

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

COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

DECEMBER 18, 2025



ILES PHYSICAL EDUCATION CENTER
COLLEGEDALE, TENNESSEE



Power for Mind & Soul

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E T O G R A D U A T E S



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

S E R V I C E S O N T H E W E B



Visit southern.edu/streaming to view Commencement services online.

Please silence all electronic devices during programs.

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

C O M M E N C E M E N T

Thursday, December 18, 2025, 7 p.m.

Processional.....	<i>Pomp and Circumstance Marches Nos. 1 and 4.....</i>	Sir Edward Elgar
Invocation.....		Katherine Ashlock, BSW graduate
Welcome		Deja Walker, MS graduate
Introduction of Speaker		Cole Gentry, BS graduate
Commencement Address.....	“Traveling Through Clouds”	Michael Gentry, MBA Chief Executive Officer, Kettering Health
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.....		Maurice Howell, MMin graduate
Recessional.....	<i>Rondeau</i>	Jean-Joseph Mouret

Brass Ensemble Conductor: Ken Parsons, MMus, School of Music Associate Professor

Faculty Assistants: Candy Dolcy, MA, School of Social Work Assistant Professor
Jaclynn Huse, PhD, School of Nursing Professor

Grand Marshal: Lisa Kuhlman, MBA, University Senate Chair, School of Business Associate Professor

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE PROJECT



Kayla Mann

The Perceptions and Attitudes of Nurse Educators Regarding Electroconvulsive Therapy

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

Maroon and Navy Blue—Student Missions

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

PHILANTHROPY MEDALLION



Graduates are wearing a gold zipper-pull medallion in honor of the alumni, family, and friends who have donated to the class gift this year.

BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Isaac Joaquin Abugan	BSN Nursing
Mikael Andrew Almario.....	BSN Nursing
Kenneth Adrien Alonso, Jr., <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Kelsie Lucía Alonso McCarty.....	BS Business Administration
Jonathan Amarandei	BBA Finance
Aunya Auriana Anderson	BS Health Science
Katherine Leigh Ashlock, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BSW Social Work
Brianna Danae Bell, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Kaylee Lou Benedict, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Robert David Berry, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Theology [Ministerial]
Hannah Grace Biggs, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BA History
Vanisha Yvanna Bonilla-Downs, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BBA Management [International Business]
Joel Paul Brown, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Naiya Janette Brown.....	BS Health Science
Kevin Carrasco.....	BS General Psychology
Ivan Alamag Carreon, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Gabriel David Castro.....	BT Construction Management
Daveiva Bethlehem Chajon-Sanchez.....	BBA Accounting
Leyannah Symone Chambers	BS Kinesiology
Alisha Bhaskara Changala, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science
Dominick Walter Cheers.....	BS Public Relations
Bridget Charlene Childers, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Biology
Ana Maria Cornejo Vallejos, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Amayah Chineal Crisp	BA Psychology
Anthony Lee Daggs, Jr.,.....	BS Kinesiology
Lara Jessica Dyman, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Alissa Jane Flores, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA Journalism
Colin Zachary Fortune, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Jovana Charlize Frans	BBA Finance
Jyle Melham Austero Frias.....	BFA Graphic Design
Tiffany Sarah Fuller, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Samuel Isaac Garcia.....	BS Health Science
Cole Ellsworth Gentry.....	BS Business Administration
Allison Carol Grundy	BS Business Administration
Samuel Alejandro Guerra Arriaza	BA Film Production
Ryan David Guild	BS Business Administration
Leslie Lizeth Gutierrez Perez.....	BS Psychology [Clinical]
Bryce Douglas Haloviak, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Andrew James Harris	BS Outdoor Leadership
Heidy Patricia Hernandez, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Annicka Kristina Hoffman	BSN Nursing
Tracia Manifa Howell, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Bianca Jane Hulett.....	BSN Nursing
Aleena Kelly Hurd, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science
Reinhard Sammy Hutaaruk	BS Health Science
Daryl Nathaniel Illangovan, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Computer Science [Security]
Avana Victoria Taelyn Im, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Jubilee Joyce Jamison, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BA Liberal Arts Education [Non-Licensure]
Owen Davis Kim, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA Biology
Samuel Gregory King, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration

Katerina Alexis Aleksandarovna Kozyarevskaya, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science
Chloe Grace Leal	BS Psychology [Industrial/Organizational]
Jae-Yong Joshua Lee	BA Biology
Naomi Kristina Linder	BS Public Relations
Ignacio Lizarraga, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BBA Finance; AS Accounting
Coby Drew Lowman	BT Construction Management
Noemi Lozano	BS Business Administration
Fabian Eli Lubis, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BBA Finance
Elijah Luis Mafnas, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BFA Animation [Character Animation]
Hubert Maitland	BIS Integrative Studies
Kevin Theo Malagar	BA Theology [Ministerial]
Edith Martin-Cruz, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Lauren Gabrielle Mason	BSN Nursing
Larron Matheson	BS Mass Communication [Media Production]
Christopher James McBrown II	BFA Animation [Motion Design]
Aiden Jeffery McFadden	BBA Finance
Micah Isaiah McFarlane	BS Health Science
Carson Ava Miller	BS Public Relations and Graphic Design
Byron Jose Montenegro	BSN Nursing
Dafni Katherine Montenegro, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Draven Alekzander Montiel	BT Construction Management
Jocelin Morales Gutierrez	BSN Nursing
Genesis Sarai Munoz	BSN Nursing
Josiah Benjamin Myaing, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Macana Narisara Suvichai	BA Psychology
Eden Cosette Ottati, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA International Studies [Spanish]; AS Nursing
Luka Palitang, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Alexander M. Peppard	BSN Nursing
Verona Perrin Harrison	BS Communications
Virginia C. Petersen, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Health and Wellness
Gloriana Angela Phan, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Henrique Costantin Pinho	BA Computer Science [Web Development]
Alexander Daniel Radivojevic	BBA Finance
Mathias Frank Avila Ribeiro, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BBA Management [Management]
Tyler Chase Ritterskamp	BSN Nursing
Emma Laura Rodriguez, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Political Science
Connie Sue Schwark	BS Business Management
Grace Victoria Sikora, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BS Business Administration
Matthew Gordon Smith	BSN Nursing
Sarah Elizabeth Smith	BSN Nursing
Hannah Brooke Spurgeon	BSN Nursing
Aicha Staheli, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
Noelle Suzette Stoner, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BS Health Science
David Da-On Sul, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BA Chemistry
Katryna Gail Camagay Sulit	BSN Nursing
Angela Marie Torrez	BS Communication
Shelly Mae Salak Trinidad	BSN Nursing
Josemy Lizeth Velazquez-Coutino, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Psychology
Ashley Lynn Velbis, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Theology [Ministerial]
*Grant Jay William Velbis	BA English
Bryan Veloz, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BBA Accounting
Sandy Jemina Veloza, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BSN Nursing
*Andrew Logan Wantz, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BA Liberal Arts Education

*Teaching Certificate

Preston Hart Waters, <i>Cum Laude</i>	BBA Marketing
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Whalley, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BBA Accounting
Emily Austen White, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	BS Music [Theory and Literature]
Colette Grace Williams, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	BBA Marketing
Cameron David Zinke	BBA Finance

ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Rovil Vynz Aguillon, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
David Junior Alvarado.....	AS Nursing
Brock McKenney Baer.....	AS Nursing
Benjamin Barrera.....	AA Religion [Bible Instructor]
Brayden Dwight Burns, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Erin Kaylen Campbell.....	AS General Studies
Saray Andrea Castillo-Cruz, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Gavin Daniel Chadwick, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Macy Lane Chant, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Maria Concetta Chiarenza, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Shelby Lynn Clark	AA Religion [Bible Instructor]
Nathan Emilio Cruzado	AS Nursing
Sara Cruzado	AS Nursing
Andy James Cvengros.....	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Camden John Dewind	AS Business Administration
Jonathan David Diaz.....	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Kathryn Chloe Dickson.....	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Samuel John Duenas, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Magie Piilani Freitas	AS Nursing
Joy Miriam Gichile	AS Nursing
Roisbel Hernandez Rodriguez, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Diego Isaiah Jacoby.....	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Kara Elise Janzen, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Ava Rhiann Kennedy, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Zachary Dahl LeClerc.....	AS Nursing
Cing Hau Lun	AS Nursing
Elizabelle Grace Mattox	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Justin Scott McGrady	AS General Studies
Jonathan Antonovich Moats, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Christal Molina.....	AS Allied Health [Pre-Dental Hygiene]
Aleson Tatiana Moralde, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing
Jeziel Joel Perez	AS Business Administration
Julian Rae Tangonan Rada	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Ethan James Reinoehl, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	AS Physical Therapist Assistant
Elizabeth Sue Rivera.....	AS Allied Health [Pre-Speech Language Pathology and Audiology]
Nicollete Chantel Sophia Shyam.....	AS Nursing
Jimmy Douglas Trejo-Hernandez.....	AT Construction
Juliana Brooke Wilmoth, <i>Cum Laude</i>	AS Nursing

MASTER'S DEGREE GRADUATES

Bryan Arvelo-Bonilla.....	MMin Church Leadership and Management
Judy Eva Bartlett.....	MSEd Outdoor Teacher Education
Shane Yale Bedwell.....	MBA Management
Carolina E. Bonilla Sánchez.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Amanda Marie Brennan.....	MSW Social Work [School]
Michel Timothy Briggs.....	MBA Management
Jessica Fine Burnstein.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
*Kaitlyn Mellise Cannon.....	MAT Teaching [Elementary]
Carolyna Jo Depkin.....	MSEd Instructional Leadership
Bonnie H. Drouin.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Shelley Leigh Ealy.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Xenia Patricia Figueroa.....	MBA Marketing Management
Joseph Patrick Pho Galabit.....	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
*Zachary Joseph Gerald Henski.....	MAT Teaching [Secondary]
Dana Brooke Holloway.....	MSW Social Work [Mental Health in Social Work]
Maurice Clarence Howell.....	MMin Biblical Counseling
Daryl Nathaniel Illangovan.....	MS Computer Science
*Betty Ellis James.....	MAT Teaching [Elementary]
*Sonja Gaye Meadows.....	MAT Teaching [Elementary]
Angela Nichole Moody.....	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
Jennisha P. Patel.....	MS Applied Computer Science
Ayinel Morris Roy Patterson.....	MBA Accounting
Ginger Rene' Pratt-Williams.....	MSEd Outdoor Teaching Education
Jayson Rhea.....	MS Applied Computer Science
*Angela Rose-Marie Ronalds.....	MAT Teaching [Secondary]
Andrea Paulina Ross.....	MSN Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
Erika Elizabeth Sanchez.....	MBA Management
Christopher Noel Sealey.....	MMin Evangelism & Ministry
Derrf E. Seitz.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Kacie Laura Shelton.....	MSW Social Work [School]
Sophia Andrea Solér.....	MSEd Literacy Education
Bethany Suzanne Souza.....	MBA Management
Melanie Renee Stokes.....	MSW Social Work [School]
Hannah Elizabeth Storm.....	MS Clinical Mental Health Counseling
Kaylan Cherie Teller.....	MSEd Outdoor Teacher Education
*Oneicia Thomas.....	MAT Teaching [Elementary]
Clayton Robert Vance.....	MSN Primary Care-Family Nurse Practitioner
*Deja Marié Walker.....	MAT Teaching [Secondary]
Nicholas Alexander Walters.....	MS Applied Computer Science

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Kayla Denise Mann.....	DNP Primary Care-Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner
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The Commencement program does not constitute an official list of graduates.

*Teaching Certificate

GUEST GRADUATES

CHAMBERLAIN UNIVERSITY

Emily Freeman BSN Nursing

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE KNOXVILLE

Daniel Howard..... PhD Energy Science and Engineering

ACADEMIC REGALIA



The color of velvet trim on the hoods 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
- Business Drab
- Communication Crimson
- Education Light Blue
- Fine Arts..... Brown
- LawPurple
- MusicPink
- Nursing..... Apricot
- Outdoor LeadershipRusset
- Physical Education..... Sage Green
- Physical Therapy.....Teal
- Public Administration, Foreign Service.....Peacock
- Science Golden Yellow
- Social Work..... Citron
- Software Engineering Orange
- TheologyScarlet

S U M M A R Y



UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATES—146
(2 HAVE TWO MAJORS OR DEGREES)

MASTER’S GRADUATES—38
(1 HAS A DUAL DEGREE OR EMPHASES)

DOCTORAL GRADUATES—1

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Biology and Allied Health.....	3	Health and Kinesiology	13
Business	26	History and Political Studies	2
Chemistry.....	1	Interdisciplinary.....	5
Computing	2	Journalism and Communication.....	5
Education, Psychology, and Counseling		Modern Languages	1
Education	2	Music.....	1
Psychology	5	Nursing.....	30
Engineering and Physics	1	Religion.....	3
Applied Technology	3	Social Work	1
English.....	1	Visual Art and Design.....	4

DEPARTMENTS/SCHOOLS WITH
ASSOCIATE DEGREE GRADUATES

Applied Technology.....	1	Physical Therapist Assistant.....	11
Biology and Allied Health.....	2	Nursing.....	19
Business	3	Religion.....	2
General Studies.....	2		

SCHOOLS WITH
MASTER’S DEGREE GRADUATES

Business	6	Nursing.....	4
Computing	4	Religion.....	3
Education, Psychology, and Counseling		Social Work	4
Counseling	6		
Education	12		

DOCTORAL DEGREE GRADUATES

Nursing.....	1
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MISSION STATEMENT



Transforming Lives for Eternity

THE VISION



Southern Adventist University's vision is to:

- Model the love of Jesus in every interaction.
- Invite each student into a saving relationship with Jesus.
- Inspire each student to engage with God's Church and the world through service and witness.
- Provide each student with an exceptional learning experience that equips them to thrive in a fluid, global job market.

CORE VALUES



As Southern Adventist University employees, we:

- Embrace the Seventh-day Adventist Church's Worldview and Fundamental Beliefs
- Love Others as God Loves Them
- Act with Integrity
- Live Prayerfully
- Serve Others Generously
- Follow God's Calling
- Pursue Excellence
- Exercise Responsible Stewardship
- Offer an Exceptional, Wholistic Learning Experience

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 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, Lisa Kuhlman, chair of the University Senate and associate professor in the School of Business. Her regalia is evergreen, the university's traditional color.

SPECIAL THANKS



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

Financial Administration
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.

SAVE THE DATE FOR HOMECOMING WEEKEND



October 22-25, 2026

Alumni Honor Classes:
1946, 1956, 1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2016

Visit southern.edu/homecoming for updated information throughout the year.