



Fall Graduation Ceremony
December 14, 2023

The Jung Hotel
1500 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA

The Commencement Ceremony

The audience is requested to stand during the Academic Procession, the singing of the National Anthem, and the Benediction, and to remain in place until the Recessional has left the Arena.

The Academic Procession

Chief Marshal..... Andrew Pellett, PhD
Department Head
Cardiopulmonary Science

Bearer of the Mace..... Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD
Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Interim Dean, School of Dentistry

Procession of the Platform Party

Faculty Marshals John Zamjahn, PhD, RRT
Associate Professor of Clinical Cardiopulmonary Science
Todd Tartavouille, DNS, APRN, CNS-BC
Assistant Dean for Student Services

Procession of the Faculty

Student Marshal..... Mark Blanchard, OTD, OTR, ATP
Associate Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy

Procession of the Students

Procession of the Candidates in Nursing

Gonfalonier..... Colleen Markey Story
Doctor of Nursing Practice Candidate

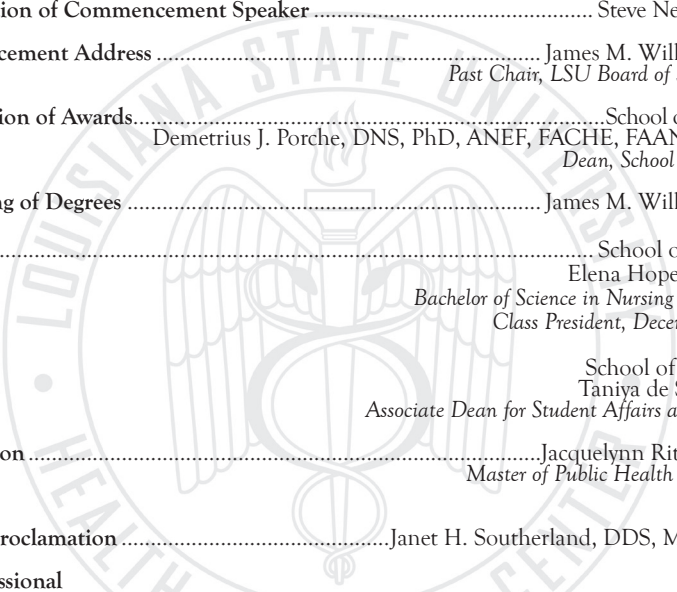
Procession of the Candidates in Public Health

Gonfalonier..... Krishna Bharatbhai Thakkar
Master of Public Health Candidate

Procession of the Candidates in Medicine

Gonfalonier..... Lauren Alexandria Jackson
Doctor of Medicine Candidate

The Commencement Ceremony



Opening Proclamation	Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD <i>Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs Interim Dean, School of Dentistry</i>
National Anthem	Veronica Caffery Lawler, RN <i>School of Nursing, Class of 2022</i>
Invocation	Gabrielle Nichols <i>Bachelor of Science in Public Health Candidate</i>
Welcome and Opening Remarks	Steve Nelson, MD <i>Interim Chancellor</i>
Introduction of Commencement Speaker	Steve Nelson, MD
Commencement Address	James M. Williams, Esq <i>Past Chair, LSU Board of Supervisors</i>
Presentation of Awards	School of Nursing Demetrius J. Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN <i>Dean, School of Nursing</i>
Conferring of Degrees	James M. Williams, Esq
Pledges	School of Nursing Elena Hope Bateman <i>Bachelor of Science in Nursing Candidate Class President, December 2023</i>
	School of Medicine Taniya de Silva, MD <i>Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Records</i>
Benediction	Jacquelynn Rita Mornay <i>Master of Public Health Candidate</i>
Closing Proclamation	Janet H. Southerland, DDS, MPH, PhD
The Recessional	

National Anthem

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming

Whose broad stripes and bright stars
Through the perilous fight

O'er the ramparts we watched
Were so gallantly streaming

And the rocket's red glare,
The bombs bursting in air

Gave proof through the night
That our flag was still there

O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave

Francis Scott Key

Appearance of a name in the Commencement program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but is not regarded as conclusive. The official Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans transcript, sealed and signed by the Registrar, is conclusive testimony of the student's academic record and possession of degree(s) awarded by this institution.

Professional photographers will record each graduate as the diploma is presented and color portraits will be available for purchase, if desired.

Commencement Speaker



James Williams is a nationally recognized trial attorney who has litigated cases in 15 different states, Puerto Rico, and Milan, Italy. He is also one of the “Nation’s Top One Percent” of attorneys according to the National Association of Distinguished Counsel. He has also been selected to the “Top 100 Trial Lawyers” by the American Trial Lawyers Association.

In 2007, at 33 years old and after only eight years of practicing law, an impressive record of courtroom wins caused him to be the youngest of seven lawyers inducted into the inaugural class of the CityBusiness magazine “Hall of Fame”. New Orleans Magazine, in their 2017 annual review of the region’s top lawyers, made Williams their pick for “Bet – the – Company Litigation.”

From 2009-2010, Mr. Williams took a leave of absence from practicing law to serve as the judge (pro tempore) presiding over Division “J” of the Civil District Court for the Parish of Orleans. He was unanimously appointed by the Louisiana Supreme Court to fill a vacancy on the court. Williams was only 35 years old at the time, making him the youngest judge in the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Williams’ professional success is matched by his community involvement. Mr. Williams is the Chairman of the Louisiana State University (LSU) Board of Supervisors, having been unanimously elected by his fellow board members to that position. In 2016, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards, pursuant to the authority in Article VIII Section 7 of the Louisiana Constitution, appointed Williams to a six-year term on the LSU Board of Supervisors. His subsequent election as Chairman made him the first African American LSU alum to serve in this role. Also in 2016, Congressman Cedric Richmond selected Williams to become the youngest person to ever reign as King of the prestigious Krewe of Louisianans “Washington Mardi Gras.” Past Kings have included the

legendary Congressman Hon. Hale Boggs (1946), New Orleans Saints owner Tom Benson (1989), famed “Blue Dog” artist George Rodrigue (1994), and shipping magnate Boysie Bollinger (1992 & 2007). He is also a past president of the Martinet Society. He funds the Louise Halper Award, an annual award in the memory of a dear deceased professor at his alma mater, Washington & Lee University School of Law. The award recognizes a student who publishes a scholarly article in the area of civil rights and social justice. Williams also funded a scholarship for a student at “The Good Shepherd School,” a privately funded New Orleans school for children living below the poverty line. Williams sponsors a teacher in the “Teach for America” program in New Orleans. He has also been a little league basketball coach and a Sunday School teacher at Tulane Memorial Baptist Church. He served as chapter advisor to the Rho Iota Chapter at Tulane University of his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, General Counsel to the New Orleans alumni chapter (Sigma Lambda) of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and was an adjunct professor at Tulane University teaching Legal Aspects of Sports.

Mr. Williams received a Bachelor of Science degree from Louisiana State University and his juris doctor degree from Washington & Lee University School of Law. In his third year at Washington & Lee, he was editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Civil Rights and Social Justice*. As a third-year law student, he collaborated with United States Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on a law journal publication entitled “Civility.” As a second-year student, he published a journal article analyzing the United States Supreme Court’s treatment of the federal sentencing guidelines’ disparity between powder cocaine and crack cocaine. In his second year, he was also president of the Black Law Students Association. After law school, Williams served as a law clerk to Louisiana Supreme Court Justice Bernette J. Johnson.

Presentation of Awards

Valedictorian	Jennifer Manning, DNS, ACNS-BC, CNE
Traditional BSN with highest	<i>Associate Dean for</i>
LSU System cumulative	<i>Undergraduate Nursing Programs and</i>
grade point average	<i>Director, Baccalaureate Articulation Program</i>
Salutatorian	Jennifer Manning, DNS, ACNS-BC, CNE
Traditional BSN with second highest	
LSU system cumulative grade point average	
Epsilon Nu Chapter-At-Large ,	Colette Baudoin, Ph.D. (c), MSN, RN, OCN, CNE
Sigma Theta Tau International	<i>President, Epsilon Nu Chapter-At-Large,</i>
Honor Society	<i>Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society</i>
Distinguished Graduate Award	
Undergraduate student who demonstrates	
enthusiasm in nursing research and commitment	
to the ideals of the nursing profession; and	
participates in extracurricular activities	
Recognition of Members, Sigma Theta	Colette Baudoin, Ph.D. (c), MSN, RN, OCN, CNE
Tau International Honor Society,	
Epsilon Nu Chapter	
Dolores H. Scheerle Memorial	P. K. Scheerle, RN
Entrepreneurial Award	<i>President, Gifted Nurses</i>
Leadership qualities necessary of an	
entrepreneur; initiates new ideas;	
innovative; cognizant of professional	
trends and issues	
The Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion	Dacia Coleman
Student Association	<i>President,</i>
Outstanding Graduate Award	<i>Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion Student Association</i>
Exemplifies diversity, equity, and	
inclusion; participates in community	
and school events; demonstrates	
academic achievement as well as	
promotes leadership ability	
Student Nurses Association	Courtney Ryan
Outstanding Graduate Award	<i>Breakthrough to Nursing,</i>
Leadership and participation in the	<i>Student Nurses Association</i>
nursing profession curriculum and	
school; essay required	
Student Government Association	Kai Relf
Outstanding Graduate Award	<i>President,</i>
Academic achievement; participation	<i>Student Government Association</i>
in community and school activities and	
organizations; class or organization officer;	
motivation for professional growth	

Presentation of Awards

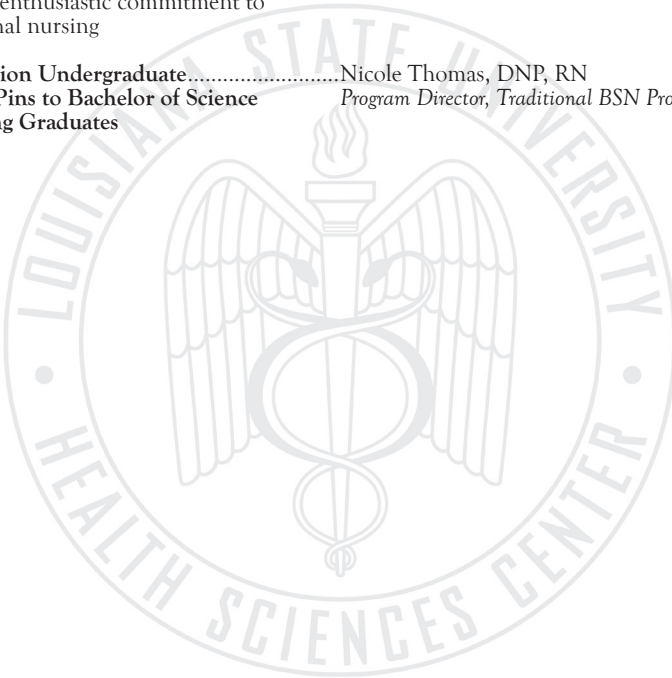
- Student Veterans of America Chapter**.....Annabelle Fisher
Outstanding Graduate Award
Demonstrates outstanding leadership ability, academic achievement, and selfless-service; exemplifies participation in professional, community, and school events for military-affiliated students, veterans, and active-duty soldiers
*Fundraising Coordinator,
Student Veterans of America Chapter*
- MUSES (Mentoring Undergraduate Students for Excellence In Scholarship)**Marie Adorno, PhD, APRN, CNS, RNC, CNE
Promote intellectual, professional development by mentoring nursing students; challenging students to grow to their full potential
Jennifer Martin, DNP, CRNA
MUSES Program Coordinators
- Alumni Association Recognition of Class Spirit Award - Graduate and Undergraduate**Joseph Epling, DNP, MHA, RN, NEA-BC, CRRN
Efforts and abilities to carry through always in the best interest of the class
*President
LSUHSC-NO School of Nursing Alumni Association*
- Faculty Recognition Award, BSN student Sponsored by Elsevier Sciences, Inc.**Jennifer Manning, DNS, ACNS-BC, CNE
High visibility among faculty, staff and students; leadership in the school
- Jo Ellen Smith Memorial Award**.....Gloria Giarratano, PhD, APRN, CNS, FAAN
Service above and beyond school requirements; humanitarian; concern for others; actual service to others
*Tenet HealthSystem/Jo Ellen Smith,
BSN, Endowed Chair of Nursing*
- Student Ambassador**.....Kendra M. Barrier, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Presented to a student that engaged in recruitment and community service events providing a positive image and message regarding the School of Nursing's history, mission, vision, and strategic initiatives to our community of interest and stakeholders
*Associate Dean for
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*
- New Orleans District Nurses Association Student Leaders Award (NODNA)**.....Kendra M. Barrier, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Undergraduate student who demonstrates academic achievement; member of the Student Nurses Association; outstanding leadership ability in professional and community service
President, NODNA

Presentation of Awards

The Outstanding Nursing Caring Award.....Kendra M. Barrier, PhD, MSN, RN, CNE
Exemplar of the school's core values that describes, defines and directs all behaviors; stewardship, organizational citizenship, nursing innovation, caring, professionalism, respect, integrity, diversity, and excellence

Dean's AwardDemetrius J. Porche
Academic scholarship; participation and leadership throughout the nursing program; enthusiastic commitment to professional nursing
*DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing*

Presentation Undergraduate.....Nicole Thomas, DNP, RN
Nursing Pins to Bachelor of Science in Nursing Graduates
Program Director, Traditional BSN Program



Degree Candidates

School of Nursing

Presented by

Demetrius Porche, DNS, PhD, ANEF, FACHE, FAANP, FAAN, Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Jena Elizabeth Alfonso ~
Brandilyn Amorello†+
Molly Simpson Ariail
Jillian Sara Bassman
Elena Hope Bateman Δ ~ ‡
Sophia Louise Belleu
Jolie Elizabeth Bergeron ~
Sydnee Monique Bickham
Lauren Nicole Booth
Lara Elisabeth Boothe
Gillian Elise Breaux ^
Alexis Brinson *†+
Dar'Jene Trichelle Sophia Brown
Stephen Pool Burglass
Sofia Rose Carlos ^
Kristin Elizabeth Chamberlain
Deja Tierra Cheatham ∞
Rebecca Cochran † +
Brianna Rae Collins ^
Ricardo Emmanuel Cruz
Heather Daigle † +
Danielle Patricia Deno
Elisabeth Reins Dixon ~
Thao Nguyen Thanh Doan Δ°
Jessica Cecile Doyle
Annie Isabella Dupuy
Cydney Nova Evans* +
Haley Ann Foulon ~
Kaitlyn Monica Freese ^ ~
Gabriela Isabel Fuentes Δ
Juliette Elie Gautreaux
Caitlyn Marie Gideon
Emily Jiomar Godoy Δ ~
Andrea Elizabeth Gomez ~
Shannon Nicole Gonzales
Devyn Christopher Governale
Jordynn Yia Guichard
Gabriella Guzman
Ashley Morgan Huggett
Kaleigh Brooke Hume
Tai Jackson ^ °
Taih-Ja Omarrè Jarrett
Endea Simone Johnson ∞
Kaitlyn Elizabeth Keating
Samantha Leigh Keating
Kennedy Alexis Kieta ~
Emma Olivia Knobloch ^
Meredith Margaret Landry
Mary Lucy Lapeyre
Rebecca Laurent*† +
Taylor Samone Lilly Δ ^
Rhys Kathleen Lopiparo Δ ^ ~ ‡
Laura Mary Lorio
Elizabeth Ann McCormick* Δ ^
Ella Elizabeth Melnyk ^ ¶
Amanda Margaret Menasco
Brianna Renee Milligan
Carley Rose Marie Mizell
Deanne M Neyrey*† +
Leeann Yen-Nhi Nguyen
Phuong Anh Nguyen +
Madeline Patricia Niehaus
Mackenzie Fay O'Meara
Rachael Ann Oakley
Jacqueline Michele Parks
Brooke Marie Pellegrin ~
Bradley Joseph Poret ^ ~
Rachel Elizabeth Raggio ^

+ RN to BSN Plan of Study

Δ Class Officer

^ Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Member

¶ Mentoring Undergraduate Students for Excellence in Scholarship (MUSES)

ⓓ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Graduates receiving Cords

∞ Graduates receiving NSNA cords

‡ Student Government Association Executive Board

° Student Veterans of America Chapter Graduates receiving Cords

~ Student Ambassador

* In Absentia

† Degree conferred August 12, 2023

Degree Candidates

Hannah Olivia Reames	Scott Viet Tran ΔD‡
Halle Jane Roberts Δ	Tanner Doan Tran
Ashley Jeanette Roche'	Xuan Dang Tran
Hailey Danna Schmalz	Sierra Rose Tumminello ~ ‡
Anna Elizabeth Schwager Δ	Ugonma Obinna Ukaegbu
Acacia Larei Skanes	Jacqueline Irene Vinson ~
Bradley Smith*† +	Jonathan Huy Vu
Bailey Alexis Springler	Catherine Elizabeth Ward ^
Isabelle Elizabeth-Katherine St. Germain	Rachel Anne Weaver ^
Marshay Stevenson ∞	Lauryn Michele Whitlock Δ ^ ‡
Alexah Lee Stutes	Kate Ashley Whitlow ^
Calvin Peter Thompson	Sophia Elena Yarborough ^
Dalton Leonard Tollner ~ ∞	Lauren Young*† +
Georgette Lynn Toups ^ ¶	Megan Anne Zeringue

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Sarah Schneider Balette†	Nurse Educator
Priyanka Piyush Maisuria	Nurse Educator
Lauren Michelle Rettig†	Nurse Educator
Jennifer Jays Watson†	Nurse Educator

DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE

Amanda Packer Osborne	Executive Nurse Leader
Major Professor: Paula Kensler, DNP, MBA, RN	
Project: <i>Introduction of Child Life Preparation for Children Undergoing Pressure Equalizing Tube Insertion: A Knowledge to Action Project</i>	
Colleen Markey Story	Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner
Major Professor: Melissa Nunn, FNPC, MSN, RN	
Project: <i>Implementation of Customized Surgical Teaching Tools for Hip and Scoliosis Surgery in a Pediatric Orthopedic Practice</i>	
Crystal Johnson Westley	Primary Care Family Nurse Practitioner
Major Professor: Kryshonda Alleyne, DNP, APRN, FNPC	
Project: <i>Implementation of a Hypertension Protocol for Medical Assistants to Increase Adherence to Blood Pressure Measurement Guidelines: A Quality Improvement Project</i>	

* In Absentia

† Degree conferral August 12, 2023

+ RN to BSN Plan of Study
 Δ Class Officer
 ^ Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society Member
 ¶ Mentoring Undergraduate Students for Excellence in Scholarship (MUSES)
 D Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Graduates receiving Cords
 ~ Graduates receiving NSNA cords
 ‡ Student Government Association Executive Board
 ∞ Student Veterans of America Chapter Graduates receiving Cords
 ° Student Ambassador

School of Public Health

Presented by Edward Trapido, MSPH, ScM, ScD, FACE, Interim Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH

Dynisha Lynette Benson†
Gabrielle Nichols

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Katie Sternberger*

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Trevor Christian Atkins
Madison P. Davis*
Bailey Dixon*†
Beatrice Twunwaa Duah*†
Arielle Marion Johnson*
Dorothy Elizabeth Mitchell
Jacquelynn Rita Mornay
Tiffany Aucoin Ordoyne*†
Anthony Michael Sagnard*†
Henry J Sauviac*†
Nicholas Stroehrer*†
Krishna Bharatbhai Thakkar

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Qiufan Fu
Department: Biostatistics
Major Professor: Zhide Fang, PhD
Dissertation Title: *Differentially Methylated Region Analysis and Application on Integrative Analysis of Multi-omics Data*

Kara Dentre Denstel
Department: Community Health Sciences
Major Professor: Stephanie Broyles, PhD
Dissertation Title: *The Role of Chronic Psychosocial Stress Exposure in Predicting Obesity, Cardiometabolic Disease Risk, And Biological Aging in Adolescents*

Tingting Li*†
Department: Epidemiology
Major Professor: Ariane Rung, PhD
Dissertation Title: *The Neighborhood and Area Effects of Environmental Factors on Colorectal Cancer: Urban-Rural Disparities, Incidence, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Survival*

Pratibha Shrestha*†
Department: Epidemiology
Major Professor: Xiao-Cheng Wu, MD
Dissertation Title: *Breast Cancer Survival and Treatment: Influences of Socioeconomic Status, Oncotype DX (ODX) Test, Stage, Age, Distance to Radiation Therapy Facility*

* In Absentia

† Degree Conferral August 12, 2023

Degree Candidates

School of Medicine

Presented by Richard DiCarlo, MD, Interim Dean

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Davina Anouska Allen
Felix Schumann Bopp
Ashlin Jane Hinojosa*
Lauren Alexandria Jackson
Audrey Nicole Marsh
Lea Marie Mascarenas*
Brett Anthony Stinger



* *In Absentia*

† *Degree Conferral August 12, 2023*

Degree Candidates

School of Graduate Studies

Presented by Angela Amedee, PhD, Interim Dean

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Daniyell Thomason*

Department: Biomedical Sciences

Major Professor: Deidre Devier, PhD

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Brianna Leilani Bourgeois*†

Department: Physiology

Major Professor: Liz Simon, MVSc, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Extracellular Vesicle MyomiRs Ameliorate Chronic Binge Alcohol mediated Decreased Skeletal Muscle Stem Cell Differentiation*

David Kurt Odenheimer*†

Department: Neuroscience

Major Professor: Jennifer Lentz, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Central Auditory Function following Antisense Oligonucleotide Therapy for the Treatment of Deafness in a Mouse Model 1 of Usher Syndrome Type 1 C*

Madigan Reid*†

Department: Neuroscience

Major Professor: Nicholas G. Bazan, MD, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Lipid Mediated Neuroprotective Signaling in Experimental Ischemic Stroke*

Joshua Blake Schwartzburg*†

Department: Biochemistry

Major Professor: Shyamal Desai, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Traumatic Brain Injury and Moderate Alcohol-Mediated Neuropathological Consequences Observed in Preclinical Rodent and Clinical Human Specimens*

Callie Elizabeth Scull*†

Department: Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology

Major Professor: Guoshun Wang, DVM, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Cystic Fibrosis Immune Defect and Intestinal Disease Pathogenesis*

Taylor Jordan Templeton†

Department: Physiology

Major Professor: Nicholas Gilpin, PhD

Dissertation Title: *Sex Differences in Cocaine Self-Administration*

Dianne Louise Welles*†

Department: Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology

Major Professor: Guoshun Wang, DVM, PhD

Dissertation Title: *The Role of Macrophage CFTR in Lung Infection and Inflammation*

* In Absentia

† Degree Conferral August 12, 2023

Degree Candidates

School of Allied Health Professions

Presented by Erin Dugan, PhD, Interim Dean

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Gabriella Rose Anderson*†

MASTER OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Campbell Kathryn Sullivan*†



* *In Absentia*

† *Degree Conferral August 12, 2023*

Nursing Pledge



Florence Nightingale
1820 - 1910

I pledge myself here before everything I believe in and in the presence of this assembly, to practice my profession with ethics and integrity.

I will endeavor to maintain and elevate the standard of professional nursing, both as a science and as an art.

I wholeheartedly recognize the importance of high standards of excellence in caring and personal accountability.

I will recognize and respect the contributions of my colleagues, show gratitude to those who teach me, and patience and understanding to those I teach.

I devote myself to the healing, safety, protection, and welfare of those in my care.

I will respect each individual and their diversity with the knowledge that they are body, mind, and spirit beings.

I dedicate myself to reduce health disparities and improve health and wellness of all.

I will hold in confidence all personal and medical information entrusted to me.

I will act with compassion, beneficence, and justice.

I commit to a culture of lifelong learning, innovation, and interprofessional communication and collaboration.

I will embrace the honor and privilege of being a professional nurse.

School of Medicine The Oath of Hippocrates

I do solemnly swear by whatever I hold most sacred

that I will be loyal to the profession of medicine and will be just and generous to its members and will teach those who follow after me in this profession;

that I will lead my life and practice my art in uprightness and honor;

that into whatever home I shall enter, it shall be for the good of the sick and of the well, and to the utmost of my power I will hold myself aloof from wrong and from corruption and from tempting others to vice;

that I will exercise my art solely for the cure of my patients and for the prevention of disease. I will give no drugs or perform no operation for a criminal purpose, and will never recommend such a thing;

that whatever I shall see or hear that concerns the lives of my patients which is not fitting to be spoken, I will keep secret forever.

These things I do promise. In proportion to the degree that I am faithful to this oath, may happiness and good repute be ever mine, and may the opposite befall me if I am false to my word.

The celebration of commencement is a rich tapestry of tradition. Each tradition adds to the pageantry and the majesty of one of the Health Sciences Center's most solemn, yet joyous occasions. The conferring of degrees is formal recognition that our graduates have attained mastery of the healing arts and sciences and are fully prepared to accept the sacred trust, which will soon be bestowed upon them by their patients and clients. This is a very special day for the entire LSU Health Sciences Center family, and so that the meaning of this ceremony will be deepened and the celebration more fitting the magnitude of accomplishment of our faculty and students, the Health Sciences Center has woven a number of time-honored traditions into our commencement tapestry.

Academic Regalia

The origins of academic regalia date back to the 12th and 13th centuries. The long robe and hood were borrowed from clerical dress with a nod toward practicality for the warmth the costume provided in unheated and drafty halls. While proper academic dress was defined for the first time during the reign of Henry VIII at Oxford and Cambridge, it was not until the 19th century and, then only in the United States, that it was standardized. Colors were assigned to signify the various areas of scholarly pursuit. Green, the color of medieval herbs, was chosen for medicine, and golden yellow, representing the wealth produced by scientific research, was selected for the sciences. In 1932, the American Council on Education approved an academic costume code which, with few changes, is still used today. The principle features of academic dress are three: the gown, the cap and the hood.

The Gown. The flowing black gown comes from the twelfth century. It has become symbolic of the democracy of scholarship, for it completely covers dress of rank or social standing beneath. Gowns with pointed sleeves designate the Associate and Bachelor's degree; long, closed sleeves are used for the Master's degree, with a slit for the arm; and round, open sleeves indicate the Doctor's degree. The gown worn for Associate, Bachelor's or Master's degree has no trimmings. The gown for the Doctor's degree is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves, in the color distinctive of the faculty or discipline to which the degree pertains. For certain institutions, the official colors of the college or university may appear on the gown or its decorations.

The Cap. The freed slave in Ancient Rome won the privilege of wearing a cap, and so the academic cap is a sign of the freedom of scholarship and the responsibility and dignity with which scholarship endows the wearer. Old poetry records the cap of scholarship as a square to symbolize the book, although some authorities claim the mortar board is a symbol of the masons, a privileged guild. The color of the tassel on the cap denotes the discipline, although a gold tassel may be worn with any Doctor's gown.

The Hood. Heraldically, the hood is an inverted shield with one or more chevrons of a secondary color on the ground of the primary color of the college or university. The color of the face of the hood denotes the discipline represented by the degree; the color of the lining of the hood designates the university or college from which the degree was granted.

The academic colors used in LSU Health Sciences Center's commencement ceremony are green for medicine, lilac for dentistry, apricot for nursing, gold for allied health professions, dark blue for graduate studies, and salmon for public health.

The University Mace

The academic mace comes from a heritage imbued with tradition and symbolism. Long held as a symbol of strength and authority, there are a number of theories about its origin. Although some say the word mace is derived from the French word *masse*, meaning club, one of the earliest references to a mace was an ebony-black effigy discovered in King Tut's tomb of "a King, gold-sandalled, bearing staff and mace." During medieval times, the mace of arms was cast as a weapon - a heavy staff or club often made of iron with a spiked end used by knights to penetrate and break armor. Bodyguards carried maces to protect their royals in processions.

But by the 14th century, the use of maces was becoming more ceremonial, sometimes carried in processions of civil ceremonies with mayors and other dignitaries. The mace began to lose its warlike appearance, instead being adorned with jewels and precious metals. Maces were not used as weapons after the 16th century. The first dated record of the mace's transition to academics was in 1385 when a mace was carried at the University of Vienna.

Today, the British Parliament, the Congress of the United States, and many other governmental bodies use stationary ceremonial maces. Increasingly more universities are embracing the enduring tradition of heralding their academic processions with a ceremonial mace, carried before the university leadership as an ensign of authority, dignity, succession, and the rich symbolism unique to each university.

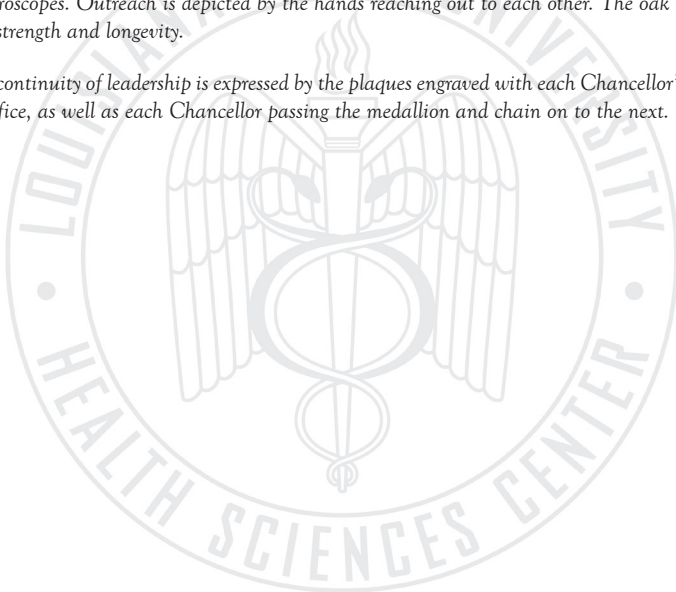
The mace of the LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans was designed to define the Center and to reflect its missions and its heritage. The mace is topped with the mother pelican feeding her young taken from the Louisiana State Seal. The nest rests atop a custom-made purple glass globe, engraved with the names of the six professional schools of LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans. The neck of the solid mahogany staff is finished in gold, adorned with the symbols depicting the four missions of the health sciences center—education, patient care, research, and outreach, as well as a representation of Hygieia, the daughter of Aesculapius and the Goddess of Health. The base is finished with the founding year, 1931, and decorated with a fleur-de-lis, to recognize the founding of the Health Sciences Center at New Orleans.

The Chain of Office

A symbol of authority whose origins may lie in chains bearing portraits of monarchs given to scholars as signs of honor and favor, or in the badge of office said to date back to the age of chivalry when officials were more readily identifiable by their badges of rank, the chain of office is steeped in ceremonial significance.

The Chain of Office of LSU Health Sciences Center at New Orleans, fashioned in bronze, represents the authority and great responsibility of the Chancellor as head of the university. A medallion encircling the seal of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center engraved with the year of its founding is suspended by a chain incorporating symbols of the Center's fourfold mission. Education is represented by the books upon which the names of the six schools of the center are engraved. Patient care is represented by the stethoscopes, used in clinical disciplines spanning our schools. Research is represented by the microscopes. Outreach is depicted by the hands reaching out to each other. The oak leaf clusters symbolize strength and longevity.

The continuity of leadership is expressed by the plaques engraved with each Chancellor's name and years in office, as well as each Chancellor passing the medallion and chain on to the next.



Academic Traditions

The University Gonfalons

A gonfalon is a flag that hangs from a crosspiece or frame. The first gonfalons were displayed in medieval Italy as an ensign of state or office as well as in ecclesiastical processions. From the Germanic compound *gund-fanon* (battle flag), gonfalons were also used as flags of battle. They are frequently seen at the heads of religious or military processions, always accompanied by “valets” or “honor guards”. Many universities around the world have adopted them to lead academic processions as they comprise a unique and colorful ceremonial display. The gonfalons are made in the appropriate academic color for each school, and contain a visual element representing the academic discipline of the school, as well as the university seal.

Da Vinci's Vitruvian Man is the symbol on allied health's golden gonfalon. Vitruvius, a Roman engineer of the first century B.C. influenced da Vinci's drawings of the human body. The drawing is based upon a model of ideal proportions which Vitruvius established and is the symbol most frequently representative of the specialties of the allied health professions.

The nursing gonfalon is apricot and its symbol is the burning lamp of Florence Nightingale. Florence Nightingale was called “the lady with the lamp” because she used a lamp in her selfless duty in the Crimean War, although hers was a collapsible paper cylinder which protected the flame and diffused more light. The lamp has come to symbolize nursing to honor Florence Nightingale's enormous dedication and contributions to the nursing profession, as well as to represent the lamp of knowledge.

The dentistry gonfalon is lilac with the official emblem for dentistry adopted in 1965. The design uses as its central figure a serpent entwined about an ancient Arabian cautery. The Greek letter (delta), for dentistry, and (omicron) for odont (tooth) form the periphery of the design. In the background of the design are 32 leaves and 20 berries, representing the permanent and temporary teeth.

The graduate studies gonfalon is dark blue and its symbol is DNA, the building blocks of life. These building blocks are essential in the research done in the doctoral programs of Cell Biology and Anatomy, Biochemistry, Human Genetics, Microbiology, Neuroscience, Pharmacology, and Physiology.

The medicine gonfalon is green, and its symbol is the caduceus, the staff with winding serpents topped by a pair of wings from Greek mythology that has come to represent the medical profession in the United States. In Greek and Roman mythology, the caduceus, like the staff of Aesculapius, was associated with healing and immortality. Both were used as printer's marks from the 16th century on, especially as frontispieces to pharmacopoeias in the 17th and 18th centuries. One theory postulates that as printers saw themselves as messengers of the printed word and thus disseminators of knowledge, they chose the symbol of the messenger of the ancient gods, Hermes. The United States Army adopted the caduceus as the official emblem of its medical department in 1902, cementing its use as such in this country.

Hygieia, the Greek goddess of health, adorns the public health gonfalon. The granddaughter of Apollo and the most important of Asclepius' five daughters, Hygieia personifies physical and psychic health. She was said to relieve illness in humans as well as animals through diet and medication. Often depicted feeding a snake wrapped around her body, Hygieia was sometimes called “The Health.” Derived from the Greek word, *hygieinos*, meaning healthful, Hygieia survives today in the word hygiene—a basic preventive discipline in public health.