

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



School of Nursing

*Fall 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 UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SAN ANTONIO

The Order of Exercises

Presiding

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

Greetings

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

Commencement Address

Billy Rosa, Ph.D., MBE, NP-BC, FAANP, FAAN
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, New York, NY

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

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

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

Cynthia O'Neal, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
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

The Announcement of Graduates

***Candidates for the Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing
Degree Conferred December 16, 2020***

Shanna Renee Fraser

Experiences of Persons Living with an Intestinal Ostomy, A Photo Elicitation Study
Committee Chair. Janna Lesser, PhD, RN FAAN

***Candidates for the Doctor of Nursing Practice
Degree Conferred December 16, 2020***

Hetta H. Atkins

*Improving Statin Medication Adherence to Reduce the Burden of Cardiovascular
Disease in a Managed Care Patient Population within an Internal Medicine
Practice: A Quality Improvement Project*
Committee Chair. Heidi J. Worabo, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Fallon Rai Benavides

*Improving Employee Satisfaction and Engagement in the Case Management
Department: A Quality Improvement Project*
Committee Chair. Jeremy Viles, DNP, MBA, RN, NE-BC

Henry Alexander Bullock

*Implementation of an Organizational Process to Increase Mental Health Follow Up
Care After Inpatient Hospitalization to Reduce Recidivism to a Child and
Adolescent Hospital*
Committee Chair. Marta E. Vives, DNP, FPMH-NP-BC, PMH-CNS-BC

Vita Tzu-Chian Lin Chung

*Reducing No-Show Rates in a Psychiatric Mental Health Clinic Using Short
Message Service and Live Telephone Reminder Call Verifications: A Quality
Improvement Project*
Committee Chair. Dr. Azizeh Sowan, PhD, RN, MSN, MSDA

Lia Sloan Gutierrez

Cognitive Assessment in a Medicare Population: A Quality Improvement Project
Committee Chair. Carole White, PhD, RN

Deanna Marie Savo

*Increasing HPV Vaccine Rates Among Adolescents in a Pediatric Primary Care
Clinic*
Committee Chair. Susan McDonald, PhD, APRN, CPNP-PC

Randall Marie Schaefer

Increasing Prehospital Blood Transfusion Rates in Patients Experiencing Hemorrhagic Shock: A Quality Improvement Initiative

Committee Chair. Nancy McGowan, PhD, RN, CEN

Amy Marie Smith

Reducing Skilled Nursing Facility Readmissions

Committee Chair. Carole White PhD, RN, FAAN

Heidi Elizabeth Thompson

Improving Parent Satisfaction by Enhancing Role Attainment and the Parent-Infant Bonding among NICU Families: A Quality Improvement Project

Committee Chair. Jacqueline McGrath, PhD, RN, FNAP, FAAN

***Candidate for Post-Graduate Certificate
Degree Conferred September 30, 2020***

Ellen Lima Lonsdale

Janna Lynn Reeves

***Candidate for Post-Graduate Certificate
Degree Conferred October 31, 2020***

Gloria Nataki Koroma

Kalie DeAnn Shanks

***Candidate for Post-Graduate Certificate
Degree Conferred December 16, 2020***

Norma Linda Guerra

Lisa Hui Heard

Amanda Suzanne Patton

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

Natasha Bakunda*

Megan Marie Burson - High Honors

George E. Dugas

Kedrick J. Floyd
Gabriella Garay
Cynthia Harris
Jeanie Kay Heidelberg
Lauren Christian Hood
James Eddie Houston*
Virginia Leanne Lockey
Rodolfo Luna
Tanner Lee Mackay
Megan Ann McLemore
Suseela Narayanan
Adam Mitcehl Sahyouni
Charles Grant Sampeck
Micaela L. Sekula
Juyoung Cecilia Song
Rachel Kathryn Sterling
Peter Jerome Torcivia - High Honors
Christina Ann Tuchsén
Luis Javier Valdez
Alexis Renee Wahlen - High Honors
Rachel Elizabeth Whitten

***Candidates for the Master of Science in Nursing
Degree Conferred August 31, 2020***

Carrie Elise Curiel
Valerie Lynne Dennis
Sweety Dmello
Anastacia Flores
Jessica Kathryn Hyde
Richard Ibitola Ibitayo
Kenny Duy Le
Brittany Mae Meeker
Jessica Marie Montemayor
Ifeoma May Nkemakolam
Mariana Obregon
Melissa Carylene Pendergraft
Jessica Vanessa Perez
David Alexander Ridge
Samantha Price San Miguel
Kimberly Marie Tench

Roberto Jaime Trujillo
Olga Vyacheslavovna Tsvetkova

***Candidates for the Master of Science in Nursing
Degree Conferred September 30, 2020***

Mayery Barroso
Pratima Dahal
Denise Garza
Lance Gutierrez
Rebekah Christine Guzman
Kara Danbi Kim - High Honors
Dominic Robert Liguori - High Honors
Pedro Martinez*
Kelly Elizabeth Nash
Monika Nina Papiez
Christina Marie Rodriguez
Jessica Laura Sarabia
Kari Britney Stapleton
Hillary Nicole Turner
Tia Donn Waikem
Yali Wang

***Candidates for the Master of Science in Nursing
Degree Conferred October 31, 2020***

Jesse Alvarado III
Sue J. Jee
Rebecca Elizabeth Landry
Tracee J. Lucas
Sean Michael McCarthy
Kindra Vanessa Parks
Shawna Leigh Prieto
Lorena Lee Rodriguez
Kristin Eve Roeseler
Paula Olaitan Sakin
Jennifer Salinas
Deborah Renee Sentmore - High Honors
Selina Sonora
Stephanie Tijerina
Jessica Anne Webster

***Candidates for Master of Science in Nursing
Degree Conferred December 16, 2020***

Adrianna Nicole Azua
Bruce Lee Garcia
Cynthia Elizabeth Garcia
Victoria Elizabeth Johnson
William Matthew Long
Dante Eliazar Lucio
Eduardo Vasquez

** Candidate also received a Bachelor of Science in Nursing*

***Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Degree Conferred September 30, 2020***

Aizza Hernandez
Loreen Matthis
Lauren Marie Ricketts – *Magna Cum Laude*

***Candidates for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing
Degree Conferred December 16, 2020***

Joelly Alejandra Aguilar Infante – *Magna Cum Laude*
Samangol Ebadeh Ahwazi – *Summa Cum Laude*
Andres Alvarez
Julidza Balderas
Maya Gabrielle Bernal – *Cum Laude*
Ally Nicole Birdwell – *Summa Cum Laude*
Victoria Marie Blanton
Gabriela Botello
Brittany Marie Branham – *Cum Laude*
Christopher Michael Brown
Brittney Nicole Burke – *Cum Laude*
Tristan Selga Busby

Adam Bustamante
Israel Camargo
Areti Cami – *Summa Cum Laude*
Esmeralda Linda Campos
Ana Paula Cantu – *Magna Cum Laude*
Bianca Cardenas
Sheena Rose Selena Castoreno
Tania Ahtziry Castro – *Cum Laude*
Raba Donette Caudle
Yaneth Arimisak Ceja
Alyssa Blair Crawford – *Summa Cum Laude*
Annalisa Lizette De La Cerda
Thaina R De Souza
Kaitlain Carol Dittberner
Madison Cheyenne Dresch
Sarah Pencye Driver – *Summa Cum Laude*
Heather Renee Edwards – *Summa Cum Laude*
Aubree Lyla Elling
Cassandra Louise Figueroa – *Cum Laude*
Gabriela Flores Baca
Alma Teresa Gamez – *Summa Cum Laude*
Yazmin Adilene Gamez
Denisse Mayte Garcia – *Cum Laude*
Gabriella Ann Garcia – *Magna Cum Laude*
Kayla Garcia
Rebekah Christine Gardea – *Summa Cum Laude*
LeeAnn Garza – *Cum Laude*
Antonio Gonzales
Miriam Gonzalez – *Cum Laude*
Ana Rachel Goolsbay – *Magna Cum Laude*
Brooke Ariel Griffin
Lauren Alexia Griffith – *Cum Laude*

Glenda B. Guerra Olvera
Briana Dinah Gutierrez
Helen Katy Gutierrez
Alexander Sebastian Guzman
Kevin Hoang – *Summa Cum Laude*
Valeria Marisol Jaramillo Montijo
Allison Danielle Jasso
Sydney Mina Jensen
Melissa Ku
Nikki Duyen Kyle
Maegan Nicole Laughy
Kristen Nicole LeDoux
Andrea Loera – *Cum Laude*
Katrina Michelle Lopez
Adriana Lozano – *Cum Laude*
Angelica Faith Lugma – *Summa Cum Laude*
Ifeoma E. Maduemesi – *Cum Laude*
Michelle Lee Maikoetter
Brandon J. Martinez – *Magna Cum Laude*
Brandy Marie Martinez
Isabella Dominique McCabe – *Cum Laude*
Vanessa Alicia Mendoza-Jimenez
Chakecia Monae' Miller
Shyra Donee Montgomery – *Summa Cum Laude*
Rebekah Lauren Moore – *Summa Cum Laude*
Celeste Desiree Morales
Sibone Montes Munoz
Edith Erin Naranjo – *Cum Laude*
Huong Diem Ngo – *Cum Laude*
Huong Nguyen-Reyes – *Cum Laude*
Talice Nieto
Kari Lea Nunemaker

Diana Nunez Mendoza
John Christopher Llaguno Pascual
Tanja Peterson
Michelle Leigh Pomonis
Michael Vincent Ponce
Randi Renee Ramirez
Emily Megan Rauschuber – *Cum Laude*
Samuel Woodson Renfrow
Isael Ivan Rocha – *Cum Laude*
Ashley Ann Ruiz – *Cum Laude*
Sarita Victoria Saltzman
Raven Fernandez San Andres – *Magna Cum Laude*
Yatzil Raziela Sanchez – *Cum Laude*
Brooke Ashley Schiller – *Summa Cum Laude*
Crystal Segovia
Alexandra Nicole Siu – *Magna Cum Laude*
Briana Solis
Kendyl Valentine Spies
Molly Elizabeth Steele
Madalyn Marie Sullivan
Gayle Marissa Talamantez
Elizabeth Thankachan
Rita D Tucker - *Summa Cum Laude*
Megan Rose Varela
Noelle Mikol Vinson – *Summa Cum Laude*
Caitlin Faye Vogt
Marisa Marie-Jordan Williams – *Summa Cum Laude*

Graduation Disclaimer

This Commencement program represents a list of students expected to fulfill all the degree requirements in their respective programs as of December 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.

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

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., M.S.N., RN, FAAN
Vice Dean for Research

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

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

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

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

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

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Advancement Services

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Vice Chancellor and General Counsel

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

Executive Leadership

William L. Henrich, M.D., MACP
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Senior Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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

Robert A. Hromas, M.D., FACP
Dean, Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long School of Medicine and
Executive Vice President for Medical Affairs

Peter M. Loomer, B.Sc., D.D.S., Ph.D., MRCD(C), FACD 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

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Vice President for Governmental Relations

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Vice President for Research

Ginny Gomez-Leon, M.B.A., CPA
Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

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

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

Jacqueline L. 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 Tawny, M.B.A., SPHR, SHRM-SCP
Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer

Undergraduate Latin Honors

The category of undergraduate Latin honors attained is determined by grade point ratio of all college hours attempted, excluding transfer hours. The categories are as follows:

Cum Laude: A student may be graduated *Cum Laude* with a grade point ratio of 3.40 to 3.599 (Bronze Honor Cord).

Magna Cum Laude: A student may be graduated *Magna Cum Laude* with a grade point ratio of 3.60 to 3.799 (Silver Honor Cord).

Summa Cum Laude: A student may be graduated *Summa Cum Laude* with a grade point ratio of 3.80 or above (Gold Honor Cord).

Honors, Medallions, and Cords

Graduate Nursing students whose graduate program grade point average is a 4.0 are awarded their degree with High Honors.

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.

Purple honor cords indicate membership in Sigma Theta Tau, International, Inc. Honor Society of Nursing.

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.

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.

Light blue honor cords indicate those students who served as student leaders through the Student Success Center and the Adelante Grant.

White and blue cords indicate membership in the National Student Nurses Association.

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

