

S O U T H E R N

A D V E N T I S T

U N I V E R S I T Y

C O M M E N C E M E N T E V E N T S

A U G U S T 22, 2025

I L E S P H Y S I C A L E D U C A T I O N C E N T E R

C O L L E G E D A L E , T E N N E S S E E



Power for Mind & Soul

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO GRADUATES



Dear Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone in your academic journey. Completing your degree is a significant achievement, and we are proud to celebrate this moment with you and your family.

As you step into the next chapter of your life, whether that be a career, further studies, or new personal opportunities, I invite you to reflect on the words of Colossians 3:23–24:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” (NIV)

This verse is a reminder that your work—whatever form it takes—is not just about making a living or gaining recognition. It is an act of service and worship. When you commit yourself to excellence, integrity, and purpose, you honor Jesus, who has called and equipped you for a life of meaning and impact.

As a graduate of Southern Adventist University, you leave with an academic degree rooted in faith, service, and calling. You are uniquely positioned to influence your community and your profession with Christ-centered values and a spirit of humility and compassion.

May you approach each new responsibility with dedication, viewing every task as an opportunity to reflect God's character and love while remembering that in serving others, you are serving Christ.

On behalf of the entire Southern family, I extend our warmest congratulations and blessings on your journey ahead.

Sincerely,



Ken Shaw, EdD
President

SERVICES ON THE WEB



Commencement services can be viewed live online by visiting southern.edu/streaming.

Please silence all electronic devices during programs.

Please do not use airhorns or other noisemakers as they can be harmful and painful to those of our guests with hearing devices.

COMMENCEMENT

Friday, August 22, 2025, 10 a.m.



Processional.....	<i>Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1</i>	Sir Edward Elgar
Invocation.....	.....	Adam Bellis, MSW graduate
Welcome .....	.....	Evangeline Bussanmas, BS graduate
Introduction of Speaker.....	.....	Ken Shaw, EdD President
Commencement Address.....	.....	Ron Halvorsen, Jr, DMin Senior Pastor, Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists
Conferring of Degrees .....	.....	Ken Shaw, EdD President
Presentation of Degree Candidates .....	.....	Robert Young, PhD Senior Vice President for Academic Administration Dionne Felix, PhD Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Student Success and Retention Corjena Cheung, PhD Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies Karon Powell, JD Director of Records and Advisement
Alumni Association Welcome .....	.....	Cheryl Torres, BA Alumni Council Representative, Class of 2017
Benediction.....	.....	Karl Moise, MMin graduate
Recessional.....	<i>Rondeau</i>	Jean-Joseph Mouret

Music Coordinator: Ken Parsons, MMus, School of Music Associate Professor
Grand Marshal: Andrew Richards, PhD, University Senate Past Chair, School of Nursing Professor

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROJECTS



Adriana Cornejo	<i>Uplifting Youth: An Adolescent Mental Health Promotion Intervention</i>
Angela Hill	<i>Structured and Guided Peer Mentoring: An Intervention to Increase Student Satisfaction and Confidence in Undergraduate Nursing Programs</i>
Kyusun Lee	<i>Medication Reconciliation Quality Improvement in Korean Community Primary Care Office</i>
Zary Vargas	<i>Is Your Plate Full? A Nutritional Workshop for an SDA Hispanic Community</i>
Lyndsay Wright	<i>Integrating Lifestyle Medicine into Undergraduate Nursing Education</i>

ACADEMIC REGALIA



The color of velvet trim on each hood represents the area of study. The color of the silk lining represents the university that conferred the degree. The color of the tassel represents the degree of the undergraduate.

Arts, Humanities, Interdisciplinary, Letters..... White	Nursing..... Apricot
Business Drab	Outdoor Leadership Russet
Communication Crimson	Physical Education..... Sage Green
Education Light Blue	Physical Therapy Teal
Engineering Orange	Public Administration, Foreign Service..... Peacock
Fine Arts Brown	Science..... Golden Yellow
Law Purple	Social Work Citron
Music..... Pink	Theology Scarlet

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Esmeralda Rochelle Alejo-Alvarado	BA Art
Karissa Lenee' Arnold, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Health and Wellness
Nataly Arredondo Batista	BSN Nursing
Selma Suguey Ayon, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
*Arielle Amio-Ashlee Belgrave	BA Liberal Arts Education [Non-Licensure]
Evangeline Garcia Garagan Bussanmas	BS General Psychology
Ji Lian Firman	BSN Nursing
Julia Marie Ireland Fisher, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Gustavo Andres Gonzalez	BA History
Desire Tuyizere Harelimana	BIS Integrative Studies
Sarah Sarli Hasel, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Amy Renee Ikeda, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Chloe Asfoura Issa, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Apollo Ocampo Jayme, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Medical Laboratory Science
Sarah Consuelo Khodari	BIS Integrative Studies
Giancarlo Andres Leonor, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science; AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]
Anabella Mejia, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Sharmaine Love Tanamal Monreal, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Medical Laboratory Science
Andie Lynn Nelson	BSN Nursing
Yejun Oh, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Medical Laboratory Science
Luke Edward-Lee Perkins, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Sydney Elizabeth Perkins	BS Health Science
Isabella Renteria Manzanilla	BSN Nursing
Cynthia Lynn Tallant	BSN Nursing
Robert Boyd Tishaw	BIS Integrative Studies

ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Aleena Selayh Anderson, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Allied Health [Pre-Dental Hygiene]
Nadia Julia Porras	AS Allied Health [Pre-Physical Therapy]

MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Adam Samuel Bellis	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Camille Blackwood	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Jasmine Tamekah Celeste	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Sierra Paige Dunzweiler	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Christina Faith Ford	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Jihyeon Gong	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Bertina Hibbert	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Kimberly Suzanne Hill	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
John Honoré	MMin Church Leadership and Management
Angelina Marie Jones	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Dawn Ruchelle Kirk	MSN/MBA Health Care Administration
Jacob Dean Krein	MSEd Outdoor Teacher Education
Keisha S. McIntyre-McCullough	MMin Biblical Counseling
Jennifer Medrano	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Karl Lemien Moise	MMin Church Leadership and Management
Katie Lauren Monroe	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Briana Nicole Nicholson	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner

* Teaching Certificate

Jenny E. Pontarelli	MSW Social Work [Crisis/Emergency Management]
Dewana Antinette Posely	MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Andrea Rodriguez	MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Brooke Schutter	MSN Nurse Educator
Sarah Brooke Stollenmaier	MSW Social Work [School Social Work]
Mario Alejandro Valle	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Rachel Elaine Watkins	MSN Acute Care-Adult/Gerontology Nurse Practitioner
David Scott Wendt	MMin Biblical Counseling
Jeremy M. Wojcik	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Adriana L. Cornejo	DNP Lifestyle Medicine
Angela Katherine Hill	DNP Nurse Educator
Kyu Sun Lee	DNP Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Zary Nohemi Vargas	DNP Lifestyle Medicine; Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Lyndsay Wright	DNP Lifestyle Medicine

The Commencement program does not constitute an official list of graduates.

GUEST GRADUATES

EASTERN UNIVERSITY

Alissa Eirich	MBA Organizational Management
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UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE CHATTANOOGA

Ryan Young	MSE Engineering [Electrical]
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HONOR CORDS



- Gold Cord—*Summa Cum Laude*—3.90+ GPA
- Silver Cord—*Magna Cum Laude*—3.75-3.89 GPA
- Green Cord—*Cum Laude*—3.50-3.74 GPA

All other colors represent honors societies in the various academic areas.

S U M M A R Y



UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATES—27
(ONE HAS TWO MAJORS OR DEGREES)

MASTER’S GRADUATES—26
(TWO HAVE DUAL DEGREES OR EMPHASES)

DOCTORAL GRADUATES—5
(one HAS DUAL DEGREES OR EMPHASES)

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH
BACCALAUREATE DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED

Adult Degree Completion	4	Health and Kinesiology	1
Biology and Allied Health.....	3	History and Political Science	1
Business	1	Nursing.....	11
Education, Psychology, and Counseling		Visual Art and Design.....	1
Education	1		

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH
ASSOCIATE DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED

Biology and Allied Health.....	3
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SCHOOLS WITH
MASTER’S DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED

Business	1	Nursing.....	9
Education, Psychology, and Counseling		Religion.....	4
Education	1	Social Work	13

DOCTORAL DEGREES TO BE CONFERRED

Nursing.....	6
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THE MACE



The mace is a traditional symbol used to communicate and designate authority. The Southern Adventist University mace was crafted in 1986 by John Durichek, a Southern alum. Southern's mace represents its heritage and *raison d'être* (reason for existence). The base is of pine from Jones Hall, built in 1917 and razed in 1985. The main staff is of walnut. The seven rings represent completeness. The four-sided ebony segment is seen as Southern's underlying educational philosophy—balanced mental, spiritual, physical, and social development for each student. The brass flames represent the Holy Spirit.

Bearing the mace is the grand marshal, Andrew Richards, past chair of the University Senate and professor in the School of Nursing. His regalia is evergreen, the university's traditional color.

SPECIAL THANKS



Academic Administration
Advancement
Alumni Relations
Audio Visual
Blluum Floral and Event Design
(stage flowers)
Campus Safety
Collegedale Police Department
College Press
Energy Management

Financial Administration
First Lady Ann Shaw (stage decor)
Food Services
Graduate and Professional Studies
Marketing and University Relations
President's Office
Quick Print
Records and Advisement
School of Music
Service Department

We extend our gratitude especially to parents, fellow students, and guests.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING WEEKEND



October 23-26, 2025

We are excited to invite you back to Southern Adventist University for a weekend of reminiscing, reconnecting, and celebrating. This fall, join fellow alumni from near and far to relive your favorite memories, enjoy beloved Homecoming traditions, and experience exciting new events!

Mark your calendars for Homecoming Weekend 2025.

Learn more and register at southern.edu/homecoming.

On behalf of the Alumni Association, congratulations to our newest alumni, the Class of 2025!