

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT



JANUARY THIRTEENTH, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

2026

WEST LONG BRANCH, NEW JERSEY

ACADEMIC REGALIA

The history of academic dress reaches far back into the earliest days of the oldest universities. A statute of 1321 required that all “Doctors, Licentiates, and Bachelors” of the University of Coimbra wear gowns. In England, in the second half of the 14th century, the statutes of certain colleges prescribed the wearing of a long gown. In the 16th and 17th centuries in Europe, the wearing of a robe often signified a degree candidate’s political or religious affiliation; in the northern universities and those of the British Isles, the robes signified that tuition and boarding fees of the wearer had been paid and also entitled them to special immunities in civil law, as well as providing them warmth at lectures and chapel.

When American colleges and universities desired to adopt some suitable system of academic apparel, a conference held at Columbia University in 1895, made up of representatives from various institutions, drew up a “By-Law, Regulation, or Statute” for the establishment of a suitable code of academic dress for colleges and universities in the United States. This code, with modifications made in 1959 by the Committee on Academic Costumes and Ceremonies of the American Council on Education, is still in force; the costumes and colors, trimmings, and patterns you will see are traditional, and interpret both the degree and field of learning. The bachelor’s gown, designed to be worn closed, has pointed sleeves; the master’s gown, which may be worn open or closed, has an oblong sleeve open at the wrist that hangs down in the traditional manner. The rear part of its oblong shape is square cut, and the front part has the arc cut away. The doctoral gown has bell-shaped sleeves. It may be worn open or closed.

Black is the recommended color for all academic gowns. Bachelor’s and master’s gowns are untrimmed. Doctoral gowns are faced with black velvet, with three bars across the sleeves; the color of the velvet may also be that which is distinctive to the degree, agreeing with that of the edging of the hood. In the 1960s, many American land-grant universities adopted the British and the Scottish tradition of using the official school color(s) for the robes of their doctoral recipients—for instance, Yale: sky blue; Harvard: crimson; University of Pennsylvania: scarlet and blue; Columbia: slate gray; Rutgers: scarlet and black.

The colors you will see in the hoods of our faculty represent the various fields in which the degrees were taken:

Apricot: *Nursing*
Brown: *Fine Arts*
Citron: *Social Work*
Crimson: *Journalism*
Dark Blue: *Philosophy*
Golden Yellow: *Science*
Green: *Medicine*
Lemon-Yellow: *Library Science*
Light Blue: *Education*

Orange: *Engineering*
Pink: *Music*
Purple: *Law*
Sage Green: *Physical Education*
Salmon Pink: *Public Health*
Scarlet: *Theology*
Yellow-Brown: *Commerce, Business, Accountancy*
White: *Arts, Letters, Humanities*

The hoods, differing in length for the three degrees—bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral—are lined with the official colors of the university or college conferring the degree, usually with one color forming a chevron pattern over the other. Hoods are edged and bound with velvet or the color appropriate for the degree. You will see in our procession many hoods edged with dark blue, representing doctor of philosophy.

Mortarboards are the approved headgear. The tassel, worn on the left side of the cap, may be gold if the holder has a doctoral degree.



Founded in 1933, Monmouth is a private, mid-sized, comprehensive university with a broad commitment to the liberal arts. Monmouth University offers 33 bachelor's, 23 master's, and four doctoral degree programs.

Students benefit from a rigorous academic experience, small classes, and professors who meet the highest standards for scholarship and teaching. Our students participate in more than 120 active clubs and organizations, including 18 fraternities and sororities, four media organizations, and an NCAA Division I athletics program fielding 24 teams.

Monmouth's beautiful 170-acre coastal campus, close to New York City and Philadelphia, includes a blend of historic landmarks and state-of-the-art facilities.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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CLASS OF 2026 OFFICERS

Jacqueline Tamburrino, *President*

Samantha Panzella, *Vice President*

Yahira Guevara, *Secretary*

Briana Sokolov, *Treasurer*

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 2026 OFFICERS

Brendan Sheehan, *President*

Emma Vinci, *Vice President*

Nathaniel Whitehead, *Director of Finance*

Asia Russell, *Director of University Affairs*

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

January 13, 2026

**Richard Veit, Ph.D., RPA, Provost and Senior Vice
President for Academic Affairs, Presiding**

PROCESSIONAL.....*Pomp and Circumstance*, Sir Edward Elgar

NATIONAL ANTHEM

PROVOST'S WELCOME..... Richard Veit, Ph.D.

GREETINGS FROM
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES Christopher D. Maher
Chair, Monmouth University Board of Trustees

GREETINGS FROM FACULTY John Comiskey, Ed.D.
Associate Professor, Dept. of Criminal Justice & Chair, Faculty Council

GREETINGS FROM
THE CLASS OF 2026..... Kiera Colleen Luckie
BA, Psychology

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D.
President

PRESENTATION OF DOCTORAL DEGREES

School of Education
Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies

PRESENTATION OF DEGREES IN COURSE

Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences
Leon Hess Business School
School of Education
Marjorie K. Unterberg School of Nursing and Health Studies
School of Science
School of Social Work

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS Patrick F. Leahy, Ed.D.
President

ALMA MATER

RECESSIONAL.....*Trumpet Voluntary*, Henry Purcell

All commencement participants and guests are requested to remain in their seats
until all of the ceremony participants process out.

DISTINGUISHED TEACHER AWARD 2025 RECIPIENT

Joanne Jodry, Ed.D., DMH, LPC, LCADC

Associate Professor and Program Director, Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Joanne Jodry, Ed.D., DMH, LPC, LCADC, associate professor and director of the Clinical Mental Health Counseling graduate program, has been a faculty member at Monmouth University for 22 years. Professor Jodry received her master's degree in psychological counseling and post-master's certificate from Monmouth in 1998 and has been a Hawk ever since. She continued her education, receiving doctoral degrees in medical humanities and counselor education and supervision.

This is a second career for Professor Jodry. She earned her bachelor's degree in business management and began her first career in senior retail management. Seeking something more personally fulfilling, she turned to professional counseling and discovered her passion for teaching. Professor Jodry teaches from a feminist pedagogy and co-creates the classroom experience so that each student can grow at their own pace. She says it has been a joy watching students grow and find their voices over the last 22 years.

Her recently published theoretical book, "Feminist Intersectional Therapy," displays her passion for helping people understand social, cultural, and political internalized messages, and empowers them to decide if and how they may want to navigate the often-oppressive macro systems. Another research area of interest includes integrating other humanities disciplines into mental health counseling, such as philosophy, storytelling, and spirituality—specifically Buddhist psychology and drama therapy.

In addition to her academic work, Professor Jodry maintains a private clinical practice grounded in feminist intersectional theory. She specializes in adults struggling with finding meaning in their lives.



Message to the Graduating Class of 2026 from Joanne Jodry

Dear Graduating Class of 2026,

Congratulations on your monumental accomplishment! As you reflect on your hopes and dreams from your first steps at Monmouth University, I hope your experience has exceeded your expectations of growth and change in these crucial years of your life. Your personal development and professional growth at Monmouth should now be a launch pad for your future.

This may be the last time many of you will hold a student identity. What will your new identities entail? What do you want your life and career to mean? When will you be satisfied and happy? The next steps toward new roles and identities in your life should be chosen with intention. As you fly from the Hawks' nest, consider this: Are you going to judge yourself based on salary and material gains, or will you judge yourself on the ability to think, love, and serve despite the pressures of competition in society? Will you stop educating yourself in new thoughts and ways of being, or will you continue to grow in consciousness toward love and compassion in service to others? Are you going to judge yourself on how much you gain or how much you give? Will your happiness depend on your comfort and fulfilled desires, or your contribution to improving your community?

When will you be happy and content? Why not choose to be joyful from this day forward? You can choose gratitude and happiness every day of your life. That is my sincere wish for you, Class of 2026. Today is indeed a joyous day, as will be tomorrow if you choose it.

Congratulations!

HIGHEST-RANKING DEGREES AND LATIN HONORS



*January highest-ranking degree recipients for doctoral, graduate, and undergraduate candidates are published online by department. Undergraduate candidates receiving Latin honors are distinguished as *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*. Both listings can be viewed at monmouth.edu/January-commencement-2026.*



DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Theodora Nicholas Christofi, *EdD*,

Educational Leadership

Patrick Brendan Kissane, *EdD*,

Educational Leadership

Twana M. Richardson, *EdD*,

Educational Leadership

Elizabeth Ann Sheehy, *EdD*,

Educational Leadership

Valerie Anne Sorce, *EdD*,

Educational Leadership

Meira C. Weisblatt, *EdD*,

Educational Leadership



MARJORIE K. UNTERBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES

Joanne E. Torok-Castanza, *DNP, Nursing*

UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE CANDIDATES

WAYNE D. McMURRAY SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MASTER'S DEGREES

Christina Maria Androulakis, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Ryan David Belle, *MA, Anthropology*
Charlene Anne Boehm, *MA, Anthropology*
Ana Sophia Castro, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Daniel Jerome Doyle, *MA, Criminal Justice*
Phillip William Dzierbun, *MA, Anthropology*
Kevin R. Egler, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Anthony Michael Ercolino, *MA, History*

Liza A. Gordon, *MFA, Creative Writing*
Jason M. Grieco, *MA, Criminal Justice*
Anna Elizabeth Huber, *MA, English*
Fatjona Jonuzi, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
NaJaya Shontal Jordan, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Tamiyah N. Kelly, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Peter Malave Jr., *MA, English*
Paul Joseph McCarthy, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Carlee Anne Migliorisi, *MA, English*
Emily Grace Oge, *MA, Criminal Justice*

Lidia Alejandra Pego-Ordonez, *MA, Criminal Justice*
Julia M. Raiola, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Marcella V. Raiola, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Samantha Delane Salsido, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Luke Shefski, *MA, Anthropology*
Mary P. Solari, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
Jessica Rose Truisci, *MS, Clinical Mental Health Counseling*
William Wright, *MA, History*

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Zoe B. Albom, *BA, Communication*
Isabella Jasmine Arieno, *BA, Psychology*
Daniel Ryan Bensch, *BS, Homeland Security*
Shannon Marie Bonsignore, *BA, Political Science*
Justine Marie Bouton, *BA, English*
Sabrina Nicole Brown, *BS, Homeland Security*
Asia Janade Cooke, *BA, Communication*
Nolan Edward Doherty, *BA, Political Science*

Marykate Grace Donaway, *BA, Music, Education - Secondary*
Timothy C. Egan, *BA, History/Political Science Interdisciplinary*
Kate Maria S. Falkowski, *BFA, Fine Arts*
John Russell Ferrara, *BA, Communication*
Benicio C. Foote, *BA, Communication*
Hayden Mia Forbes, *BA, Psychology*
Destiny A. Goodfriend, *BA, Criminal Justice, Political Science*
Chloe Madelyn Gosk, *BA, Communication*
McKinley Grace Gregg, *BA, Music*

Kristen Jo Gullickson, *BS, Homeland Security*
Nayeli Herdoiza, *BA, English*
Kelly Alicia Housen, *BA, Communication*
Maxwell Hunter James, *BA, Communication*
Faith Ashley Jobson, *BA, Communication*
Michaela Elizabeth Johnson, *BA, Psychology*
Amanda Grace Keighron, *BA, History*
Hayden Kelly, *BA, Communication*
Ruu Khalifa, *BA, Music*

Julia Grace Kierney, *BA, Criminal Justice*
Kayla Dawn Kohlmayer, *BA, Criminal Justice, Psychology*
Ariel Nicole Kosta, *BA, Art, Education - Secondary*
AnnaMaria Laurella, *BA, Sociology*
Alexandra Marie Lazorczyk, *BA, Criminal Justice*
Olivia Mary Loughlin, *BS, Homeland Security*

Kiera Colleen Luckie, *BA, Psychology*
Jessica Louise Magnaye, *BA, Psychology*
Madyson Elle Markowski, *BA, Psychology*
Chelsea T. Maydish, *BA, Spanish*
Erin E. McGrath, *BA, Anthropology*
Noureen Qureshi, *BA, Psychology*
Mariami Ramirez Tsuladze, *BA, Anthropology, Political Science*
Samantha Romano, *BA, Psychology*

Briella Maria Scuteri, *BA, Psychology*
Jaden Duane Shirden, *BA, Communication*
Andrew Kevin Shuberda, *BA, Music*
Tareyton Duron Speight, *BA, Communication*
Nicholas Scott Stevens, *BA, History*
Molly Anne Whitlock, *BA, Criminal Justice*
Zachary Taylor Zucconi, *BA, Communication*



LEON HESS BUSINESS SCHOOL

MASTER'S DEGREES

Tyler Keyon Alston, *MBA, Business Administration*
John C. Ballard, *MBA, Business Administration*
Lana Brezanin, *MBA, Business Administration*
Casey Keenan Caufield, *MBA, Business Administration*
Amelia Rose Cibelli, *MBA, Business Administration*

Calista Colbert, *MBA, Business Administration*
Jared T. Cornelius, *MBA, Business Administration*
Jonathan Roberts Everett, *MBA, Business Administration*
Madison Paige Farlow, *MBA, Business Administration*
Gabriella N. Gmeiner, *MBA, Business Administration*

Adam Edward Steven Hillerby, *MBA, Business Administration*
John Francis Neri IV, *MBA, Business Administration*
Derek J. Robertson, *MBA, Business Administration*
Frankie Aron Schomp, *MBA, Business Administration*
John Anthony Styslinger, *MBA, Business Administration*

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Melanie Abbruzzese, *BS, Business Administration*
Logan R. Alagna, *BS, Business Administration*
Heather Julia Bianchino, *BS, Business Administration*
Brandon Marc Caputo, *BS, Business Administration*
Ashanti Tijomo Caviness, *BS, Business Administration*
Anthony John Cona, *BS, Business Administration*

Andrew Ryan Conklin, *BS, Business Administration*
Nicholas Connor Daly-Farrell, *BS, Business Administration*
Barbara Barcellos De Lima, *BS, Business Administration*
Divine Dibula, *BS, Business Administration*
Zuri L. Ekatan, *BS, Business Administration*
Michelle Mae English, *BS, Business Administration*

Connor Lee Farrell, *BS, Business Administration*
Seth A. Feiss, *BS, Business Administration*
Matthew Fishman, *BS, Business Administration*
Adison Timothy Fox, *BS, Business Administration*
Cosimo Luigi Franze, *BS, Business Administration*
Gunnar Boenning Funkhouser, *BS, Business Administration*

Riley K. Giordano, *BS, Business Administration*
Alexa Brooke Grama, *BS, Business Administration*
Danielle Sharon Hinojosa, *BS, Business Administration*
Amy Alexandra Inoa, *BS, Business Administration*
Nathan Garrett Jones, *BS, Business Administration*
Christie Anne Kollydas, *BS, Business Administration*
Sean Michael McIntyre, *BS, Business Administration*

Trevor Arthur Mende, *BS, Business Administration*
Sidney Morgan Plennert, *BS, Business Administration*
Jhonny Alexander Rodriguez, *BS, Business Administration*
Connor James Sachs, *BS, Business Administration*
Jacob Ryan Schneider, *BS, Business Administration*
Nicholas Anthony Scribani, *BS, Business Administration*
Tayla Liona Sharp, *BS, Business Administration*

Daniel David Shriki, *BS, Business Administration*
Narina Therese Swabsin, *BS, Business Administration*
Gianna M. Whisten, *BS, Business Administration*
Haley Marie Williams, *BS, Business Administration*
Ethan David Yefet, *BS, Business Administration*



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

MASTER'S DEGREES

Emily Anna Balsamo, *MEd, Education*
Hannah Elizabeth Christensen, *MSEd, Educational Counseling*
Justin Calvin Cordrey, *MEd, Education*
Jessica Mary Cronin, *MSEd, Educational Counseling*
LeeAnn Ehehalt, *MSEd, Education - Special Education*
Nicole S. Gambacorto, *MEd, Education*

Nicole Alene Gasser, *MAT, Education - Elementary K-6*
Kaitlyn Faith Hogan, *MEd, Education*
Kristin Mary Kabous, *MSEd, Educational Counseling*
Kayla Kanarkowski, *MEd, Education*
Megan Lillian Konko, *MSEd, Educational Counseling*
Megan Eileen Kutzner, *MAT, Education - Elementary K-6*

Anna Latini, *MSEd, Educational Counseling*
Brian Scott McLaughlin, *MEd, Education*
Kayley JoAnn Moran, *MEd, Education*
Shannon Eileen Ravaaschiere, *MSEd, Educational Counseling*
Hannah Clare Sauer, *MAT, Education - Elementary K-6*

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Thomas Donald Blaine, *BS, Health and Physical Education, Education - Secondary*
Marykate Grace Donaway, *BA, Music, Education - Secondary*
Cristina Marie Fico, *BA, Education - P-6*

Alexandria Cate Georgelos, *BA, Education - P-6*
Ariel Nicole Kosta, *BA, Art, Education - Secondary*
Danielle Marie McNeely, *BA, Education - P-6*

Kieran Louise Rich, *BA, Education - P-6*
Victoria Lynn Tuffy, *BS, Mathematics, Education - Secondary*

BA: Bachelor of Arts
BS: Bachelor of Science

MAT: Master of Arts in Teaching
MEd: Master of Education

MSEd: Master of Science in Education



MARJORIE K. UNTERBERG SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH STUDIES

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Kaitlyn Irene Barry, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Shahd Ghazali, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Kayla Aalyha Perez Morales, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>
Thomas Donald Blaine, <i>BS, Health and Physical Education, Education - Secondary</i>	Gabriel Jean-Charles, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Rett Adrian Schnoor, <i>BS, Health Promotion</i>
Shea Marie Bonner, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Bridgette D. Jones, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Jessica Szpila, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>
Lindsay H. Caldwell, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Emily Hana Karl, <i>BS, Health Promotion</i>	Cristina G. Valenza, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>
Bugra Celik, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Sareena Kaur, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Morgan Rose Williams, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>
Nicole Muriel Davi, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Steven John Langton, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	
Elizabeth Lennox Drea, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Jeffrey Michael LaQuaglia, <i>BS, Health Promotion</i>	
Daniel Christopher Flynn, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	Emma Isabella Palomo, <i>BS, Health Studies</i>	



SCHOOL OF SCIENCE

MASTER'S DEGREES

Shuyi Li, *MS, Data Science*

Killariben Kanaiyalal Limbachiya, *MS, Computer Science*

Suchit Mudichintala, *MS, Data Science*

Robert Joseph O'Grady II, *MS, Computer Science*

Kavya Varma Palukuru, *MS, Information Systems*

Janvi Shayantkumar Shah, *MS, Computer Science*

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Jake Alexander Benner, *BS, Biology*

Stephen M. Bislick, *BS, Chemistry*

Jonna Nicole Buono, *BS, Chemistry*

Alessia G. Cirilli, *BS, Medical Laboratory Science*

Olivia Beaumont Confrey, *BS, Biology*

Spencer Thomas Davis, *BS, Chemistry*

Jullie-Allisan de Faria, *BS, Biology*

Jessa Christine Dell'Aquila, *BS, Biology*

Matthew Ben Finkelstein, *BS, Biology*

Olivia A. Fowles, *BS, Biology*

Brandon Joshua Garsson, *BA, Computer Science*

Maheen Hanif Ghaffar, *BS, Software Engineering*

Harmony Kaylin Lighty, *BS, Biology*

Kyle Matthew McCaffery, *BS, Mathematics*

Anahi Menendez, *BS, Chemistry*

Meadow Emma Navarro, *BS, Biology*

Joseph Anthony Pellicone, *BS, Biology*

Noureen Qureshi, *BS, Chemistry*

Sophia Shirley Sabbagh, *BS, Biology, Chemistry*

Nicole Rose Secondino, *BS, Biology*

Jason Robert Sullivan, *BS, Mathematics*

Victoria Lynn Tuffy, *BS, Mathematics, Education - Secondary*

Matthew Ryan Walter, *BS, Mathematics*



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MASTER'S DEGREES

Courtney Elizabeth Brettell, *MSW, Social Work*
Cristina Elizabeth Cobos, *MSW, Social Work*
Gabriela Gould, *MSW, Social Work*

Julia Rose Mianowski, *MSW, Social Work*
Michael Anthony Pizzulli, *MSW, Social Work*
Fabiola Ricaldi, *MSW, Social Work*

Alex G. Rodriguez, *MSW, Social Work*
Rachel K. Rowan, *MSW, Social Work*
Leigh Ann Simons, *MSW, Social Work*

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Sonja S. Pabon, *BSW, Social Work* Kelly Ann Pezzano, *BSW, Social Work*



HONORS SCHOOL

BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Christie Anne Kollydas, *BS, Business Administration*

Sophia Shirley Sabbagh, *BS, Biology, Chemistry*

Victoria Lynn Tuffy, *BS, Mathematics, Education - Secondary*

Monmouth University Alma Mater

Music by: Beethoven

Lyrics by:

Louis P. Nappen '90, '92

Moderato



2. Gro - wing with each ge - ne - ra - tion, for - ming ties that



will re - main. For - ging true our lives foun - da - tions



with each goal that we at - tain.





Dear Members of the Class of 2026:

On behalf of the Monmouth University Alumni Association, welcome to the alumni family—a vibrant network that boasts over 60,000 Hawks in 50 states.

Today marks a new and exciting chapter in your connection to Monmouth University—one that will continue to grow with your professional and personal development. We want you to remain engaged with your alma mater, and share in your accomplishments, no matter where your achievements take you.

Stay connected by creating and updating your alumni contact record at **monmouth.edu/stayconnected** to receive the Monmouth Monthly alumni e-newsletter, invitations to alumni events and networking gatherings, and alumni discounts. Visit **monmouth.edu/careerdevelopment** to search for job opportunities and build your professional network.

Congratulations once again and we look forward to welcoming you to the alumni association.

Bayaan Oluyadi Sr.

Bayaan Oluyadi Sr. '13

President, Alumni Association Board of Directors

WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

Upcoming Events for Alumni
monmouth.edu/alumnievents

Save the date for Wine and Stein.
Start a new tradition and celebrate with your fellow alumni, Saturday, June 13, 2026.

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alumni@monmouth.edu



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