenye Duruzor  
Sara Marie East  
Anila Mariam Eliason  
Gerardo Daniel Espinoza Torres  
Christopher Estrada  
Samuel Duane Fairchild  
Alexandra Virginia Farias  
Amber Marie Farley  
Shanese Ebony Fisher  
Brianna Luisa Flores  
Edward Flores  
Sylvia Lorraine Fludd  
Abigail Mackenzie Fonseca  
Oscar Adolfo Fuentes  
Felicia Lee Gaytan  
Claire Marie Gianelloni

Ana Elena Godinez  
Cecilia Carolina Gomez  
Betty Gonzalez  
Jacob Gonzalez  
Rajah Orece Greer  
Justin Ross Griego  
Brittany Margaret Hans  
Lauren Azel Harris  
Julianne Nell Hastings  
Aizza Adelaida Hernandez  
Bianca Christine Hernandez  
Ruben Hinojosa  
Sarah Elizabeth Hoffman  
Adriana Nichole Johnson  
Stephanie Ann Ketchum  
Kelly Marie Langford  
Brittany Ann Lim  
Rachel Elizabeth Mandelin  
Linda Marie Martinez  
Loreen Kelsey Mathis  
Mary Elisa McKay  
Kallie Elise McWhinney  
Cecilia Anne Medina  
Emilio Antonio Molina  
Hannah Elizabeth Moore  
Madison Elizabeth Moreland  
Macy Ashlyn Nolan  
Destiny Obi  
Magdalena Joanna Pawlaczyk  
Bailey Rylann Petri  
Katie Elizabeth Pierce  
Mattie Rita Price  
Martin Ramirez Jr.  
Lisa Marie Ramos  
Irmanpreet Kaur Randhawa  
Wendy Ann Reyes  
Yesenia Reyes

Lauren Marie Ricketts  
Monica Margarita Rivas  
Catherine Ann Romanick  
Silvia Ixlu Rodriguez  
Jonathan Davis Rodriguez Maisonet  
Christin Marie Saenz  
Analy Sanchez  
Kyle Raymond Sewell  
Jemma Brooke Shumake  
Michelle Anne Sia  
Benjamin Edward Steinhauer  
Chelsea Lynn Swaim  
Omar Basam Thannoun  
Rachel Joyce Trinidad Torres  
Michael Lee Urrabazo  
Mayra Alejandra Valladares  
Juanita Varela  
Justin Matthew Villanueva  
Bianca Niquel Walker

## School of Nursing Honors

M.S.N. students whose grade point average is 4.0 are awarded their degree with High Honors.

### Honor Cords and Medallions

- Students graduating with Latin Honors from the School of Nursing are identified as such: Summa Cum Laude honor cords are gold; Magna Cum Laude honor cords are silver; and, Cum Laude honor cords are bronze.
- Purple honor cords indicated membership in Sigma Theta Tau, International, Inc., Honor Society of Nursing.
- Research medallions indicate those students who are graduating with Research Distinction. These students maintained a 3.25 GPA, were mentored by a UT Health San Antonio faculty member, presented their research at a mentor approved conference, and engaged in at least 320 hours of research activity.
- Clinical medallions indicate those students who are graduating with Clinical Distinction. These students have completed 320 hours of community clinical service beyond the hours required for clinical education and maintained a 3.25 GPA or higher.
- Royal blue/teal cords indicate those students who participated in the Advancing Community Oriented Registered Nursing (ACORN) Grant that are setting the foundation to have baccalaureate nurses in primary care settings after graduation.
- Navy blue cords indicate those students who joined the Methodist Internship program and successfully completed an additional 260 clinical hours.
- Blue, red and orange honor cords indicate those students who joined the VALOR Internship program through the South Texas Veteran Health Care System and completed 400 clinical hours under the direction of a nurse preceptor.
- Red, white and blue cords identify Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and active duty military personnel. The cords are provided in appreciation of their service to our nation and defense of the freedoms we enjoy.
- Light blue honor cords indicate those students who served as student leaders through the Student Success Center and Adelante Grant.
- White and blue cords indicate membership in the National Student Nurses Association.

**The University of Texas  
Health Science Center at San Antonio  
School of Nursing**

Eileen T. Breslin, Ph.D., RN, FAAN  
Dean

Cindy Sickora, D.N.P., RN  
Vice Dean for Practice and Engagement

Jing Wang, Ph.D., M.P.H., RN, FAAN  
Vice Dean for Research

Jacqueline McGrath, Ph.D., RN, FNAP, FAAN  
Vice Dean for Faculty Excellence

David Byrd, Ph.D.  
Associate Dean for Admissions and Student Services

Sara L. Gill, Ph.D., RN, IBCLC, FAAN  
Associate Dean for Graduate Studies

Cynthia O'Neal, Ph.D., RN  
Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

Jennifer Johnstone, M.B.A.  
Associate Dean for Finance and Administration

**The University of Texas System  
Board of Regents**

**Officers**

Kevin P. Eltife  
Chairman, Tyler

Janiece Longoria  
Vice Chairman, Houston

James C. "Rad" Weaver  
Vice Chairman, San Antonio

**Members**

David J. Beck, Houston

Christina Melton Crain, Dallas

R. Steven Hicks, Austin

Jodie Lee Jiles, Houston

Nolan Perez, M.D., Harlingen

Kelcy L. Warren, Dallas

**Student Regent**

Daniel R. Dominguez, El Paso

**General Counsel**

Francie A. Frederick, J.D., Austin

**The University of Texas System  
Administration**

James B. Milliken, J.D.  
Chancellor

Steven Leslie, Ph.D.  
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. Sharporn, 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

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

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

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

Yeman Collier  
Vice President and Chief Information Officer

Mary G. DeLay, M.B.A.  
Vice President and Chief of Staff, Office of the President

Armando Diaz, M.Ed.  
Vice President for Governmental Relations

Andrea Giuffrida, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Research

Patrick Kaminski, M.B.A.  
Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer

James D. Kazen  
Executive Vice President for Facilities Planning and Operations

Ginny Gomez-Leon, M.B.A., CPA  
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

# 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

Arts . . . . .	White
Dentistry . . . . .	Lilac
Education . . . . .	Light Blue
Fine Arts . . . . .	Brown
Law . . . . .	Purple
Library Science . . . . .	Lemon
Medicine . . . . .	Kelly Green
Nursing . . . . .	Apricot
Pharmacy . . . . .	Olive Green
Philosophy . . . . .	Dark Blue
Public Health . . . . .	Salmon Pink
Science . . . . .	Gold
Veterinary Science . . . . .	Gray

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.

## **Honors**

### **The Stole and Cord**

The stole is a simple long scarf or "shawl" worn by bachelor's degree graduates that drapes around the neck or shoulders and down the front of the robe. The cord is draped around the neck and down the front of the robe. The color and number of cords worn is determined by membership in an honor society and the honor designation. Detailed information regarding the stole and cord is provided with the school's program information.

### **Honors Designation and Recognition**

The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Nursing recognizes three honors designations for undergraduate programs.

3.5–3.69 *Cum Laude*

3.7–3.89 *Magna Cum Laude*

3.9–4.0 *Summa Cum Laude*

This Commencement Program represents a list of students expected to fulfill all the degree requirements in their respective programs as of May 1, 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:

Walters, H. (1939). *The Story of Caps and Gowns*. Chicago: E. R. Moore Company.

Sullivan, E. (1997). *An Academic Costume Code and An Academic Ceremony Guide*. Walter de Gruyter, Inc.

# Notes

## Notes

