



75TH COMMENCEMENT

CLASS OF 2025

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

MACE BEARER

Zi Yan, Ph.D.

Associate Dean, School Nursing and Health Sciences

CROSS BEARER

Sarah Dionne

Dean of Students

THE GRADUATES

Led by Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Vice President for Mission and Ministry

GRADUATE STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

THE FACULTY

THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY

Academic Deans

Honorary Degree Recipient and Distinguished Speaker

Board of Trustees

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

President

The audience is requested to stand if they are able during the Academic Procession, Invocation and National Anthem, and to remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves at the end of the exercises.

PROGRAM

PRESIDING

John “Sean” Condon, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost*

PROCESSIONAL

The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

INVOCATION

Kevin J. Lucey '89, P'24
Chair, Merrimack College Board of Trustees

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Audrey McGill '25 Accompanied by
The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

WELCOME

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

A MESSAGE FROM MERRIMACK STUDENT LEADERS

Jandy Hernandez '25
Jillian Atwood M'25

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENT

Carol Curtin, Ph.D.
Professor Emerita, University of Massachusetts

AWARDS

Edward G. Roddy, Jr. Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award

Presented by John “Sean” Condon, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost*

2025 Merrimack Medal

Sarah Dionne
Dean of Students

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

CLOSING REMARKS

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.
President

BENEDICTION

Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.
Vice President for Mission and Ministry

CLOSING OF THE EXERCISES

John “Sean” Condon, Ph.D.
*Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs
and Provost*

RECESSIONAL

Merrimack Anthem

Audrey McGill '25 Accompanied by
The Portsmouth Brass Quintet

SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES

MASTER'S DEGREE IN COURSE

Valentina Accardo	Madison Cote	Cody Matachun
Joshua Addo	Crislauris Cruz	Maggie McKeon
Natalia Arcos Rivera	Brianna Damske	Kaitlyn McNiff
Jayden Arruda	Leo Desrochers	Kristopher Mekal
Ryan Austin	Xavier Dones	Christian Meneide
Cassidy Avenick	Ashley Doyle	Rasmus Metsola
Sydney Babb	Jenna Durgin	Lillian Morgan
Farideh Bahlouli	Valerie Eckenroth	Sena Morimoto
Rhea Banthia	John Elie	Celina Nadeau
Madison Barber	Sophia Emond	Kendall Nemish
Daniel Bardgett	Camryn Fedeli	John O'Neill
Ryan Becker	David Fielding	Shelby Peterson
Jenna Bednarz	Anthony Fortuna	Jane Pfeufer
Casey Belden	Erica Frazier	Conor Pierce
Rachel Bjorgan	Mark Gallant	Jacqueline Pinney
Jake Blaisdell	Kyra Galonek	Rece Poulin
Daniel Blatman	Nicole Galvin	Nathan Quao
Akiva Bluh	Rebecca Gersbeck	Michelle Ramirez
Amanda Blume	Vangjel Gjergo	Sara Reder
Lillian Bodington	Gabriela Goldwasser	Dorothy Reil
Brooke Bolduc	Garrett Grill	Jessica Reis
Zachary Bonnell	Carla Guirguis	Jordan Restivo
Jonathan Borg	Patrick-Henry Hanlon	Sidney Restivo
Carla Bouchrouche	Emma Heath	Madison Sanborn
Maria Boyle	Ethan Herman	Crystal Sanderson
Avery Brillo	Kevin Hernandez	Laura Saunders
Jessica Brophy	Elizabeth Hoffman	Catherine Schultz
Weiyi Bu	Jacob Hyjek	Makenzie Schussler
Brooke Caplinger	Alana Johnson	Scott Schwartz
Madison Cardaci	Lindsay Joyal	Matteo Sementa
Anna Carey	Brandon Kierce	Livia Serak
Jesica Carvajal	Carson Kindred	Sabrina Smith
Jacqueline Case	Allyson Kirck	Joshua Survis
Alexander Cassell	Shannon Labuza	John Sweeney
Kara Cecchini	Alex Lacerda	Kayli Tobin
Katherine Chagnon	Allie Lahiff	Christopher Vitullo
Benjamin Chase	Caleb Lambert	Francis Walker
Caroline Clark	Ava Lankowski	Ashley Wargo
Kelsey Clark	Abigail Lehman	Kati Whitcomb
Nicole Cofer	Emma Letarte	Nico Wilbur
Ahmad Coleman	Katrina Lewis	Jacob Williams
Emily Collins	Patrick Long	Anthony Witherstone
Shannon Connolly	Dominic Lopez	Stephen Woods
Koby Conz	Jaimie Lyons	Alexander Zapata

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN COURSE

Amanda Acorroni	Landon Crowley	Camila Hernandez
Logan Akau	Leslie Cruz	Inaya Hernandez
Benjamin Allen	Anya Cunningham	Anne Hogenboom
Rachael Alvarez	Beatriz Dacosta	Sarah Holstein
Connor Anderson	Gianna DaSilva	Kylie Hooton
Emily Angelari	Rileigh Davenport	Mia Houle
Aryanna Anthony	Taylor Dearth	Abigail Hugger
Sara Augusta	Angela DeFeo	Makayla Hutchinson
Erica Bain	Justin Dehbi	Cody Huynh
Aidan Barrett	Madison Dellamonica	Nicholas Imonti
Makenna Barrows	Michaela DeLuca	Jessica Jalbert
Lillian Beal	Jessica Deschenes	Jessica Jasie
Olivia Beaudet	Drew Desing	Christian Jette
Janet Bechakian	Sydney Devine	William Joergensen
Riley Becker	Lauren DiDonato	Alexandra Karellas
Joseph Berry	Ava DiRienzo	Anna Keays
Cera Bettencourt	Haley Dotolo	Florian Keiper
Veda Bingel	Allison Dove	Kara Keller
Tara Blackburn	Emily Dussault	Owen Kelly
April Boulos	Lindy-Ann Erikson	Maia Kennelly
Gianna Bourassa	Jamie Fernandez	Olivia Kickham
Erin Bouthiller	Thomas Fisher	Malia Kirk
Stephanie Boyle	Emma Ford	Erin Knight
Melanie Brady	Brianna Foreman	Catherine Kubit
Abigail Burchfield	Angel Frankel	Sara L'Heureux
Hailey Cameron	Claudia Gallegos	Allison Lamphere
Darcy Campbell	Lucas Gammal	Paige Landry
Jack Carmody	Melanie Garcia	Sophia Landry
Timothy Cashman	Sarah Garcia-Osorio	Alexis Lanning
Michael Castracane	Carter Gauthier	Ethan Larson
Makayla Champagne	Hayley Gentry-Kowal	Kathryn Ledoux
Ellen Church	Brynn Geraghty	Amanda Leinas
Leya Chute	Madeline Giesler	John Leyva
Olivia Cifardoni	Madalynn Gilpin	Mckenzie Lloyd
Amanda Cincotti	Skylar Girard	Jennifer Loalbo
Ryan Cole	Brooke Gobbi	Christina Lombardi
Kylie Colella	Ross Gordon	Jack Lombardi
Marianna Collins	Caroline Gorman	Robert Loper
Jason Compoh	Molly Guillet	Kyla Lopez
Sydney Connolly	Emily Haley	Tyler Lovendale
Madeleine Conte	Jamie Hayes	Ava Lucas
Ryan Cossette	Emma Hefty	Alexa Luth
Kassidy Cousineau	Colin Heilmann	Taryn Lynch

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN COURSE Continued

Alyssa Marchelletta	McKenna Perry	Brooke Vincent
Victoria Mariano	Marissa Petrillo	Meghan Viveiros
Brooke Martin	Annika Petrov	Molly Wahl
Rachel Mathes	Hannah Phillips	Lindsey Ward
Laurn Mattiucci	Tracie Pinkham	Emily Watson
Ava Mazzotta	Savannah Poirier	Hannah Way
Cullen McCadden	Taylor Pollard	Aidyn Welsh
Mallory McCarthy	Mia Prendergast	Brooke Wertz
Kelsie McCulloch	Sarah Quaranto	Ava Whiteside
Teagan McDonald	Abigail Querzoli	Myles Wilson
Mae McDuffie	Kyra Randazzo	Jessica Witt
Eric McGovern	Madison Rankin	John Wizboski
Danielle McKerracher	Rebecca Rau	Angelina Zaykovskaya
Catia Melo	Morgan Reid	Isabella Zullo
Samantha Mercauto	Briana Reissfelder	
Bryn Miller	Karlene Rhuda	
Chelsea Miller	Genesis Rodriguez	
Donna Miller	Iris Russell	
Lydia Molettieri	Milana Russo	
Ambrosia Moore	Madison Scaccia	
Lillian Morgan	Anthony Scavotto	
Sarah Moroney	Ana Maria Serratos Vela	
Sarah Mullen	Delaney Shaw	
Kelley Munger	Alexa Silverberg	
Meghan Mungovan	Gabriella Sohn	
Kendall Nangle	Haley-mae Sorell	
Alexi Nardello	Harry Sorell	
Dylan O'Connell	Giulia Sousa	
Grace O'Malley	Madison Speckman	
Ashley O'Rourke	Nicholas Spinale	
Evelyn Ocegueda	Alexis Stec	
Olivia Orem	Olivia Stefanik	
Julia Ostermann	Kaitlyn Stewart	
Julia Ostrowski	Juliana Stornaielo	
Dominique Pabon	Caroline Stott	
Marissa Pacheco	Jasmine Syriac	
Salvatore Paci	Hannah Tenenbaum	
Nathan Palanica	Lilija Thomas	
Parker Paradice	William Thomson	
Emma Patch	Isabella Trepanier	
Erica Pecjo	Marleny Urena	
Tatiana Pena	Dominick Valkenburg	

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS AND DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER

CAROL CURTIN, PH.D.

Professor Emerita, University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School

Doctor of Public Health

Carol Curtin, Ph.D., LICSW, is a Professor Emerita in the Departments of Family Medicine & Community Health and Psychiatry and the Morningside Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at the UMass Chan Medical School.

Her primary affiliation is with the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Center at the medical school. She also maintains a faculty appointment at the Moakley Center for Public Management at Suffolk University.

Dr. Curtin has over 40 years of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and psychiatric disorders and their families in a variety of settings and using a variety of clinical modalities. Originally trained as a clinical social worker, she has worked and directed programs in clinical, academic and research settings.

For over 10 years, she was the Director and Principal Investigator of the Bureau of Maternal Child Health-funded Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities (LEND) program, which provides graduate-level interdisciplinary training to improve the health of children and youth with developmental disabilities. The LEND program prepares trainees from diverse professional backgrounds to assume leadership roles in their respective fields, to serve as agents of systems change and to deliver high-quality, evidence-based interdisciplinary services.

Dr. Curtin's research has focused on health promotion with an emphasis on identifying unique modifiable risk factors for elevated weight in populations of children and adults with disabilities and devising tailored interventions to meet their needs. She has served as PI or Co-Investigator on numerous private and federally-funded projects that have included epidemiological studies on the prevalence of elevated weight in disabled populations, weight loss and physical activity interventions for adolescents with intellectual disabilities and autism, and observational studies on physical activity, dietary patterns and parenting practices in children with a variety of intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Dr. Curtin is the sibling and aunt of several beloved neurodivergent adults who have inspired her career and enriched her life.

She earned her doctorate from UMass Chan Medical School, her master's from Boston University and her bachelor's from Trinity College.

DIPLOMA TRANSLATION

The translation of the Merrimack College diploma from Latin to English is as follows:

Merrimack College

To all reading this document

Greetings in the Lord

The President, Faculty and Trustees of Merrimack College

by virtue of properly completing required studies on the recommendation of the faculty

and by the authority vested in us

by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts confer on

name of student

the degree of

name of degree

and grant freely all rights, privileges and honors pertaining to that degree.

In witness thereof we place the seal of the College.

Given in North Andover in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

date of degree

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Kevin J. Lucey '89, P'24 *Chair*

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., *President*

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Marybeth McInnis, Esq. H'17, *Vice Chair*

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Caitlyn M. Bosworth, Esq., *Assistant Secretary*

Rev. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A., *Ex Officio*

Alfred Arcidi, Jr. '84, P'06, P'18, MP'17, H'21, GP'23

Michael P. Arcidi '85

John (Jack) T. Boyce '81, H'23

Bruce A. Bouchard '79

Matthew Carpenter-Dennis, Esq.

Joanne Caruso Bentley '81

Peter J. Caulo '83

Lynne Ann Chase '90, P'23

Rev. Kevin M. DePrinzio, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Francis "Ken" Duane '80, H'16

Michael J. Franco, Esq. '81, P'12

Rev. Francis J. Horn, O.S.A., J.C.D.

Dennis J. Leonard '77

Paul L. Mucci P'07

Rev. Arthur P. Purcaro, O.S.A.

Kevin R. Rhodes '91

Kevin J. Routhier '99

James E. Scammon '83

Patrick J. Sullivan

ABOUT MERRIMACK COLLEGE

One of only two Catholic Augustinian colleges in the U.S., Merrimack College is a coeducational institution with more than 4,600 undergraduate, continuing education and graduate students from 43 states and 42 countries, comprising schools of liberal arts, science and engineering, health sciences, education and social policy, and business. The college's 220-acre campus is approximately 25 miles north of Boston in North Andover and Andover, Mass. Merrimack is a Master's Colleges & Universities/Medium Programs institution in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

MISSION AND VISION

OUR MISSION IS TO ENLIGHTEN MINDS, ENGAGE HEARTS, AND EMPOWER LIVES.

Inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition of seeking truth through inquiry and dialogue, our vision is to

- Prepare students to adapt creatively to tomorrow's realities through excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and the professions;
- Build a community of scholars welcoming and respecting a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives;
- Cultivate the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and personal awareness needed to make wise choices for life, career, and service;
- Encourage and support scholarly work that contributes to the wisdom on which society bases its decisions;
- Engage other educational institutions, industry, and agencies of social change in collaborative efforts fostering a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

THE SEAL OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Drawing on our rich history, the modern shield of Merrimack College reinterprets elements from the original 1947 college seal.

The shield includes four quadrants:

- The book with the words “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”), the famous words connected with the conversion of Saint Augustine to Catholicism, proclaiming the College’s founding by the Order of Saint Augustine.
- Wavy pallets, to represent the “swift water” of the Merrimack Valley’s original Native Americans.
- The cross fleurette, from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston, in which Merrimack College is located. The cross fleurette refers to the French ancestry of Bishop Cheverus, the first Bishop of Boston (1810–1823).
- The symbolism of our colors: blue for loyalty (and the cold, rippling waters of the Merrimack River) and gold for wisdom (also the color of the papacy).



THE CEREMONIAL MACE

The mace carried in academic processions derives from medieval times in England when an official was taking office. At that time, the mace was a formidable weapon and was held ready by the mace bearer to protect the dignitary. From the sixteenth century in England and since colonial days in America, the mace has become a symbol of academic office and is carried by a distinguished member of the faculty.

The Merrimack College mace has a young history. It was fashioned for the 1986 Commencement by Cistercian Monks of the Holy Rood Guild at Saint Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The monks are renowned craftsmen and designers of ecclesiastical vesture.

The Merrimack College mace is thirty-six inches long and is made of black walnut. The front of the mace carries the College's hand-painted, gold-leafed seal. From the intricate coat of arms of the Order of Saint Augustine, the back of the mace is hand carved with an open book symbolizing the conversion of Augustine. On the left hand side of the book is a tongue of flame above a heart pierced with "the burning love of God." An elegantly simple cross adorns the top of the mace.

Since 1986, the Merrimack College mace has been carried by the Chief Marshal at Commencement.

THE CEREMONIAL CROSS

The processional cross is expressive of the Augustinian longing for unity of our minds and hearts in God. It was designed by the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns at the Monastery of Our Holy Savior In Leccetto, Tuscany, Italy. Small replicas of this cross are given to Merrimack students engaged in service to others through Service Learning and the Alternative Break Programs as well as to those who participate in MORE, the Pellegrinaggio en Italia, and other programs that foster self-awareness and spiritual growth.

REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie in fourteenth century England. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were often cold and damp; long gowns (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion.

The distinctive gown set the student apart from his fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costume for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee's prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown, and hood, it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree—bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor's or master's degree, gold for a doctor's degree or the governing officers of educational institutions.

The gown is normally black, and the gown's cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor's has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor's sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well. The hood tells the most about its wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college. The color of the hood's binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted. Students also wear other regalia, including cords signifying academic honors and stoles representing countries they studied in during their academic career.

At formal academic occasions, the President of Merrimack College also wears the Presidential Medal which incorporates the College seal.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE ANTHEM

Michael J. Rossi, Ph.D.
Rev. Joseph L. Farrell, O.S.A.
Rev. Scott C. Ness, O.S.A.

Intro. *In unison*

O— Mer-ri-mack, how shall we hon-or you? With
mind and heart a - wa-kened to the truth. We shall build God's ci - ty in our -
selves and in our world, reach-ing out in ser-vice, our hearts a - fire with
love. The— rest-less quest for wis-dom in the com - pa-ny of friends,
calls us ev-er on-ward 'til in God our hearts find rest. Our— guides are faith and
rea - son on a path that yet un - folds, and come we will to wis-dom through
know-ledge formed in love. O— Mer-ri-mack, how shall we hon-or you? With
mind and heart a - wa-kened to the truth. We shall build God's ci - ty in our -
selves and in our world, reach-ing out in ser-vice, our hearts a - fire with love.



MERRIMACK
COLLEGE