



DECORUM AND COURTESY

The faculty and staff at The University of Texas Permian Basin congratulate you on your academic achievement and wish to ensure that the commencement ceremony will be a fitting conclusion to this phase of your education!

The University of Texas Permian Basin commencement ceremony is, by its very nature, a festive occasion. The festivity manifests itself in many different ways, including the dress of the students; the faculty adorned in academic regalia; and the warmth, joy, and satisfaction of accomplishment. The ceremony is also marked by a seriousness that signifies the long, hard work on the part of everyone involved: students, faculty, administrators, and families. As a result of the serious nature of the ceremony, students and guests are expected to maintain a measure of decorum consistent with the occasion.

The UTPB community requests that audience participation be of respectful celebration. Please remain seated for the Processional and Recessional, and remain seated until all graduates exit the hall. Following the Recessional, audience members can then leave their seats and join their graduate in the lobby.

Walking across the stage is an unforgettable moment for our graduates, and each deserves the respect and celebration befitting this achievement. Thank you for taking part in this significant moment to celebrate the class of 2023.

#FalconsUp!



UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Sandra K. Woodley, DBA
President

ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Raj Dakshinamurthy, PhD
*Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs, Interim*

James Hunt, EdD
Associate Provost, Interim

Sandi Bliss, MS
Vice President for Advancement

Todd Dooley, MS
Vice President for Athletics

Cesario Valenzuela, MBA, CPA
Sr. Vice President for Business Affairs

Becky Spurlock, PhD
*Sr. Vice President of Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management*

Bradley Shook, MBA
*Vice President for Information Technology
and Analytics*

Tatum Hubbard, BA
*Chief of Staff and Vice President of
Communication and Marketing*

DEANS

Richard Sax, PhD
College of Arts and Sciences, Interim

Cynthia Warrick, PhD
*College of Health Sciences and Human
Performance - Executive in Residence*

Steven Beach, PhD, CIPM
College of Business

Larry G. Daniel, PhD
College of Education

Dwayne McCay, PhD
College of Engineering, Interim

Michael Frawley, PhD
*Dean of Student Success and Associate
Professor of History*

Corey J. Benson, MEd
*Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs
and Dean of Students*

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

Processional*

Pomp and Circumstance - Edward Elgar, Arr. by Clare Grundman

Faculty Senate President: Dr. Derek Catsam

Mace Bearer: Dr. Kara Rosenblatt

Faculty Marshals: Dr. Michael Frawley and Dr. Yolanda Salgado

Student Marshals: Dr. Milka Montes, Dr. Maria Avalos, Dr. Evelyn Gordon, and Dr. R. Wayne Counts

National Anthem

The Star-Spangled Banner

Welcome and Remarks

Dr. Sandra K. Woodley, *President*

Presentation of Degree Candidates

Dr. Raj Dakshinamurthy - Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Interim

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Sandra K. Woodley

Awarding of Diplomas

Dr. Sandra K. Woodley

Readers

Dr. Joe Sanders, *Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and University Registrar*

Recessional*

**Please remain seated for the Processional and Recessional, and remain seated until all graduates exit the hall.*

Graduation Photos

Gradimages is the official photographer for UT Permian Basin Commencement. Pictures can be ordered online, by phone, or by mail.

Visit www.gradimages.com or call 1-800-261-2576. Proofs will be sent to your home address and email within three to five days after graduation.

Candidates for the
MASTER'S DEGREE
College of Arts and Sciences

Master of Arts

ENGLISH

Clayton Joseph Baumgartner
Prescott, AZ

Lisette Gabrielle St. Michele
Bartow, FL

Kathryn Suzanne Treybal
Simpsonville, SC
Thesis: "Steven Spielberg: The Cultural Feminist."

PSYCHOLOGY

Mackenzie Paige Vaught
Midland, TX
Thesis: "Resilience After Lock Up: Measuring the Effects of Dehumanizing Attitudes in Formerly Incarcerated Populations."

Master of Public Administration

Vanessa LaVelle Burnette
Pflugerville, TX

Elizabeth Champagne
Richardson, TX

Candidates for the
MASTER'S DEGREE
College of Business

Master of Business Administration

Federico Acevedo
Big Lake, TX

Abdulkareem Mohammed Aldossary
Dammam, Saudi Arabia

Abrar Mutlaq A. Alotaibi
Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia

Srinivas Reddi Busireddy
Round Rock, TX

Sarai Conner
Austin, TX

Maria Guadalupe Prieto
Odessa, TX

Francisco Jose Rodriguez
Crosbyton, TX

Jason Erik Sarate
Socorro, TX

David Drew Sharpe
Graham, NC

Lauree Stober
Semmes, AL

Robert W. White
Odessa, TX

Trusty Xiong
San Diego, CA

Master of Science

BIOLOGY

Sarah Bernadette Adkins
Midland, TX
Thesis: "Monitoring Air Quality in the Permian Basin during COVID-19 and the West Texas Drought."

Ariel Antonio Castanon Drack
Santiago, Chile

Martin J. Contreras
Midland, TX

Rebecca Deanda
Odessa, TX

Kylie Alexandria Dennis
San Antonio, TX

Michael David Duke
Logan, UT

Aracely Ivonne Escarcega
Kermit, TX

Jennifer Nneka Ihuoma
Lagos, Nigeria
Thesis: "Inhibition of Biofilm Formation in Marine Bacteria Isolates Using Synthetic Halogenated Furanes."

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION

Suzanne Coleman
Bryan, TX

John Jaimerena
San Bruno, CA

GEOLOGY

Karla Alejandra Davila Medina
Dallas, TX

Giovanni J. Espino
Odessa, TX

Shawn Farzad
Alpharetta, GA

Aaron Patrick Fields
Fort Worth, TX

Kelsey Leigh Flores
San Antonio, TX

Robert Lee Garcia
Odessa, TX

Zhilbert Gharabeglou
Redondo Beach, CA

Candidates for the
MASTER'S DEGREE
College of Business

Matthew R. Gomez
Kyle, TX

Jesus Gerardo Gutierrez, Jr.
Eagle Pass, TX

Angela Elise Haas
Odessa, TX

Sean Owen Harvey
Clifton, TX

Vanessa Ortiz Hinojos
Odessa, TX

John Kenneth Hubbell
Bellaire, TX

Shawn Jackson, Jr.
Houston, TX

Andrew James Lautermilch
Lockport, IL

Wesley Brandon Leal
Odessa, TX

Marcia Catheryn Leigh
Austin, TX

Michael Darby Lock
Dallas, TX

Mark Angelo Gabiola Mallari
Elgin, IL

Michael Jason Bongcaras Musong
Seminole, TX

Shadrack Ofori-Boadi
Midland, TX

Brooke Dejon Patterson
Odessa, TX

Jermaine Duan Perkins
Iowa Colony, TX

Madison Noel Pitchford
Midland, TX

Temoteo Rulloda
Nepean, Canada

Celeste Garcia Salazar
Midland, TX

Mica Sanchez
Midland, TX

Saurav Sarker
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Ashley St. Pierre
Midland, TX

Afnan Syed
Tyler, TX

Yusuf Asgarbhai Tabha
Coppell, TX

Molly Tang
Mill Valley, CA

Chris Eugene Tovar
Odessa, TX

Scott Yancy, III
Saint Cloud, FL

Alexey Zelepukin
Midland, TX

Jonathan Zeno
Tomball, TX

Master of Professional Accountancy

Melissa Carrasco
Odessa, TX

Mohsin Gilani
Lavon, TX

Lisa Jones
San Antonio, TX

Michelle Rincon
Odessa, TX

Varun Saran
Odessa, TX

Candidates for the
MASTER'S DEGREE
College of Education

Master of Arts

BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Elizabeth Munoz
Mesquite, TX

Leslie Ann Ray
Fort Worth, TX

COUNSELING

Thomas Martin Hudson
Midland, TX

EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Sara Jane Lopez Agdipa
Odessa, TX

Crystal Dearman
Midland, TX

Betzabe Gemima Encinas
Midland, TX

Gregory Llanez
Andrews, TX

Rashmi Shankar
Houston, TX

LITERACY

Leslene Medina Anderson
Odessa, TX

Nicole J. Clowson
Odessa, TX

Victoria Martinez Hatfield
Odessa, TX

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Cameron Sage Chick
Midland, TX

Sylvia R. Olivas
Odessa, TX

Candidates for the
MASTER'S DEGREE
College of Education

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Christopher L. Barfield
McKinney, TX

Mallory Jade Clair
Harleysville, PA

Linda Kay Diamond
Morganton, NC

Gloria Anna Gamez
Levelland, TX

Adam Jared Huelsman
Alexandria, KY

Laurin May Kennedy
Lakeway, TX

Pavla Kuklova
Blacksburg, VA

Sarah Alina Murphy-Griffie
Hampden, MA

Roy Winston Nuckolls
Roswell, GA

Jan Nicole Pruden
Captain Cook, HI

Anne Smith
Springfield, OH

Candidates for the
MASTER'S DEGREE
College of Health Science and Human Performance

Master of Science

EXERCISE SCIENCE

Rachael Blankenship
Oologah, OK

Robert Michael Deheck
Kingwood, TX

Elizabeth Frances Swenton
Odessa, TX

Candidates for the
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
College of Arts and Sciences

**BACHELOR OF
ARTS**

ART

Rachel Dalay Rey*
Odessa, TX

**Christopher Michael Hjalmer
Setzler**
Midland, TX

COMMUNICATION

Jasmine Nicole Barker*
Tulsa, OK

Kaytlyn Lorenza Dean*
Amarillo, TX

Divya Suresh Gadasalli
Plano, TX

Esmeralda Annette Lares
Laredo, TX

Luna Alejandra Lozano
Midland, TX

Maribel Josefina Ortiz*
Universal City, TX

Chandra Chayenne Reed
Taylor, TX

Pamela E.B. Villegas
Midland, TX

CRIMINOLOGY

Katerina Lynn Jankowski
Odessa, TX

Crystal Gabrielle Rios
Big Spring, TX

Joseph Williams
Long Beach, CA

ENGLISH

Isaac Cesar Calles, Jr.
Ft Worth, TX

J. Raul Lopez, Jr.
Socorro, TX

Aimee Elisabeth Stratton*
Midland, TX

**Makenna Brianna Elizabeth*
Wilson**
Midland, TX

HISTORY

Brenden Baker
Seminole, TX

Michael Craig Graves
Midland, TX

Candidates for the
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
College of Arts and Sciences

Genesis N. Martinez Morales
Odessa, TX

HUMANITIES

Lia Marie Witt*
Houston, TX

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Jessica Lewis
Houston, TX

Maxwell Hunter Schmidt
Tustin, CA

Aaron Duane Shipman
Odessa, TX

PSYCHOLOGY

Marissa Ann Baeza*
Odessa, TX

Deidre' LaShell Birdsong
Clarksville, TX

Karina Cortinas- Valles
Odessa, TX

Ana Gabrielle Agleham Dayrit
Missouri City, TX

Terra Lashelle Dickerson*
Arlington, TX

Kedajiah Tawana Evans*
Midland, TX

Abigail Caroline Galliton
Abilene, TX

Carleigh Sierra Garza*
San Antonio, TX

Sirre Kay Geppert*
Byers, TX

**D'Ondre Anthony-O'Neil
Hart-Robinson**
Orange, NJ

Yeslie Marie Hernandez Ayala
Odessa, TX

Sabrina Kaye Highfield
Austin, TX

Katherine Lorraine James*
Lantana, TX

Whitney James
Kyle, TX

Melissa S. Knox
Irving, TX

Catherine Elizabeth Kuhn
Odessa, TX

Cecilia Verdía Lupercio
Crane, TX

Briana Martinez*
El Paso, TX

Aryana Ylise McConico
Killeen, TX

Corey Gene McVeay*
Odessa, TX

Ashley Kay Pagitt*
El Paso, TX

Morgan Alana Pounds
Montgomery, TX

Megan Lynn Robertson
Harker Heights, TX

Alex Sanchez*
Odessa, TX

Prina Erica Sosa*
Midland, TX

Shanna D. Spivey*
Temple, TX

Jessica Renée Van Zandt
Lubbock, TX

SOCIOLOGY

Victoria Garza-Keller*
Midland, TX

Nolvia Gisell Guadron
San Antonio, TX

Manuel Olivo, Jr.
San Antonio, TX

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

BIOLOGY

**Cristian Adonay Aragon
Cardonell***
Odessa, TX

Sarai Badillo*
Odessa, TX

Britton Jones
Odessa, TX

Chelsea Johanna Rodriguez
Houston, TX

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Gabriel Kyle Manalastas*
Odessa, TX

Kevin Mayowa Olatunde
Victoria Island Lagos, Nigeria

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Stevie Renee Burtchell
Fort Collins, CO

Leslie Echeverria*
El Paso, TX

Ruth Ana Garcia
Big Spring, TX

Katelynn Marie King
Odessa, TX

Addyson Claire McPherson*
Midland, TX

Rocky Ramirez, Jr.*
Big Spring, TX

Alex Smallwood*
Kempner, TX

CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STUDIES

Matthew Charles Kessler, Jr.
Odessa, TX

RyLee Marie Macrander
Sierra Blanca, TX

Caleb Isaac Talavera
Odessa, TX

GEOLOGY

Fabiola Peña
Houston, TX

Candidates for the
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
College of Business

**Bachelor of
Applied Arts
and Sciences**

Zeeshan Syed Ali
Odessa, TX

Brad Arran La Frenz
Baytown, TX

Jose Luis Perez
Odessa, TX

**Bachelor of
Business
Administration**

ACCOUNTANCY

Sebastian Aguilar
Midland, TX

Nikki Armendarez
Odessa, TX

Emiliano Cardona
El Paso, TX

Zsanette Mitchell*
Odessa, TX

Anaitza Ortiz Sanchez
Midland, TX

**ENERGY LAND
MANAGEMENT**

Michael Reid Moore*
Midland, TX

Candidates for the
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
College of Education

Bachelor of Art

**CHILD AND FAMILY
STUDIES**

Rebekah Lin Bermudez
Odessa, TX

Heather Lynn Boiles*
Denver City, TX

FINANCE

Andrew Jared Donovan
Phoenix, AZ

Griselda Guerrero Rodriguez
Odessa, TX

Kathy Ann Yorkman
Midland, TX

MANAGEMENT

Noemi Chavez
Odessa, TX

Wyatt Lee Evans
Gardendale, TX

Myra Lee Felder
Austin, TX

Jessica A. Garcia
Midland, TX

Alejandra Hernandez
Midland, TX

Dane Austin Madrid
Odessa, TX

Dawson Keith Reynolds
Odessa, TX

Anthony Jon Rodriguez*
Midland, TX

Autumn Kaylea Vasquez
Midland, TX

Shawna Marie Villanueva
San Antonio, TX

MARKETING

Alejandra Armendariz*
Presidio, TX

Taurie Austyne Magee
Altadena, CA

Valeria Valenzuela
Odessa, TX

**Bachelor of
Science**

**INDUSTRIAL
TECHNOLOGY**

Jack Anthony Delfeld
Dallas, TX

Cooper A. Nance
Arlington, TX

Don Ramstead
Lake Forest, CA

Stephen Bryan Torrez
Abilene, TX

Darren Edward Wolter
Coleman, TX

Serenity Nicole White
Temple, TX

EDUCATION

Idalia Chavez Aranda
Odessa, TX

Elizabeth Anne Holmes
Odessa, TX

Alejandra Marquez
Odessa, TX

Candidates for the
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
College of Engineering

**Bachelor of
Science**

CHEMICAL
ENGINEERING

Nikolas Julian Garcia*
Leander, TX

Jazmin Walls
Big Spring, TX

MECHANICAL
ENGINEERING

Angel Campos
Midland, TX

Helen Holandez
Odessa, TX

Laisha Torres Martinez
Odessa, TX

Franck Didier Mvoula Ambahe
Midland, TX

Paul Zhang
Odessa, TX

Candidates for the
BACHELOR'S DEGREE
Health Science and Human Performance

**Bachelor of
Science**

EXERCISE SCIENCE

Sha-Dorian Tatiyana Me'Kayla
Rand Odessa, TX

Edgar M. Ruvalcaba*
Odessa, TX

**Bachelor of
Science in Nursing**

NURSING

Isabel Viridiana Ortiz*
Midland, TX

Academic Procession

The academic procession is led by the University Marshal, who is the president of the Faculty Senate. The University Marshal bears the original mace of The University of Texas Permian Basin.

The first group, which is also led by two faculty marshals, is composed of the students who are candidates for degrees. The undergraduate students who will receive bachelor's degrees enter first, followed by the graduate students, who have already earned a bachelor's or higher degree and today are receiving their master's degree. The candidates are grouped by degrees and wear academic regalia appropriate to the degree that will be conferred upon them today.

Two other faculty marshals lead the second group. The faculty wear regalia signifying their highest earned academic degree. The third group is comprised of those individuals who will take part in the commencement ceremonies. They are dressed in appropriate academic regalia. The final individual in the academic procession, bearing the second mace, is the chair of the Graduate Council.

The University Maces

The mace traces its roots to the medieval period when it was a weapon used by mounted knights. It has been a symbol of scholarship and integrity for universities since the 11th century. Today, maces are used to indicate the solemnity of the occasion and the confirmation of the academic process. The University of Texas Permian Basin uses two ceremonial maces.

The first mace is carried by the University Marshal. It was designed by the University's first president, B. H. Amstead, and carved by former executive director of development Brig. Gen. H. W. Wise, USMC (Ret.) in 1973. The shaft is constructed primarily of koa wood from the slopes of the Hawaiian volcano Mauna Kea. The flame at the top of the mace is hand carved from West Texas mesquite.

Each of the four sides below the flame is carved. The lone star represents the State of Texas; the pump jack represents the oil industry that has made West Texas and the Permian Basin famous; the lamp symbolizes the quest for knowledge; and the letters UTPB represent the name of the University.

The four sides at the bottom of the mace have the following numbers carved: 1969—the year the legislature of the State of Texas established The University of Texas Permian Basin; 1112—the number of students enrolled for the first semester of classes in Spring 1973; 1974—the year of the first commencement; and 40—the number of degree candidates at the first graduation ceremony.

Originally, UT Permian Basin was established as an upper-level institution. The design of the mace's shaft symbolizes the original upper-level status. The lower two rings of the shaft represent the first two years of college required for admission. The mace's upper part is carved with three rings representing the three years of study originally available at the University: junior and senior years of undergraduate study and graduate studies.

The second ceremonial mace was commissioned in 1994 to recognize the addition of freshman and sophomore classes in 1991. Designed and crafted by William A. Watts, whose former roles include vice president for business affairs, professor of finance, and interim dean of the School of Business, the mace is fashioned of rugged mesquite wood and is carried by the chair of the Graduate Council.

The design is based upon the pentagon that is symbolic for the five student classes and the five points of the Texas star. The handle tapers up to the letters UTPB and supports five classes: freshman; sophomore; junior; senior; and master. Above all is the lone star representing the State of Texas.

Academic Costume and Regalia

The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. With few exceptions, the medieval scholar had taken at least minor orders, made certain vows, and perhaps been tonsured. Long gowns were worn and may have been necessary for warmth in unheated buildings. Hoods seem to have served to cover the tonsured head until superseded for that purpose by the skull cap.

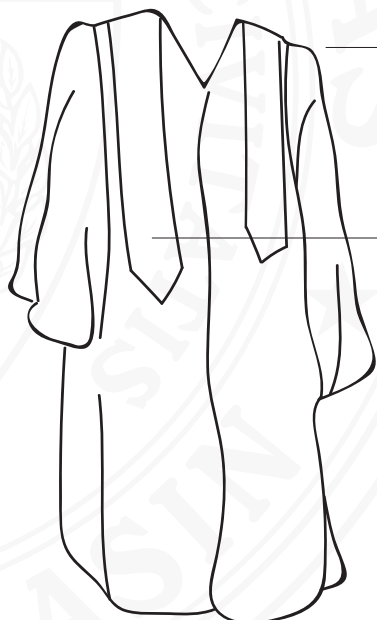
A statute of the University of Coimbra in 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” wear gowns. In England, in the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges forbade “excess in apparel” and prescribed the wearing of a long gown. In the days of Henry VIII of England, Oxford and Cambridge first began prescribing a definite academic dress and made it a matter of university control. The assignment of colors to signify certain faculties was to be a much later development, and one which was to be standardized only in the United States in the late 19th century.

American colleges and universities formed an Intercollegiate Commission made up of representatives of leading institutions to establish a system of academic apparel. The Commission met at Columbia University in 1895 and adopted a code of academic dress that regulated the cut, style, and materials of the gowns as well as prescribed colors which were to represent the different fields of learning.



Cap

Caps or mortarboards are generally recommended to match the gown. A tassel fastened to the middle of the cap should be black or the color appropriate to the area of study. Students begin the commencement ceremony with their tassels on the right and then switch them to the left as a group.



Gown

The gown for the bachelor's degree is typically black and has sleeves that extend to the wrist. The gown for the master's degree is also typically black and has sleeves that partially extend past the fingers with a pocket at the end of the sleeve.

Stoles, Cords, and Hoods

Bachelor's degree candidates wear an orange stole embroidered with the University seal. The stoles of Latin Honors students are embroidered with the words “Latin Honors” opposite the seal. Latin Honors must be receiving their first bachelor's degree, have completed at least 48 hours at UTPB, and have a 3.50 minimum cumulative GPA. Honors are awarded based upon the following scale:

3.50-3.79	Cum Laude
3.80-3.89	Magna Cum Laude
3.90-4.00	Summa Cum Laude

Members of the military and veterans wear a red, white, and blue cord around their necks.

The master's hood, draped over the shoulders and down the back, indicates the subject of the degree and the university that conferred the degree.

CONGRATULATIONS!



UTPB CLASS OF 2023!

Today, you join an extraordinary group of men and women — our Falcon alumni. Commencement honors the hard work and dedication of each graduate, and reaching this milestone is a great achievement. While this day may symbolize the end of one chapter, it also celebrates new opportunities. Your success at UT Permian Basin has laid a strong foundation for a better life for you and your family and, by extension, for our entire community. Congratulations! Here's to your bright future!

DR. SANDRA K. WOODLEY
PRESIDENT OF UT PERMIAN BASIN