

# COMMENCEMENT

Turner Auditorium, Griffith Fine Arts Building  
Graduate Ceremony | Fall 2025



**STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

## STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

# COMMENCEMENT FALL 2025

### PROGRAM

#### ACADEMIC PROCESSION

"Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1"

*Sir Edward Elgar*

#### PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

ROTC Honor Guard

#### THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

"The Star Spangled Banner"

*Francis Scott Key and John Stafford Smith*

#### WELCOME

Dr. Neal Weaver

*President of the University*

#### RECOGNITION OF FACULTY

Dr. Neal Weaver

*President of the University*

#### ADDRESS TO GRADUATES AND GUESTS

Dr. Neal Weaver

*President of the University*

#### PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Dr. Jordan Barkley

*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

#### CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Neal Weaver

*President of the University*

#### ALUMNI CONGRATULATIONS

Craig A. Turnage

*Executive Director of Alumni Relations*

#### SINGING OF THE ALMA MATER

Amanda Sheriff

*American Soprano, SFA Alumna '16 & '18*

#### ACADEMIC RECESSION

"Triumphal March" from "Aida"

*by Giuseppe Verdi*

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025**

**6 P.M. CEREMONY**

#### GRADUATE STUDIES

NELSON RUSCHE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

JAMES I. PERKINS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

MICKY ELLIOTT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

ARTHUR TEMPLE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY  
AND AGRICULTURE

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND APPLIED ARTS

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

## PRESIDENT'S CABINET

Dr. Neal Weaver  
*President*

Dr. Jordan Barkley  
*Provost and Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs*

Gina Oglesbee  
*Senior Vice President for Organizational Effectiveness*

Dr. Kent Willis  
*Senior Vice President for Enrollment  
and Student Engagement*

Damon Derrick, JD  
*Vice President and General Counsel/Chief of Staff*

Judi Kruwell  
*Vice President for Finance*

Michael Coffee  
*Vice President of Information Technology  
and Chief Information Officer*

Jill Still  
*Vice President for University Advancement*

Jane Ann Bridges  
*Chief Audit Officer*

Michael McBroom  
*Director of Athletics*

Dr. Charlotte Sullivan  
*Director of Governmental Relations*

## STAGE PARTY

Dr. Jason Bruck  
*Faculty Representative, Associate Professor of Biology*

Mickey P. Diez  
*Registrar*

Wil Stafford  
*Student Government Association Representative*

Amanda Sheriff  
*American Soprano, SFA Alumna '16 & '18*

Craig A. Turnage  
*Executive Director of Alumni Relations*

## ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Dr. Stacy Hendricks  
*Vice Provost for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Marc Guidry  
*Associate Provost for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Kimberly M. Childs  
*Dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics*

Dr. Christina Sinclair  
*Interim Dean of the James I. Perkins College of Education*

Dr. M. Dustin Knepp  
*Dean of the College of Liberal and Applied Arts*

Dr. Forrest Lane  
*Dean of Research and Graduate Studies*

Dr. Jason Reese  
*Interim Dean of the Nelson Rusche College of Business*

Dr. Hans M. Williams  
*Dean of the Arthur Temple College of  
Forestry and Agriculture*

Dr. Gary T. Wurtz  
*Dean of the Micky Elliott College of Fine Arts*

## THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM

### BOARD OF REGENTS OFFICERS

Kevin P. Eltife, *Chairman*  
Janiece Longoria, *Vice Chairman*  
James C. "Rad" Weaver, *Vice Chairman*

### BOARD OF REGENTS MEMBERS

Christina Melton Crain  
Robert P. Gauntt  
Jodie Lee Jiles  
Dr. Nolan Perez  
Stuart W. Stedman  
Kelcy L. Warren  
Luke Schwartz, *Student Regent*

### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Dr. John M. Zerwas  
*Chancellor*  
  
Dr. Archie L. Holmes Jr.  
*Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

Jonathan Pruitt  
*Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer*

Stacey Napier, JD  
*General Counsel to the Board of Regents*

# REGALIA

The gowns, caps and hoods worn at university functions date back to the early days of the oldest universities in the Middle Ages. Monks and students wore them to keep warm in the damp and drafty 12th-century halls of learning. This traditional academic dress has been gradually revised to the modern form seen today.

The hood (usually not worn by holders of the bachelor's degree) is a black shell, silk-lined in the color or colors of the institution conferring the degree. Stephen F. Austin State University colors are shown by a purple lining crossed with a white chevron. The velvet border of the hood is of the color signifying the field of study, or subject, not the college that awards the degree.

Hood trim colors indicate the following fields:

Agriculture	Maize	Music	Pink
Arts, Humanities	White	Nursing	Apricot
Accountancy, Business	Drab	Oratory (Speech)	Silver Gray
Economics	Copper	Pharmacy	Olive Green
Education	Light Blue	Philosophy	Dark Blue
Engineering	Orange	Physical Education	Sage Green
Fine Arts	Brown	Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Forestry	Russet	Public Health	Salmon Pink
Journalism	Crimson	Science	Golden Yellow
Law	Purple	Social Work	Citron
Library Science	Lemon	Theology	Scarlet
Medicine	Green	Veterinary Science	Gray

# APPROPRIATE CONDUCT

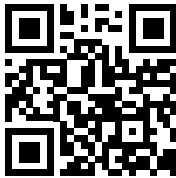
Please silence cellphones and other electronic devices, and remain seated during the entire ceremony to show respect for our graduates. Each SFA graduate and guest deserves to enjoy a ceremony without inappropriate or excessive interruptions from others. If children become disruptive, please take them to the lobby, so as not to disturb the ceremony for others. The possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances, air horns or other noisemakers, balloons, flags or banners is prohibited. We ask for your assistance in making this event a pleasant experience for everyone in attendance. Any attendee who is disrespectful or disruptive may be escorted from the venue.

# SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

SFA officials are stationed around the concourse of the auditorium. If you need special assistance, please contact one of these representatives who will be happy to respond to your needs.

# SIGN LANGUAGE AND CLOSED CAPTIONING AVAILABLE

A sign language interpreter will be near the podium during the commencement ceremony. Reserved seating for guests who are deaf and hard of hearing is available in Section 128, Rows A-C. If you would like a graduate's name finger spelled, please make requests to the interpreter prior to the platform processional.



Captioning services available at [gosfa.com/grad-cc](https://gosfa.com/grad-cc) or scan the QR code.

*The listing of graduates is based upon information provided prior to printing the program. The appearance or absence of any name in the program does not constitute recognition or denial of completion of degree requirements. The program is issued as a ceremonial publication and is not an official record of graduates. The university apologizes for any errors or omissions.*

# CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

## GRADUATE STUDIES

*Dr. Forrest Lane, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies*

### DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

#### MORGANN LEIGH HAWKINS

Educational Leadership

“Educational Experiences and Educational Attainment of Elementary Students from Low Socioeconomic Status Backgrounds: Sequential Mixed Methods Evidence from Texas”

*Chair: Dr. Ali Hachem*

*Associate Professor, Educational Leadership*

#### KILEY SCHUMACHER

Educational Leadership

“The Educational Experiences of Low Socioeconomic, Hispanic, Emergent Bilingual, Elementary Students: A Sequential Mixed Methods Study from Texas”

*Chair: Dr. Ali Hachem*

*Associate Professor, Educational Leadership*

#### JESSICA DAWN TRUE

Educational Leadership

“Hire and Hope: An Exploration of Principal Turnover”

*Chair: Dr. Barbara Qualls*

*Professor, Educational Leadership*

### DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

#### TAILYN LASHAE GILLETTE

School and Health Service Psychology

“Profiles of Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Using the Personality Assessment Inventory (PAI)”

*Chair: Dr. Luis Aguerrevere*

*Professor, Allied Health Studies*

#### TARAH KRISTINE TODD

School and Health Service Psychology

“Identifying Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) Subtypes in Youth Using Latent Profile Analysis (LPA) of Behavioral, Cognitive, and Executive Functioning Measures”

*Chair: Dr. Luis Aguerrevere*

*Professor, Allied Health Studies*

#### BRIANNA MARIE OLIVER, Forestry

“Effects of Excessive Soil Phosphorus on Pinus taeda L. Nutrient Uptake, Survival, and Growth”

*Chair: Dr. Brian Oswald*

*Professor, Forestry*

### DOCTOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Christin Michelle Aletky

Tatiana Barrios

Jasmine De'Andrel Cobb

Kalaceia Shuntrez Evans

Lauren Marie Ivy Sieja

Thabsile Lukhele

Catharine Elizabeth Munguia

Shunale Marie Oliver

Mohit Prodhan

Nelda Mendoza Rodriguez

JaQuoia Renee' Sylvester

Teresa Kay Tarver

Lenola Bolton Wyatt

Amber Kay Youngblood

### MASTER OF FINE ARTS

#### GAVIN GLEN GILMORE, Art

“In Flux”

*Chair: Mr. Shaun Roberts*

*Assistant Professor, Art*



# CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

## NELSON RUSCHE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

*Dr. Jason Reese, Interim Dean*

### MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Brianna Denice Aguilar  
Cayenne Elaine Alexander  
Nikhila Anilkumar  
Hunter Kyle Crooks  
Lais De Oliveira Machado  
Robert Aidan Donihoo  
Callum James Eddings  
Charles Bradley Fox  
Wendy Jo Fox  
Bradley Wade Hardcastle  
Sher Ali Khan  
Hunter Bryce Lambright  
Muhammad Armaghan Zia Malik

### MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY

**Accounting**  
Kishiana J. Authorlee  
Jacob Dylan Gonzales  
Kyra Ann Guhl  
Kaitlyn Danielle Johnson  
Fabiola Juarez  
Natalie Ann Naramore  
Gregory Ewing Och  
Mia LeAnne Sacco  
Heath Quentin Salsiccia  
Noah James Smith  
Austin Scott Tasker  
Tryton Austin Wilemon

### Professional Accountancy

Jack Michael Balog  
Payton Elizabeth Blackman  
Mayra Garcia  
Nathaniel Phillip King  
Benjamin Luca Manley  
Dakota Angelique Matlock  
Kile Benjamin May  
Myla Lea Oswalt  
Casey Ryan Snyder  
Hugo Trinidad-Tolentino

## JAMES I. PERKINS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

*Dr. Christina Sinclair, Interim Dean*

### MASTER OF ARTS Professional Counseling

Brianna Nicole Cassar  
Kendall Blake Cooksy  
Lacey Virginia Cross  
Chelsea Lynn Miller  
Sydney Paige Pierce  
Bailey Nicole Rabalais  
Mari-Carmen Rodriguez  
Macey Alyssa Taylor  
Nikari Kawanza Traylor  
Annie Sage Walker  
Jenna L. Watson

### Student Affairs and Higher Education

Liberty Jessie Leonie Chanin  
Tierra Johnae Dupree  
Kaitlin Elizabeth Mcmaryion  
Mou Saha  
Marli Marie Scott  
Enrique Valentin Venegas  
Vanessa Ann Wilbourn

### MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Michael Ray Hannah

### MASTER OF EDUCATION Curriculum and Instruction

Dyana Lexis Buenrostro  
Jessica Marie Carroll  
Mia Charjuan County  
Allison Virginia Griffin  
Jasmin Nicole Horton  
Taraka L. Moore  
Paige Louise Wankowicz

### Educational Leadership

Robert A. Andrew  
Janet Mojola Oluwa Akingbule  
Tiffanee Bree Bearden  
Sarah Belval  
Saul Armando Ibarra Campuzano  
Keith Harold Kitts  
Jason Marcus Mills  
Nathan Trevor Navarro  
John V. Sallee  
Mackenzie Meador Wilhide

### Teaching and Learning

Rachel Ann Barth  
Meagan Rylee Corey  
Dana Anell Hill  
April Danell Humphries  
Elizabeth Kay Pierce

### Special Education

Sara Renee Beezley  
Sean Robert Brooks  
Allison Nicole Connally  
Kristen Michelle Learn  
Karla Leal Magallon  
Patricia Roxanne Old  
Linda Sandy Penaloza

### MASTER OF SCIENCE Human Sciences

Tammie Lynn Manchester  
Cindy Patricia Renteria  
Korbyn DeAntae White  
Katie Bell Wynn

### Kinesiology

Julia Nicole Martin  
Katherine Mattie McClellan

### Nutrition and Integrative Health

Sophie Lauren Lee

# CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

## MICKY ELLIOTT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

*Dr. Gary T. Wurtz, Dean*

### MASTER OF MUSIC

Alexica Alana Adams  
Brian Adam Cromer  
Junghyun Kim

Nicholas Regan Knirk  
Jonathan Emanuel Madrid  
Emily Rose McQuaid  
Adam Russell Miller

Victorino Christian Perez  
Aiyanna Evelyn Riley  
Ronnie Jason Whitt

## ARTHUR TEMPLE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

*Dr. Hans M. Williams, Dean*

### MASTER OF FORESTRY

Austin Taylor Morrison

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

#### Agriculture

Hailey Nicole Dunbar  
Luke Matthew Keene

### Forestry

Prabin Adhikari  
Kimberly Faith Birrer  
Ethan R. Menzel  
Kabita Sapkota

### Resource Communications

Cara Rebecca Davenport

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND APPLIED ARTS

*Dr. M. Dustin Knepp, Dean*

### MASTER OF ARTS

#### English

Seth Martin Reeves

#### History

Derek Scott Allen

#### Hispanic Studies

Sophia Celeste Braulio  
Nerina Irene Carmona Castro

### Mass Communication

Rachel Renee Calderon

### Publishing

Edward Jonathan Kownslar  
Paris Rochelle Taylor

### MASTER OF

### INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Cory Charles Roberts

### MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Jaheim Kwali Mullen  
Cody Patrick Palm  
Cameron Dane Shepherd

## COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

*Dr. Kimberly M. Childs, Dean*

### MASTER OF SCIENCE

#### Biology

Magdalene Frances Moses  
Madison Marie Schoenhof

#### Cyber Security

Connor Nolan Stansberry LaVoie

### Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

Emmanuel Darko  
Natalie Grace Girlinghouse  
Matthew Allen Parker

### Mathematical Sciences

Miguel Barrera

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

#### Nursing Education

Rachel D. Brown  
Nancy E. Johnson  
Katelyn Rice Wallace



# THESES

## ALEXICA ADAMS, Music

"A Study and Comparison of Two Trinidadian Panorama Arrangements for Steelband by Jit Samaroo: "Pan in A Minor" And "The Bee's Melody"

*Chair: Dr. Samantha Inman*

*Associate Professor, Music Theory*

## BRYAN CROMER, Music

"Schemata of Barbershop Tags"

*Chair: Dr. Samantha Inman*

*Associate Professor, Music Theory*

## NICHOLAS REGAN KNIRK, Music

"Gypsy Spirit Suite: An Original Jazz Manouche Composition for Large Ensemble"

*Chair: Dr. Benjamin Morris*

*Assistant Professor, Composition*

## EMILY R. MCQUAID, Music

"Discovering Eternal Sunshine: Storytelling Functions of Vocal Timbre and Layering in Ariana Grande's 2024 Album"

*Chair: Dr. Samantha Inman*

*Associate Professor, Music Theory*

## ADAM RUSSELL MILLER, Music

"Starlight Suite": A Compositional Exploration of the Argo Navis Constellations in Three Movements"

*Chair: Dr. Stephen Lias*

*Professor, Composition*

## VICTORINO CHRISTIAN PEREZ, Music

"Típica Style Vs. Latin Jazz: A Comparison of Traditional Salsa Piano Accompaniment and Latin Jazz Comping"

*Chair: Dr. Benjamin Morris*

*Assistant Professor, Composition*

## AIYANNA EVELYN RILEY, Music

"The Resonance of Desire: A Sonic Exploration and Guide to Recreating Disney's Signature 'I Want' Songs"

*Chair: Dr. James Adams*

*Associate Professor, Sound Recording Technology and Composition*

## RONNIE JASON WHITT, Music

"Metamorphosis: An Original Jazz Guitar Concerto Exploring Improvisation and Polystylistic Compositional Strategies in the Modern Concerto"

*Chair: Dr. Benjamin Morris*

*Assistant Professor, Composition*

## PRABIN ADHIKARI, Forestry

"Analysis of Water Quality Parameters in East Texas: A Temporal Study of Attoyac Bayou Watershed Between 2010 to 2024"

*Chair: Dr. Matthew McBroom*

*Professor, Forestry*

## KIMBERLY FAITH BIRRER, Forestry

"Patterns of American Bumble Bee (*Bombus pensylvanicus*) Abundance Across Restored Habitats in East Texas Ecosystems"

*Chair: Dr. Reuber Antoniazzi*

*Assistant Professor, Forestry*

## ETHAN R. MENZEL, Forestry

"Evaluating the Impact of Southern Pine Plantation Developmental Stage on Wildlife Diversity: Using a Multi-Taxa Approach"

*Chair: Dr. Reuber Antoniazzi*

*Assistant Professor, Forestry*

## KABITA SAPKOTA, Forestry

"Modeling the Hydrologic Impact of Land Cover on Stormwater Detention Basins in Harris County, TX"

*Chair: Dr. Yanli Zhang*

*Professor, Forestry*

## DEREK SCOTT ALLEN, History

"Sue Gunter and the Battle for Equity in Women's Athletics at SFA"

*Chair: Dr. Morgan Sosebee*

*Professor, History*

## SETH MARTIN REEVES, English

"'War is God' and 'Ungessed Kinships': Blood Meridian and Cormac McCarthy's 'Border Tetralogy'"

*Chair: Dr. Michael Martin*

*Professor, English and Creative Writing*

## EMMANUEL DARKO

Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

"Structural Geology of the Brady Mountain Area, Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas: Integrating Field Mapping, Geospatial Techniques, Photogrammetry and 3D Modeling for Structural Analysis"

*Chair: Dr. Zachariah Fleming*

*Assistant Professor, Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources*

## NATALIE GRACE GIRLINGHOUSE

Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

"Geochemical Analysis of the Eagle Ford Shale in Webb and Dimmit Counties TX"

*Chair: Dr. Julie Bloxson*

*Associate Professor, Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources*

## MAGDALENE FRANCES MOSES, Biology

"Patterns of Historical and Contemporary Distribution and Occurrence of Imperiled Fish Populations in East Texas Streams"

*Chair: Dr. Carmen Montana-Schalk*

*Associate Professor, Biology*

## MATTHEW ALLEN PARKER

Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

"Reservoir Characterization of the Clarksville Formation in the Domino-Clarksville Fields, Red River County, Texas"

*Chair: Dr. Julie Bloxson*

*Associate Professor, Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources*

## MADISON MARIE SCHOENHOFT, Biology

"Examining Individual Identity in Beluga Whale (*Delphinapterus leucas*) Acoustic Repertoires as a Function of Caller and Call Type"

*Chair: Dr. Jason Bruck*

*Associate Professor, Biology*

# **"All Hail to SFA"**

Oh future bright 'neath the

Purple and White

All hail to SFA.

'Mid Texas pines we have

Found peaceful shrines

Where ev'ry month is May.

Long live our Alma Mater,

Honor to thee for aye.

As years unfold, happy

Mem'ries we'll hold,

All hail to SFA.