



Graceland

UNIVERSITY

129th

Commencement

Saturday, December 13, 2025
INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI

ΣΘΤ	Megan Dyan Johnson	Nursing	Clinton, IA
ΣΘΤ	Paige Langford	Nursing	Blue Springs, MO
ΣΘΤ	Renae E Lisk	Nursing	Fairfield, IA
	Ana Edith Marrufo	Nursing	Kansas City, MO
ΣΘΤ	Stephen Turner McCrorey	Nursing	Blue Springs, MO
ΣΘΤ	Kudirat B Medupin	Nursing	Kansas City, MO
	Isabelle Ann Muir	Nursing	Overland Park, KS
	Courtney Dewaun Mullen	Nursing	Kansas City, KS
	Chase A Pattison	Nursing	Kansas City, MO
	Madison Leigh Salyer	Nursing	Blue Springs, MO
	Mackenzie Louise Scott	Nursing	Blue Springs, MO
	Melanie Gaye Shahan	Nursing	Sweetwater, TX
	Samantha Renee Shook	Nursing	Kansas City, MO
ΣΘΤ	Dylan Shuker	Nursing	Blue Springs, MO
	Cherise Lynn Swift	Nursing	Moore, OK
ΣΘΤ	Dawn Marie Woods	Nursing	Osceola, IA

Master of Arts

AX	Angela Nicholle Dunkin	Peace & Social Transformation	Ames, IA
	Jenny Louise Lowndes	Peace & Social Transformation	Kansas City, MO
	Mackenzie Louise Philippe	Peace & Social Transformation	St. Louis, MO
	Heidi Hazen Ramirez	Peace & Social Transformation	Orlando, FL
	Douglas Paul Roberts	Peace & Social Transformation	Independence, MO
	Andrew Jennings Wolsey	Peace & Social Transformation	Boulder, CO

Master of Arts in Religion

	Joudy Clark-Tefau Eckman	Christian Theology	Tahiti, French Polynesia
	Mary Cusack	Christian Theology	Brooklyn, NY
	Vonda Joan DenBoer	Spiritual Leadership	Corunna, Canada
	Lisa Marie Meyer	Christian Theology	Lapeer, MI
	Patricia Marilyn Pallister	Peace & Justice	London, Canada
	Eric James Vogelsang	Spiritual Leadership	New Hope, PA

Master of Science in Nursing

	Valerie Baker	Family Nurse Practitioner	Bixby, OK
	Elizabeth Marie Bandy	Family Nurse Practitioner	Lenexa, KS
	Emily Bock	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Palmyra, MO
	Thomas Michael Brock	Family Nurse Practitioner	Norman, OK
	Jennifer Diane Burns	Family Nurse Practitioner	Las Vegas, NV
	Christy Lee Clark	Family Nurse Practitioner	Guthrie Center, IA
	Halley Alexandria Clews	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Cedar Rapids, IA
	Lauren Alyse Coffman	Family Nurse Practitioner	Louisburg, KS
	Bely Thi Dang	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Wichita, KS
	Karen Dawn Dozier	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Grain Valley, MO
	Michelle Renee Dreiling	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Wichita, KS
ΣΘΤ	Sadie Marie Dugan	Family Nurse Practitioner	South Haven, KS
	Kayla J. Dye	Family Nurse Practitioner	Wichita, KS
	Chealsey Haught	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Fort Scott, KS
	Amanda Hess	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Overland Park, KS
	Jennifer Marie Hill	Family Nurse Practitioner	Rocky Mount, MO
	Vanessa Huffmon	Family Nurse Practitioner	Carrollton, MO
	Brianna Victoria Jensen	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	De Soto, KS
ΣΘΤ	Megan Dyan Johnson	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Clinton, IA
	Kathryn Elizabeth Julian	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Lawrence, KS
	Olivia Kramm	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Bellingham, WA

	Melissa Lachowitz	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Kansas City, MO
	Casey Elizabeth Lawson	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Springfield, MO
	Maggie June Loibl	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Wichita, KS
	Austin Daniel Mecum	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Tonganoxie, KS
ΣΘΤ	Cheyenne Mitchell	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Gracemont, OK
ΣΘΤ	Hayley Powell Newman	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Kirksville, MO
	Jenna Kay Owens	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Hutchinson, KS
ΣΘΤ	Kelsey Jo Paulin	Family Nurse Practitioner	Overland Park, KS
	Prisque Magotouo Penaye	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Lee's Summit, MO
	Kezia Ayanna Peterson	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Wichita, KS
ΣΘΤ	Kaysie Elizabeth Richter	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Savannah, MO
ΣΘΤ	Amy Noel Roberts	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Kansas City, MO
	Amy Roxana Silva	Family Nurse Practitioner	Elko, NV
	Matthew Alan Smith	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Owatonna, MN
	Krista Lynn Sobrino	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Wichita, KS
ΣΘΤ	Ashley Stone	Family Nurse Practitioner	Olathe, KS
	Cherise Lynn Swift	Family Nurse Practitioner	Moore, OK
	Courtney Elizabeth Timmins	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Yulee, FL
	Trey William Unrau	Adult & Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner	Moundridge, KS
	Linda Katherine Williams	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Lincoln City, OR
	Eva Renee Young	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Orlando, FL

Master of Science

	Maylene Sabreena-Anne Aguilar	Nutrition & Human Performance	San Jose, CA
	Janeen Erica Anderson	Nutrition & Human Performance	Saint Louis, MO
	Camden Theodore Bergquist	Artificial Intelligence, Data Science & Analytics	Maplewood, MN
	Liam Frank	Data Science & Analytics	Lee's Summit, MO
	Caitlin Mary Shannon	Nutrition & Human Performance	Henderson, NV
	Amanda Marie Skrodzki	Nutrition & Human Performance	Fort Myers, FL
	Bret Allan Whitehall	Nutrition & Human Performance	Waller, TX

Postgraduate Certificate

	Yasmin Asif Ali	Family Nurse Practitioner	Seattle, WA
ΣΘΤ	Amy Elizabeth Collins	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Kearney, MO
	Lisa Annette Cramer	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Lone Jack, MO
	Vanessa Vu Doan	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Garden City, KS
	Cindy Lynn Dudley	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Spokane, WA
	Habtamu Lemessa Egata	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Portland, OR
	Laurie Ferrer	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Tulsa, OK
ΣΘΤ	Rebecca Elaine Nunn-Ryan	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	West Des Moines, IA
	Jami LeAnn Snow	Family Nurse Practitioner	La Plata, MO
	Jennifer Michelle Ussack	Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	Blue Springs, MO

Doctor of Nursing Practice

	Rebecca A McDonald	Organizational Leadership	Meridian, ID
--	--------------------	---------------------------	--------------

Doctor of Physical Therapy

	Noor Alqaysi	Physical Therapy	Fresno, CA
	Alvin Jay Apilado	Physical Therapy	Fremont, CA
	Isaiah G Chu	Physical Therapy	Rowland Heights, CA
	Zahra Derakhshan	Physical Therapy	Los Angeles, CA
	Brielle Meri Estwin	Physical Therapy	Jefferson City, MO
	Elijah Hay	Physical Therapy	Lawson, MO

Tyler Hehn	Physical Therapy	Gurnee, IL
Marjan Jahangiri	Physical Therapy	Leesburg, VA
Marthaniese Jones	Physical Therapy	Memphis, TN
Michael Jordan Jueneman	Physical Therapy	Fayetteville, AR
Andrew Jung	Physical Therapy	Seoul, South Korea
Starya Dashae' Long	Physical Therapy	St. Louis, MO
Mohammad Mhana	Physical Therapy	New York, NY
Jennifer Lorene Mosier	Physical Therapy	Coburg, OR
Alexandria Chrystel Oliver	Physical Therapy	Cincinnati, OH
Cassidy Elise Payne	Physical Therapy	Boonville, IN
Taylor Luree Payne	Physical Therapy	Van Buren, AR
Jessica Taylor Pierce	Physical Therapy	Springtown, TX
Harnoor Jeet Singh	Physical Therapy	Salem, VA
Sarah Jessica Taplin	Physical Therapy	Albany, TX
Ashley Charmaine Watkins	Physical Therapy	Houston, TX
Jordan Prophet Wiggins	Physical Therapy	East Longmeadow, MA

AX Alpha Chi Honor Society

ΣΘΤ Sigma Theta Tau – International Honor Society of Nursing, Pi Eta chapter

International sashes are optionally worn to represent nationality and/or study abroad experiences.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the printed program. The appearance of a name in the list of degree candidates is not to be regarded as conclusive. Degrees are not awarded until all final grades are received and requirements are verified.

Honor graduates were determined based on cumulative grade point average and letter-graded credits as of November 26, 2025, and will be changed appropriately after posting final grades.

SHARON M. KIRKPATRICK, PhD

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS



Sharon “Sherri” Minton Kirkpatrick grew up in Independence, Missouri, and attended Graceland University, where she met her husband, Jac. She graduated from Graceland in 1965 with an AA, attended the nursing program at the Independence Sanitarium and Hospital School of Nursing, and later received a BSN from California State University and an MSN and PhD from the University of Kansas. Kirkpatrick served as a member of the faculty or administration at Graceland for nearly 30 years.

During her 16-year tenure as Dean of Nursing at Graceland, Kirkpatrick initiated the first nationwide distance learning RN-BSN program in the U.S. and established Graceland’s first graduate program. She frequently traveled with her husband and trained health workers in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Africa, and Asia.

In 2009, Sherri and Jac co-founded HealthEd Connect, a nonprofit organization with the mission of empowering women and children through evidence-based health, education, and advocacy programs. Health workers supported by HealthEd Connect deliver over 2,000 babies each year in the Democratic Republic of Congo, provide annual well-baby monitoring for over 60,000 babies in Malawi, and install sanitation systems and smokeless cook stoves in the Himalayas of Nepal. Three schools established in Zambia provide free education and hot lunches for over 1,600 orphans and vulnerable children.

Among other achievements and recognitions, Kirkpatrick served on numerous boards and committees, was a consultant to the USSR Soviet Children’s Fund, was selected as a World of Children honoree, and received the Kansas City Chapter United Nations World Citizen of the Year award in 2005. She and her husband together were awarded the Graceland University Alumni Distinguished Service Award.

The Kirkpatricks reside in Lee’s Summit, Missouri, and have two sons — Brent, an IT professional (wife, Julie), and Kraig, a radiologist (wife, Kristi) — along with five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

GRACELAND LEADERSHIP

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Michael R. Wiley, PhD, Chair, Blue Springs, MO
LouAnn Muir-Hutchinson, MPH, Vice Chair, Groton, MA
Jay Cook, MBA, Treasurer, Henrico, VA
Mike Seagraves, PhD, Secretary, Granite Bay, CA
Steven E. Graffeo, MA, Independence, MO
Ronald D. "Ron" Harmon Jr., MAR, Independence, MO
Gwendolyn Hawks-Blue, Kansas City, MO
Tom Hiles, MEd, Columbia, MO
Emily Hughes, JD, Iowa City, IA
Vincent E. Lewis, EdD, West Des Moines, IA
Jim Lysinger, MBA, Scottsdale, AZ
Aleksandar "Aleks" Memca, San Diego, CA
Randall E. Pratt, JD, Lee's Summit, MO
Melissa Sherer, MBA, New York, NY
Noel Sherer, MS, Woodbine, IA
Julia Sneathen, PhD, Kenosha, WI
John R. Whitehurst, Goleta, CA
Stephanie Winters McConnell, MS, Overland Park, KS

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Joel D. Shrock, PhD
President

Talia Brown, MEd
Chief Information & Data Officer

Jill M. Fort, PhD
Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean of Faculty

John Godfrey, MA
Vice President for Student Life & Dean of Students

Kristi Hettrick
Vice President for Institutional Advancement & Admissions

Beth Higdon, MA
Executive Director for Planning & Effectiveness

Jennifer Matney, MA
Vice President for Business & Finance

Brady McKillip, MS
Director of Athletics

Jodi L. Seymour
Executive Assistant to the President & Assistant Secretary
to the Board of Trustees

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The caps and gowns worn during formal academic ceremonies in American colleges today are the direct descendants of the everyday costumes worn in the universities of medieval England. Each school had its peculiar dress so that an Oxford student could be distinguished from a Cambridge student, or a divinity student from a layperson.

Because of the tremendous growth of American colleges and the attendant confusion that would result if each were to adopt distinct attire, the Intercollegiate Bureau of Academic Costume was organized. The Bureau has established a uniform code that most institutions of higher education, including Graceland, have adopted.

The distinctions of the code are simple. The bachelor's gown has a long, pointed sleeve; the master's gown has a long, closed sleeve extending well below the knee with the arm coming through a slit near the elbow; the doctor's gown has velvet panels down the front and voluminous, bell-shaped sleeves on which there are three velvet bars. The velvet is usually black but may reflect the color of the discipline.

The hood is the most important and distinctive feature of the attire. The inside of the hood is lined with silk in the official academic color(s) of the institution conferring the degree. The outside of the hood demonstrates the official color of the broad academic area in which the degree is earned. The lining is exposed when the hood is worn.

International sashes are optionally worn to represent nationality and/or study abroad experiences.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Faculty Marshals

Allison Dudley, EdD
Anthony Chvala-Smith, PhD

Student Marshals

Wilai Rojjanasrirat, PhD
Stephanie Jacques, MSN

Livestream and on-demand video produced by Marketing & Communications.

To watch, visit: graceland.edu/live

The Grad Team will capture each graduate who crosses the stage during the ceremony. Within a few days of the ceremony, you will receive a link via email to your photos. For more information, visit: www.TheGradTeam.com/events.

Any questions may be addressed to gradteam@thegradteam.com.

Conferring of Bachelor's DegreesJill M. Fort, PhD

Presentation of Undergraduate Diplomas

Announcement of Academic AchievementsJill M. Fort, PhD

Reading of Undergraduate Names John Godfrey, MA

Alumni Induction Statement..... Ric Hettrick

Congratulations to Graduates Michael R. Wiley, PhD

Closing Remarks.....Joel D. Shrock, PhD

Alma Mater Hymn (see back)Graceland University Choir

Please rise and remain standing throughout the recessional.

BenedictionTaylon Payne

Graduate, Doctor of Physical Therapy Program

Recessional

Trumpet Tune in D
Purcell

Pam Robison, MM

AS A MATTER OF COURTESY

For safety purposes, please do not stand or sit in the aisles.

Graceland University is a tobacco-free campus and appreciates your cooperation.

ALMA MATER HYMN

Roy A. Cheville, 1926

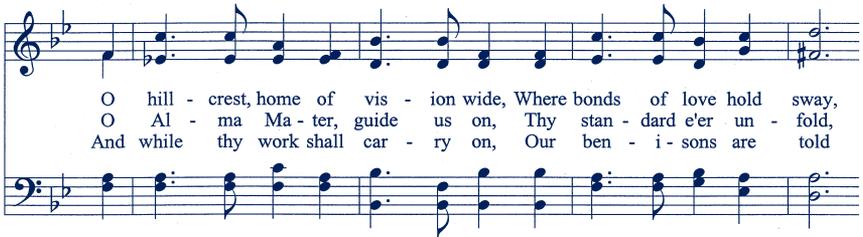
R. A. Cheville (arr. Verna Schaar)



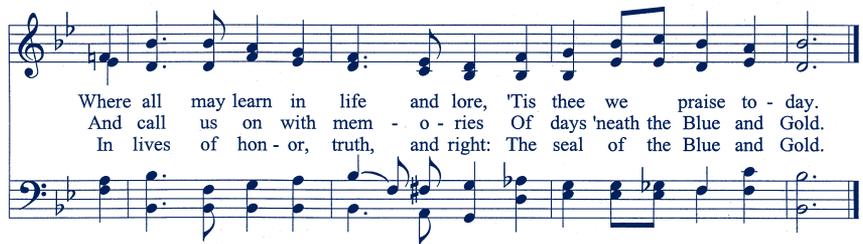
Come, Grace-land sons and daugh - ters all, And join our hap - py throng,
Through mem - o - ry a thread shall run, Of gold - en rich - ness made,
Through years and dec - ades long to come Thy bat - tle - men - ted tower



With loy - al voi - ces let us raise Our Al - ma Mat - er song;
Ce - men - ting there the treas - ures rare In thy foun - da - tion laid;
Shall rise to call the youth of lands To an - swer to the hour;



O hill - crest, home of vis - ion wide, Where bonds of love hold sway,
O Al - ma Ma - ter, guide us on, Thy stan - dard e'er un - fold,
And while thy work shall car - ry on, Our ben - i - sons are told



Where all may learn in life and lore, 'Tis thee we praise to - day.
And call us on with mem - o - ries Of days 'neath the Blue and Gold.
In lives of hon - or, truth, and right: The seal of the Blue and Gold.



Graceland
UNIVERSITY | 1895

1 University Place, Lamoni, IA 50140
www.graceland.edu