

COMMENCEMENT

William R. Johnson Coliseum | Summer 2026



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SYSTEM ★ NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT SUMMER 2026

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

STUDENT REMARKS

Ellie Glaeser

Student Government Association Representative

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

ACADEMIC RECESSION

"Triumphal March" from "Aida"

by Giuseppe Verdi

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026

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 SCIENCES 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

Judith Kruwell
Vice President for Finance

Michael McBroom
Vice President and Director of Athletics

Jill Still
Vice President for University Advancement

Korbin Pate
Executive Director for University Marketing Communications

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

Dr. Stacy Hendricks
Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Dr. Chay Runnels
Associate Provost for Academic Affairs

Dr. Todd Brown
Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Forrest Lane
Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

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

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

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

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

Dr. Elisabeth Ploran
Dean of the College of Health Professions

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

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

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
Jeremiah Shelby Clarke, *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

THE UNIVERSITY MACE

Dr. Brian Barngrover, faculty representative and associate professor of chemistry, who will carry the mace in the graduation ceremony, represents the authority of the faculty to protect and certify the degrees being granted by the university. The shaft of the mace is crowned by a head on which are mounted four representations of the university seal.

REGALIA

The gowns, caps and hoods worn at university functions date back to the early days of the oldest universities in the Middle Ages. 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

THE CANDIDATES FOR HONORS

A student receiving a baccalaureate degree with academic honors has completed a course of study with at least 30 semester hours of SFA residence coursework excluding pass/fail hours and has a GPA as follows:

Summa Cum Laude	3.900 to 4.000
Magna Cum Laude	3.700 to 3.899
Cum Laude	3.500 to 3.699

UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS

To graduate with the University Scholar distinction, students must:

- have full School of Honors membership status
- complete 24 credit hours through honors-specific course sections, including 12 credit hours in honors-specific upper-level course sections
- maintain a minimum 3.0 GPA in honors-specific course sections
- receive no more than two C grades in honors-specific course sections
- and achieve a minimum cumulative 3.25 GPA.

LUMBERJACK RESPECT

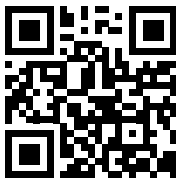
Please silence cellphones and other electronic devices, and remain seated during the entire ceremony to show respect for our graduates. Each SFA graduate and guest deserves to enjoy a ceremony without inappropriate or excessive interruptions from others. The possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances, 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 coliseum. 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 available on the screen during the commencement ceremony. Each graduate name will be displayed on the screen as they cross the stage.



Find captioning services at gosfa.com/grad-cc or scan the QR code.



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 • 6 P.M.

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

GRADUATE STUDIES

Dr. Forrest Lane, Dean of Research and Graduate Studies

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

AMY RAE BENNETT

Educational Leadership

“From the Band Hall to the Classroom: A Qualitative Study in Curriculum Design in Successful Texas Bands to Support Student Success”

Chair: Dr. Brian Uriegas

Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

DJENANE BOLTON

Educational Leadership

“Educational Leadership Styles and School Outcomes: Correlational Evidence from Texas”

Chair: Dr. Ali Hachem

Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

ASHLEY HAMEL

Educational Leadership

“The Rise of Emergent Bilingual Students in Texas School Districts: A Longitudinal Analysis of Outcomes, Resources, and Conditions”

Chair: Dr. Ali Hachem

Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

SHELLEY ELISE HUNT

Educational Leadership

“The Tension of Retention and Retirement: A Narrative Study of Full-Time Nursing Faculty Within Five Years of Retirement at Public, Four-Year Institutions in Texas”

Chair: Dr. Marigold Hudock

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership

LYDIA PAULETTE RICHARDSON

Educational Leadership

“Institutional Return on Investment and Student Retention: A Mixed-Methods Analysis of a First-Year Experience Course”

Chair: Dr. Marigold Hudock

Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership

CHARLES LEROY TRACY JR.

Educational Leadership

“Professional Learning Communities in Virtual K-12 Schools: Survey Evidence From Texas”

Chair: Dr. Ali Hachem

Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

GREGORY VIDAL

Educational Leadership

“Experiences of Novice Assistant Principals: Perceptual Evidence from Texas”

Chair: Dr. Ali Hachem

Associate Professor, Educational Leadership

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

KOURTNEY DANIELLE GUTHRIE

School and Health Service Psychology

“Evaluating Special Education Teachers’ Competence in Inclusive Education: A Study of Behavior Management, Level of Confidence, and Training Needs”

Chair: Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey

Professor, Allied Health Studies

CARISSA RENEE MARTINEZ

School and Health Service Psychology

“Examining Pain Catastrophizing, Mental Toughness, Self-Efficacy, and Perceived Pain in the Performance of Female Athletes During Their Menstrual Cycle.”

Chair: Dr. Luis Aguerrevere

Professor, Allied Health Studies

KAYLA ANSLEY PAGE

School and Health Service Psychology

“Investigating the Synergistic Effects of Mental and Physical Exhaustion on Learning and Attention in Emergency First Responders: An Eye-Tracking Study”

Chair: Dr. Luis Aguerrevere

Professor, Allied Health Studies

ADRIENNE JANETTE SMITH

School and Health Service Psychology

“The Impact of Student Behavioral Demands on Teacher Burnout in Secondary Education”

Chair: Dr. Nina Ellis-Hervey

Professor, Allied Health Studies

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

MITCHELL DAVID PARTLOW, Art

“Framing the Heart: A Director of Photography’s Role in Crafting Cinematic Emotion”

Chair: Derek Johnson

Assistant Professor, Art

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

NELSON RUSCHE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Jason Reese, Dean

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Alexis Trenyce Anderson
Lyndel Cain Carden
Kayla Nicole Curtis
Riley Blaine Elliott
Steve Martin Galicia
Justin Glenwood Gilliland

Dalacia Lanet Harris
Hayley Anne Hart
Tyler Joseph Knight
Shelby Ann Lero
Estefania Alejandra Torres
Kaylyn Michelle Zwernemann

MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANCY

Accounting

DeAsia DeChae Douglas

Professional Accountancy

Candace Brooke Davis
Kamryn Josie Jiles

JAMES I. PERKINS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Christina Sinclair, Associate Dean

MASTER OF ARTS Professional Counseling

Benjamin Thomas Swearengen
Samuel A. Verret

MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Marrissa Shalai Stanberry

MASTER OF EDUCATION Curriculum and Instruction

Tyra Nicole Amie
Emily Sierra Edgar
Kuhalia Barley Paxton

Educational Leadership

Lisa Michelle Anthony
Melissa Nicole Boyle
Brian David Branks
Hunter Lane Cabral
Andrew Scott Cameron
Katherine Virginia Civiletto

Jacob Ryan Cook
Austin Wayne Crawford
Cheryl Bready Decker
Sanna Bettis Elza
Kayla Rena Ewing
Ryan Dwayne Gest
Ryan Read Greene
Jordan H. Hagerman
Sarah Elizabeth Kloesel
Jason Knott
Sydney R. Morin
Johnevia Deckard Muhammad
John Robert Parker
Cynthia Maribel Peace
Jonathan Porras
Chelsea Bri Ann Rains
Geoffrey Carter Seals Jr.
Justin David Spears
DeAndre Tayborn
Joel J. Villegas

Special Education

Kate Lynn Maxwell
LaErica Tywana Pickens
Brittany Elizabeth Watson

Teaching and Learning

Samantha Hopson White

MASTER OF SCIENCE Kinesiology

Halle Elizabeth Washington

Speech-Language Pathology

Megan Mikayla Berry
Avery Marie Cooper
Emily Rachel Gates
Gloria Isabel Gonzalez
Carson Kyle McIlwain
Brittany Nicole Moore
Sarah Bailey Ortiz
Paige August Soehnge
Tara Alexis Thiem
Macie Elizabeth Tobar

ARTHUR TEMPLE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Dr. Hans M. Williams, Dean

MASTER OF SCIENCE Environmental Science

Kathryn Anne Springer

Forestry

Lauren Nicole Ahlstrom

General Agriculture

Emily Brooke Hughes
Amy Alyssa Neal

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND APPLIED ARTS

Dr. Dustin Knepp, Dean

MASTER OF ARTS

English

Victoria Kristin Hoover

History

Elizabeth Jones

Angel Jose Peralta

Mass Communication

Anna Elizabeth Click

National Security

Klayton Joseph-Davis Kent

Joshua David Smith

Psychology

Maranda N. Willis

MASTER OF

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Jacklyn Michelle Hamilton

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Isabella Laura Venegas

Kendra Welch

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Dr. Kimberly Childs, Dean

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Biology

Elena Julia Maria Lawson

Cyber Security

Fernando Rodriguez

Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

Jeffrey Clint Bridges

Mathematical Sciences

Julianne Mariea Lax

Natural and Applied Sciences

John Alexander Mullins

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Nurse Education

Kelly Renee Poole

THESES

KATHRYN ANNE SPRINGER, Environmental Science
“Impacts of Industrialization on Diatom Assemblages in the Sabine-Neches Estuary, Texas, USA”
Chair: Dr. Jenny Rashall
Assistant Professor, Environmental Science

LAUREN NICOLE AHLSTROM, Forestry
“A Comparison of Canopy Bulk Density Between Two North American Pines and Two European Pines”
Chair: Dr. Brian Oswald
Professor, Forestry

AMY ALYSSA NEAL, Agriculture
“An Evaluation of Peer Mentoring in a Pre-Veterinary Science Program within a College of Forestry and Agriculture”
Chair: Dr. Candis Scallan
Associate Professor, Agriculture

VICTORIA KRISTIN HOOVER, English
“Abandoned Apeiron: Variations on the Human Question, from Arche to Algorithm”
Chair: Dr. John McDermott
Professor, English and Creative Writing

ANGEL JOSE PERALTA, History
“Charting the Martian Future: Long-Term Space Policy Planning of NASA’s Human Spaceflight Program, 1957-1988”
Chair: Dr. Randi Barnes-Cox
Associate Professor, History

MARANDA N. WILLIS, Psychology
“Neurotypical and Neurodivergent Traits as Predictors of Memory Performance”
Chair: Dr. Gregory Drury
Associate Professor, Psychology

ELENA JULIA MARIA LAWSON, Biology
“Examining Individual Representation in Asian Elephants (*Elephas Maximus*): Implications for Recognizing Familiarity and Presence of Conspecifics”
Chair: Dr. Jason Bruck
Associate Professor, Biology

JEFFREY CLINT BRIDGES
Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources
“Stratigraphic Analysis of the Buda Limestone With Implications on Hydrocarbon Production Constraints, Madison and Houston County, Texas”
Chair: Dr. Julie Bloxson
Associate Professor, Earth Sciences and Geologic Resources

JOHN ALEXANDER MULLINS
Natural and Applied Sciences
“Confirming and Characterizing the Potential Interaction Between Serum Albumin and the Insulin-Resistance Protein Fetuin-A”
Chair: Dr. Odutayo Odunuga
Professor, Chemistry

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR'S DEGREES

NELSON RUSCHE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Dr. Jason Reese, Dean

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Kaitlyn Nicole Bailey
Betzaida Barrios*
Lilly Ann Bean
Adelyn Marie Becerra
Abigail G. Blevins
Brendan Dewayne Bolton
Sean Robert Boucher*
Seth Ryan Bullard*
Keely Si'mone Burks
Callison Faith Carnes*
Kailey Nicole Carraway*
Avery Michelle Chunn
Matthew Tyler Clifton
Maelee Renee Corman
Fernando Coronado
Vanessa Coronado
Austin Ried Cruz

Candace Brooke Davis
Jack Anderson Dugas
Anna Theresa Duplissey
Julian Alexander Garcia
Pauloangel Garza
Myra Jean Goodman
Lorelei Elizabeth Graham
Marcus Lee Hadnot
Tatianna Sachiko Hogan
Russell Sidney Holleman
James Cameron Husband
Kamryn Josie Jiles
Jack Ryder Johnson
Reis Mackenzie Johnson
Karter Jace Jones
Madilyn Hope Keesler
Emily Anne Lambright
Gabriel Ayden Leblanc
Javarius Rashawn Mitchell

Katherine Morales-Armas
Brandon Morones
Justyn Cragg Morris***
Candace Denise Mote
Noemy Perez
Jaxen Cade Ray
Katelynne Cheyanne Risinger*
Dyani Janelle Rodriguez
Mackenzie Speck
Ethan Drake Squier
Alexia Antonia Tapia Onate*
Lena Denise Taylor
Peyton Lyndsey Varnadoe
Nathaniel Mark Vidlak*
Jacob Ward
Kaylea Nicole Webb
Cutter Grant Willmeth
Austin L. Witzig
Jordan Haney Yarbrough

JAMES I. PERKINS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dr. Christina Sinclair, Associate Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Kiana Abercrombie
Kylee Marilyn Allen*
Avery Lauren Anderson
Sabrina Ann Bookman**
Carson Henry Crane
Kolin Michael Cranford
Aidan Seth Davis
Sara Katherine Douglass
Johnna Cecilia Edwards*
Jeffery Allen Gail
Kai Jake Giese**
Allyson Grace Golovin**
Kolten Shane Goolsby**
Kennedy Faye Greenawalt*

Kramer Steven Hainebach
Aaliyah Le'faye Hale*
Jamiah Ladell Harvey***
Teresa Elizabeth Jimenez*
Brayden Cole Johnson
Brady Langford
Jonathan Alexis Martinez
John Samuel Mayes
Morgan Destiny McDonald
Anna Kathryn Mckinley***
Matthew Thomas Moores
Jocelyn Johana Morales
Johnathon James Pickens
Abby Marie Quinn

Stephanie Adamari Quinones Carrillo***
Ava Paris Reed
Aracelly Ivonne Reyes**
Ascencion Mejia Rizzuto
Jaylen Tremayne Robinson*
Glorianne Santos**
Gemetha Ann Savage***
Madeline Jewell Smith**
Conner William Tolson
Viviana Torres Gallegos
Kaitlyn Rose Tucek**
Mikala Linn Turner
Lauren Deanna Williams**
Abby Young*

*Summa Cum Laude ****

*Magna Cum Laude ***

*Cum Laude **

University Scholar #

MICKY ELLIOTT COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Dr. Gary Wurtz, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Evan Christian Mattei
Elizabeth Marie Molano***
Dustin Lee Smith

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Turner Kenneth Ring*
Amari Christopher Snead**

BACHELOR OF MUSIC

Wayne Charles Marshall Ellis Jr.
Gabriel Logan Lanas
Elijah Xavier Rivera**

ARTHUR TEMPLE COLLEGE OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE

Dr. Hans Williams, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Eli Garrett Childre

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

Cody Bryan Ausmus
Tucker Layne Gary
Emilee Nichole Malone

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN FORESTRY

Donald Taylor Churchill III
Katherine Bohnet Norman

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL AND APPLIED ARTS

Dr. Dustin Knepp, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Eduardo Miguel Escobedo
Jacorey Antoine Green
Keila Guardado
Jesus Hernandez**
Jade Riley Hilbert**
Samantha Jo Hooker*
Whitney Kathryn Martin*
Zachary Sean Molloy
Ashlee E. Moulder***

Carlos Andres Salazar
Emily Elizabeth Witt

BACHELOR OF APPLIED ARTS AND SCIENCES

Steven Gene Holloway***

BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

Cassandra Irene Brobst
Lauren Elizabeth Chase

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Caden Christian Cavazos**
Matthew Taylor Chandler
Jakob Michael Duke
DeAndre DreShawn Forest**
Daniel Marc Kiesel*
Jacob Riley Macclemmy***
Dalton W. Morgan
Christian Song
Bryson Allyn Williams

*Summa Cum Laude ****

*Magna Cum Laude ***

*Cum Laude **

University Scholar #

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Dr. Kimberly Childs, Dean

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Tanner Benjamin Bonnette
Dameion James Crook Jr.
Nicholas Aaron Retta

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

#Barbie Ann Adams*
Dylan Michael Boudreaux
Agafia Apple Bowden**
Paula Alejandra Canasto
Maximus Armstrong Davis*
Emily Adriana Galindo
Maseah Ghodsian
Makenna Kathryn Hall
Colson Samuel Porterfield*
Ritter Elliot Roark
Jake Dalton Russell
Camari Don Taylor

Kiona Mone' Thomas-Randle
Nikolaas Samuel Van Kley
Marlene Zepeta-Rodriguez

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Angela Cheri' Anderson**
Shelby Mason Arnold**
Angal W. Bianco*
Sara Brady Bingham*
Kayla Ann Bowen**
Yanely Castillo*
Rhonda Kim Christopher
Esperanza Jaqueline Cuevas Moreno***
Colby Ellen Curry*
Alexandra Patrice Day
Savannah Duke
Madison Kaitlyn Ernstes**

Courtney Fato**
Chancy Laine Hall*
Julianna Rae Helt
Marie Leeann Ley**
Kaylin Shelby Magee**
Breeann Katelyn McClain
Scharda Monique Mims
Hannah Elizabeth Monroy
Irene Ortega**
Angelica Peloquen***
Solaye Elyon Etta Rawls*
Chere Lynn Reed**
Kaitlyn Nicole Siebold
Cheryl Rudisill Simmons
Dallas James Trejo**
Kandace Leah Turner
Augustine Velasquez II
Ja'Mya Amil Whitfield*

*Summa Cum Laude ****

*Magna Cum Laude ***

*Cum Laude **

University Scholar #

*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.*

"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.