



**UNIVERSITY OF
HOUSTON**

Fall 2025 Commencement

**ANDY AND BARBARA
GESSNER COLLEGE
OF NURSING**

*Thursday, December 18, 2025
Cullen Performance Hall*





Commencement and Pinning Ceremony
Thursday, December 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

Message from Renu Khator, <i>President</i>	p. 3
Message from Diane Z. Chase, <i>Provost</i>	p. 5
University of Houston System Board of Regents	p. 6
President’s Cabinet	p. 6
University of Houston Deans	p. 7
University of Houston History	p. 8
Commencement Traditions	p. 9
Ceremonial Symbols	p. 11
Academic Honors	p. 12
Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 GPA Graduates	p. 13
Honorary Degree	p. 14
President’s Medallions	p. 15
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing	
Message from Kathryn M. Tart, <i>Dean</i>	p. 19
Order of Program	p. 20
Commencement Speaker	p. 21
Graduates	p. 22
Florence Nightingale Pledge	p. 25
The Honors College	
Message from Heidi Appel, <i>Dean</i>	p. 27
Honors College Graduates	p. 29
Alumni Association	
Message from Sandy Lee, <i>Alumni Association President</i>	p. 33





Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

It is my joy to congratulate you on reaching this remarkable milestone. Receiving your college degree is an incredible achievement, and today we all celebrate you.

This accomplishment not only reflects your intellect and knowledge, but also signifies your grit, drive and ingenuity. The character you've developed and invaluable life skills you've gained will propel you throughout your career and lifetime. Be confident knowing you are now equipped to reach your full potential.

As you leave this University and embark on a new path, thank your professors, advisors, family and friends who supported you throughout this journey. Moreover, stay connected to your University as a volunteer or student mentor. I know you'll continue to grow and have much to share.

You've earned your degree from a Tier One institution, world-renowned for its academic excellence, cutting-edge research and dynamic athleticism. Today, you join the ranks of thousands of alumni who have achieved incredible success — and I know you will too.

Once again, congratulations, Coogs. The world awaits you!

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renu Khator'.

Renu Khator

President, University of Houston





Message from the Provost

Dear Fall Graduates,

Congratulations on reaching this extraordinary milestone! Today, we celebrate not only your academic achievement but also the dedication, resilience, and determination that brought you here.

Earning a degree from the University of Houston is a significant accomplishment. Whether you are the first in your family to graduate or continuing a proud tradition, this moment reflects years of hard work and perseverance. It is also a moment of pride for our institution, as your success has always been at the heart of our mission.

As you move forward—whether into a professional career, graduate studies, or new opportunities—remember the many individuals who supported you along the way. Stay connected with classmates, faculty, and staff who guided and encouraged you. Express gratitude to family and friends whose unwavering support made this day possible.

Above all, take time to honor yourself. Balancing academic responsibilities with work, family, and other commitments required strength and determination. Today, you stand ready to embrace the rewards of your efforts and the distinction of being a University of Houston graduate.

Though you may leave our campus, you will always remain part of the Cougar family. Carry forward the proud tradition of UH alumni and represent our university with integrity and excellence in all that you do.

Once again, congratulations on this remarkable achievement. We look forward to seeing the great things you will accomplish.

Sincerely,

Diane Z. Chase

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

University of Houston System

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University of Houston

PRESIDENT

Renu Khator

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COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Patricia Belton Oliver
Dean
ACSA Distinguished Professor
GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

F. Lamar Pritchard
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

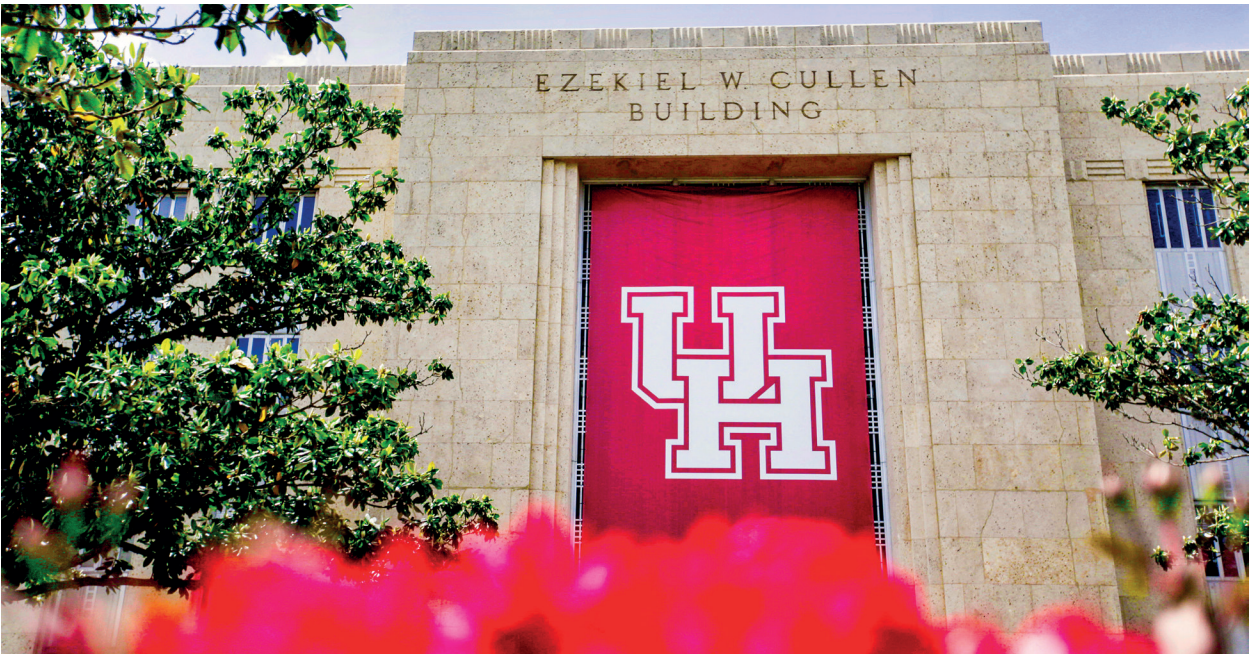
Dennis Reynolds
Dean
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair
CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF
GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Pradeep Sharma
Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished University Professor
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kathryn M. Tart
Founding Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing
ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Michael Twa
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

University of Houston History



The University of Houston was established as the Houston Junior College in 1927. As the college grew, it prospered and officially became the four-year University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the college attained land for a permanent campus, and in 1939 it constructed its first building, the Roy G. Cullen Building. The University became a state institution in 1963.

The University includes 14 academic colleges, one school and a multidisciplinary Honors College, collectively teaching a wide array of subjects – from math, arts and engineering to law, pharmacy and business. What started as a campus with a single building has grown into a world-class university, offering over 285 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 46,000 students annually.

The Cougars consistently compete at the highest levels, earning conference championships, bowl game invitations and NCAA Final Four appearances. In 2023, UH joined the Big 12 Conference — a hard-fought mission to join a Power Four conference.

UH is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university, and its public service and

community activities, such as cultural offerings, clinical services, policy studies and small business initiatives, serve a diverse metropolitan population. Likewise, the resources of the Gulf Coast Region complement and enrich the University’s academic programs, providing students with professional expertise, practical experience and career opportunities. This unprecedented success has been followed by a string of similar achievements, being awarded a Phi Beta Kappa honor society chapter, the opening of Houston’s first medical school in nearly 50 years, more than tripling the number of National Academy members on the faculty and dramatically improving the graduation rates.

The University consistently earns accolades for its students’ achievements, such as the top 50 of Forbes’ list of America’s Top Colleges and Princeton Review’s “50 Best Value Public Colleges.” It also ranks 36th in the nation on U.S. News & World Report’s 2025 social mobility index ranking and among the top 100 universities in the world for utility patents. Moreover, President Renu Khator is boldly leading UH to become a U.S. News & World Report top 50 public university.

Commencement Traditions

Academic costumes of today have a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townspeople wore long flowing robes and gowns. The materials and colors were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns were developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. Scholars wore robes and hoods to protect their shaved heads. Later, skullcaps were worn on the head, and the hoods became a cape that could be pulled over the head during unpleasant weather.

As additional universities were founded, distinctive forms of the gown and hood were adapted by their faculties for bachelor's (apprentices of the arts), master's (teachers) and doctoral (teachers who had completed postgraduate studies). When caps and hats came into fashion in the 15th century, the hoods became ornamental, draped over the shoulders and down the back.

The academic hat was first worn as a symbol of the master's degree and existed in various forms. The mortarboard style comes to us from Oxford University. When academic costumes came to America in 1754, styles were quite varied. In Europe, they still are; however, in our country, usage has been standardized by the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Violet
Master's Degree	Hood: Violet Tassel: Black

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Brown
Master's Degree	Hood: Brown Hood (Music): Pink Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Pink Tassel: Red

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Dark Blue
Master's Degree	Hood: Drab Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Light Blue
Master's Degree	Hood: Light Blue Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood (Ed.D.): Light Blue Hood (Ph.D.): Dark Blue Tassel: Red

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Orange
Master's Degree	Hood: Orange Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Navy
Master's Degree	Hood: Navy, Red and White Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

UH LAW CENTER

Master’s Degree	Hood: Purple Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Purple Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Citron
Master’s Degree	Hood: Citron Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Doctor of Medicine Degree	Hood: Kelly Green Tassel: Red
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COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Golden Yellow
Master’s Degree	Hood: Golden Yellow Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Apricot
Master’s Degree	Hood: Apricot Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Apricot Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Master’s Degree	Hood: Gold Tassel: Black
Doctor of Philosophy Degree	Hood: Royal Blue Tassel: Red
Doctor of Optometry Degree	Hood: Seafoam Green Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Olive
Master’s Degree	Hood: Olive Tassel: Black
Doctor of Philosophy Degree	Hood: Royal Blue Tassel: Red
Doctor of Pharmacy Degree	Hood: Olive Tassel: Red

GRADUATE COLLEGE
OF SOCIAL WORK

Master’s Degree	Hood: Citron Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Citron Tassel: Red

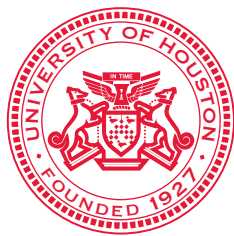
HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Peacock Blue
Master’s Degree	Hood: Peacock Blue Tassel: Black

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: White
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Ceremonial Symbols



THE SEAL

Throughout history, seals have been used to authenticate official documents. The University of Houston and UH System seals both bear the Official Seal of Arms of General Sam Houston, as handed down to him from his noble ancestors. It includes the escutcheon in the center of the seal — consisting of checkered chevrons denoting nobility — and three martlets, gentle lowland birds that symbolize peace and deliverance. A winged hourglass is placed above the shield. Surmounting this is the motto “In Tempore,” meaning “In Time.” The greyhounds indicate speed of giving aid. The UH seal was first adopted in 1938 as the present campus was established. Although the look of the seal has evolved over the years, the first version was etched into the floor of the Roy G. Cullen Building.



UNIVERSITY MACE

The University Mace, which is carried in academic processions, is a staff symbolizing the University’s authority and unity. The tradition of the academic mace began in the late 14th century when two ancient instruments, the royal scepter and the battle mace, were combined to form a university president’s symbol of authority.

THE ALMA MATER

All hail to thee,
Our Houston University.
Our hearts fill with gladness
When we think of thee.
We'll always adore thee
Dear old varsity.
And to thy memory cherished,
True we'll ever be.

Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942

Academic Honors

Academic honors are based on the requirements of the catalog year students entered the University. The final designation for honors is determined by the Provost’s Office upon final completion of all degree requirements.

Undergraduates who have graduated with the stated academic honors have achieved the following grade point averages earned in the last 54 hours completed at the University of Houston.

3.90 TO 4.0	Summa Cum Laude (with Highest Honors)
3.70 TO 3.89	Magna Cum Laude (with High Honors)
3.50 TO 3.69	Cum Laude (with Honors)

This roster does not include the names of degree holders who chose to withhold information under the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

Summa Cum Laude – 4.0 GPA Graduates

The following graduates are recognized for achieving Summa Cum Laude with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average while also completing their degree within four years of starting their first semester in college at the University of Houston.

SUMMER 2025

Kyle Ryan Pucheta
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

FALL 2025

Jayla N. Bowman
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Erik Garza
Bachelor of Arts in Strategic Communication
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Gina Noel Grenyo
Bachelor of Science in Global Hospitality Leadership
CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL
HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Matthew Thanh Ho
Bachelor of Science in Biology
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

Nimisha Vinod Khiantani
*Bachelor of Business Administration
in Management Information Systems*
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Chantel Thuy Trang Le
Bachelor of Science in Health
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Ivan R. Mariscal
Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Avery Ellen Mokry
Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Development
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Khoa T. Nguyen
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Namita Patel
*Bachelor of Business Administration
in Management Information Systems*
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Kamryn N. Sterling
Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting
KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Erin Zaragosa Stilley
Bachelor of Science in Digital Media
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Alex Dat-Huy Tran
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing
C.T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Kasia Giavan Tran
Bachelor of Science in Teaching and Learning
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Kelsey M. Wong
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS



Honorary Degree

TILMAN J. FERTITTA

A revered entrepreneur, philanthropist and civic leader, Tilman J. Fertitta is U.S. Ambassador to Italy and San Marino and former chairman of the University of Houston System Board of Regents. Born in Galveston, Texas, Fertitta lived in Houston for most of his life, where he grew a small restaurant company into a multi-industry, billion-dollar enterprise. He is the sole owner of Fertitta Entertainment, which owns restaurant giant Landry’s, the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casinos, and the NBA’s Houston Rockets, among other ventures.

A savvy businessman, Fertitta is a self-made billionaire who has shared his knowledge with other entrepreneurs through his New York Times best-selling book, “Shut up and Listen!” and CNBC’s “Billion Dollar Buyer” TV series. He has received numerous honors, including Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award, induction into the Texas Business Hall of Fame as the second youngest inductee, Amusement Today’s Person of the Year and Casino Journal’s Executive of the Year, among others.

Fertitta is committed to giving back to his community, having served on several nonprofit boards and committees, including the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, the Greater Houston Partnership, the Texas Heart Institute, and as chairman of the Houston Children’s Charity and the Houston Police Foundation.

A champion of higher education, he served on the UH System Board of Regents for over 15 years, and as its chairman from 2014 until 2025. His strategic leadership and relentless advocacy elevated the University of Houston to top-tier status in research, academic rankings and athletics, earning it prestigious recognition in Forbes’ America’s Top Colleges rankings, the Princeton Review’s “50 Best Value Public Colleges” and membership in the Big 12 Conference.

A prolific philanthropist, in 2016, he donated \$20 million to renovate the University of Houston’s basketball arena — the largest individual donation ever made to UH Athletics at that time. In 2022, he donated \$50 million to UH’s College of Medicine, which aims to improve health outcomes in the city and state’s underserved communities — a mission Fertitta deeply values. In recognition of this incredible generosity, the basketball arena and the College of Medicine both bear the Fertitta name.

The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, *honoris causa*, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.



President’s Medallion

CYNTHIA AND GEORGE MITCHELL FOUNDATION

The Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation seeks innovative, sustainable solutions at the nexus of environmental protection, economic vibrancy, and human well-being. Since its incorporation in 1978, the late George P. Mitchell and Cynthia Woods Mitchell, and the foundation have distributed or pledged an estimated \$800 million in grants to myriad causes, programs and institutions.

Since 1994, CGMF has given more than \$21 million to the University of Houston, with most of the funding generously supporting the arts. The foundation’s interest in the arts is rooted in the sensibilities of Cynthia Woods Mitchell, who came to Houston in 1939 to study literature, art, and psychology at UH. Cynthia believed in the arts’ capacity to lift spirits, enhance intellect, broaden perspectives, and open avenues in people’s lives.

In honor of Cynthia, in 2003, George pledged \$20 million to support UH’s arts programs. Working closely with UH leadership, the Mitchell family proposed a programmatic alliance among the School of Arts, Moores School of Music, the School of Theatre & Dance, the Creative Writing Program and Blaffer Art Museum. The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Center for the Arts was born and is now thriving within UH’s Kathrine G. McGovern College of the Arts.

Today, the center fosters bold collaboration across disciplines, inspires innovation, and fuels creative partnerships on campus and across Houston’s creative landscape. Each year, funding supports various initiatives such as grants for faculty research and creative activity, student scholarships, a visiting artists program and residencies for post-graduate fellows.

Since 2019, CGMF has also provided over \$200,000 in support to the Immanuel and Helen Olshan Texas Music Festival at UH, which brings together musicians from around the world to learn, collaborate, and perform classical music.

Equally committed to advancing the sciences, in June 2025, CGMF made a \$1.1 million gift to UH’s Cullen College of Engineering for life-changing research on Usher Syndrome — a genetic disorder that can lead to deafness and blindness in children. The transformative gift will help accelerate treatments to improve vision and hearing for thousands.

The President’s Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.



President’s Medallion

MEMORIAL HERMANN HEALTH SYSTEM

Memorial Hermann Health System is one of the largest nonprofit health systems in Southeast Texas, delivering value-driven care through 17 hospitals and numerous specialty programs and services across Greater Houston. The award-winning system is home to one of the country’s busiest level 1 trauma hospitals and TIRR Memorial Hermann — one of the top three rehabilitation hospitals in the nation.

As Houston’s only community-owned health system, Memorial Hermann provides care that extends beyond its hospital walls. Each year, it contributes more than \$474 million through school-based health centers and various community health programs. In recognition of its leadership in community engagement, Memorial Hermann was awarded the American Hospital Association’s Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service in 2023.

For nearly three decades, Memorial Hermann has been a steadfast partner of the University of Houston, and the official health care provider for UH Athletics. Its philanthropic support and alliance have played a vital role in advancing the University’s mission. In 1998 and again in 2006, Memorial Hermann’s contributions aided the expansion of UH’s Sugar Land campus, strengthening the region’s educational offerings. In 2019, it established a scholarship for Human Resource Development majors at the Cullen College of Engineering, helping remove financial barriers to obtaining a degree.

In 2023, UH Athletics and Memorial Hermann launched a new chapter with the health system’s transformative pledge for the University’s planned state-of-the-art Football Operations Center. The pledge also included scholarships for student-athletes. In honor of its support, the center was named the Memorial Hermann Football Operations Center, which opened in fall 2025. The 160,000-square-foot facility features a cutting-edge sports performance center, an academic support services suite, a dynamic locker room facility, student-athlete flex space and more. Elevating the fan experience, it also provides additional premium seating options to TDECU Stadium with 14 suites, a 450-seat club section with access to an 11,000 square-foot club and a 300-seat roof terrace.

A dedicated community leader, Memorial Hermann’s generosity has elevated Houston Football in the Big 12 Conference and made students’ higher education dreams a reality.

The President’s Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.







**Andy and Barbara Gessner
College of Nursing**

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

Message from the Dean

Dear Nursing Graduates,

You are exemplary nursing graduates from the University of Houston! Congratulations to each of you who earn the nursing degree and are being pinned with a UH Nursing pin. Thank you for being a student at the University of Houston and thank you for choosing to be a nurse!

As a graduate from the Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing, you are equipped for your career as a nurse leader and nurse clinician. During your time at the University of Houston as a nursing student, you, your classmates and faculty collectively spent thousands of hours on Zoom, in clinical, classroom, simulation labs, or volunteering, thus adding to the strength and vibrancy of our community and our profession.

I am especially proud of each of you as you navigated the ever-challenging landscape of health care. You are prepared to embrace the future of nursing. As you graduate, you enter a work environment where nurses are incredibly needed, trusted and respected.

I look forward to seeing the impact your careers and professional contributions will have on the future of health care and nursing. You will have many experiences and opportunities in your career, and I look forward to hearing about them all as you practice nursing in the city of Houston, our state, the nation and around the world.

As a lifelong learner, I invite you to stay connected with your Gessner College of Nursing. We welcome and invite you to become “life members” of the Nursing Alumni Association.

You will always have the honor of being a UH Gessner Nurse. You will be reminded of this distinct honor each time you wear your nursing pin, engage with the Gessner College of Nursing or the University of Houston.

Congratulations Cougar Nurses!

Sincerely,

Kathryn M. Tart, EdD ('99), MSN, RN, FNAP
*Founding Dean and Professor
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing*

University of Houston
Andy and Barbara Gessner College of Nursing

Commencement and Pinning Ceremony
Thursday, December 18, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	“Four Seasons” by Vivaldi
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS	Kathryn M. Tart <i>Founding Dean and Professor</i> <i>Humana Endowed Dean’s Chair in Nursing</i>
GREETINGS FROM THE UH SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS	The Honorable Ricky Raven <i>Vice Chairman</i>
COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS	Dr. Laura Espinosa <i>Chief Nurse Officer at</i> <i>Houston Methodist West Hospital</i>
DESCRIPTION OF PIN	Dean Tart
PINNING OF BACHELOR CANDIDATES	Deborah A. Smith <i>Clinical Assistant Professor/BSN Program Director</i>
PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR CANDIDATES	Patricia Schrader <i>Clinical Associate Professor/Associate Dean</i>
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	Dean Tart
FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE PLEDGE AND LIGHTING CEREMONY	E’Loria Simon-Campbell <i>Assistant Clinical Professor/</i> <i>Second Degree BSN Track Manager</i>
FAREWELL FROM THE FACULTY	Patricia Schrader <i>Clinical Associate Professor/Associate Dean</i>
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music
RECESSIONAL	“Radetzky Waltz” by Strauss



Commencement Speaker

LAURA ESPINOSA, PHD, RN, ACNS-BC, NE-BC

LAURA ESPINOSA, PhD, RN, ACNS-BC, NE-BC, serves as the Chief Nurse Officer at Houston Methodist West Hospital, bringing over 39 years of experience in clinical and nursing management. Known for her expertise in critical care and operational leadership, Dr. Espinosa has been

instrumental in enhancing patient satisfaction, overseeing critical departments, and fostering an environment of clinical excellence. Since assuming her role as Chief Nurse Officer, she has overseen significant advancements at Houston Methodist West, including achieving a Vizient national ranking of No. 4 in Complex Care Medical Center Quality in 2025, a 5-star rating that underscores the hospital's commitment to superior care. In 2023, Dr. Espinosa also led the hospital to secure its prestigious Magnet re-designation, highlighting its dedication to nursing excellence and professional standards.

Dr. Espinosa's extensive career includes her prior role as Associate Chief Nurse Officer, where she managed key areas such as patient satisfaction, medical-surgical units, and case management. Her leadership extended through her tenure as Director of Critical Care Services, where she played a pivotal role in establishing a 25-bed ICU and launching Houston Methodist West's first open-heart program, solidifying her reputation as an innovative and forward-thinking healthcare leader.

Her commitment to service is also rooted in her distinguished background as a Lieutenant in the United States Navy, where she served as both a Charge Nurse and Staff Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit and Post-Anesthesia Care Unit at the United States Naval Hospital in Camp Pendleton, CA. Recognized consistently within the top five percent of registered nurses hospital-wide, she was selected to serve as the hospital's nursing supervisor. This military experience, marked by excellence and leadership, continues to enlighten her approach to healthcare management and patient care.

Dr. Espinosa's academic credentials include a PhD in Nursing Science from Texas Woman's University, a Master's in Acute Care Nursing from the University of Texas Health Science Center, and a Bachelor's in Nursing, where she graduated with honors. She is an active member of professional organizations, including the American Organization for Nursing Leadership and the American Nurses Association, and served as President of the West Houston Chapter of the American Association of Critical Care Nurses. Her commitment to community service is reflected in her volunteer work with Habitat for Humanity and her long-term support of the Multiple Sclerosis 150.

Throughout her career, Dr. Espinosa has received numerous accolades, including being named one of the Houston Chronicle's Top 150 Nurses in 2022 and twice receiving the Good Samaritan Foundation's Excellence in Nursing Award. A published author and respected speaker, she has presented nationally on critical care, patient safety, and palliative care topics. Dr. Espinosa's enduring commitment to healthcare and nursing leadership has made her an invaluable asset to Houston Methodist West Hospital and the broader medical community.

Fall 2025 – Candidates for Graduation

BSN

Maia Veth Yadao Abogador
Jade Isabella Araujo
Michael John Arena ⁴
Huda S. Birkdar ²
Andrea Gabriela Bongiovanni ^{3,4}
Cecile Angel Boston ³
Jesse Alexander Cavazos
Emily Michelle Davison
Kennedy Vanessa Donald ²
Chelsea Chinyelum Egbuji ⁴
Melodi Jess Escobedo ^{3,4}
Eva Irene Garcia
Benton Roger Stephen Garvis ⁴
Jordan Quinn Gifford
Raelee D’Arnette Hall
Sara Nikole Hansen

Jacob Vinh Ho
Nadia Thomas Hoffman ⁴
Kasey MacKenzie Jackson
Venessa J. Jacobsen ⁴
Ashley Marie John ⁴
Mackenzie Leigh Johnson
Savannah Faith Jozwiak ^{3,4}
Brianna Alexa Kaminsky ^{1,4}
Isaiah Hamilton King
Ashley Nhu Lam
Angelina Huynh Le
Armando Lopez, Jr. ^{3,4}
Yadhira Kristina Melgar
Ashley Nicole Nguyen ^{1,4}
Ricky Phi Long Nguyen
Xuan Thinh Matthew Nguyen
Oluwatobi Theresa Oguntosin

Rebeca Redondo
Amaya Jashea Reeves
Daniela Michelle Reyes ^{3,4}
Stephanie Denise Saenz
Logan Scott Salerno ⁴
Justine Kris Samaroo
Elena Elke Stamos
Genesis Nicole Stiggers ⁴
Mekha Biju Thomas
Priya Mary Thomas ⁴
Rachel Elizabeth Tran ^{3,4}
Onyinyechi Immaculate
Dawn Turner ^{3,4}
Ashley Saju Varkey
Duy Minh Vo ⁴
Matthew Jason Yee

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors – 2 Magna Cum Laude Honors - 3 Cum Laude Honors
4 Sigma Theta Tau International Member

Scholarship Donor List

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BSN Clinical Affiliations

- Ben Taub Hospital – Texas Medical Center
- Fort Bend Independent School District
- HCA Houston Healthcare Women’s Hospital
- Houston Behavioral Health Hospital
- Houston Independent School District
- Houston Methodist Continuing Care Hospital
- Houston Methodist Sugar Land Hospital
- Houston Methodist Hospital – Texas Medical Center
- Houston Methodist West Hospital
- Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital
- Memorial Hermann Children’s Hospital – Texas Medical Center
- Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital
- St Peter’s Early Childhood Development Center
- Texana Center
- Texas Children’s Hospital – Texas Medical Center
- The Lighthouse of Houston
- UH Children’s Learning Center
- UT Health Houston Harris County Psychiatric Center (HCPC)

Florence Nightingale Pledge

“I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to faithfully practice my profession of nursing. I will do all in my power to make and maintain the highest standards and practices of my profession.

I will hold in confidence all personal matters committed to my keeping in the practice of my calling. I will assist other healthcare providers and will devote myself to the welfare of those committed to my care.

I will endeavor to fulfill my rights and privileges as a good citizen and take my share of responsibility in promoting the health and welfare of the community.

I will constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills in nursing and to use them wisely. I will zealously seek to nurse those who are ill wherever they may be and whenever they are in need.

I will be active in assisting others in safeguarding and promoting the health and happiness of humankind.”

— *Author Unknown*





Message from the Dean

Dear Fall 2025 Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation from the Honors College at the University of Houston! Your talents and motivation have culminated in the impressive achievements we recognize today. Think back to your first semester and how far you have come. Honors courses have challenged you to think deeply about the nature of being human, as individuals and in societies. They've asked you to think beyond your major to gain insights from different perspectives. You've been encouraged to take what you learn beyond the classroom into research and community engagement.

The faculty, staff, and fellow students of the Honors College have been members of your team. They are now cheering you on as you begin your career or continue your studies in graduate or professional programs. We take pride in your achievements, and take comfort knowing that, though you are leaving on this new journey, the Honors College will always be a part of your life. Stay connected with the College and use your success to inspire future generations and support the many programs and scholarships that you enjoyed during your time here.

We know that you are well-prepared to lead in your chosen field and to contribute solutions to the grand challenges we face in this ever-changing world. As you find your place in a new community, be bold in ethical action and stand strong in the face of adversity. We believe in you!

Best,

Heidi Appel
Dean of the Honors College
Professor of Biology & Biochemistry



The Honors College Honors

The Honors College at the University of Houston offers students special opportunities to develop their academic abilities. Below are the Honors College designations.

University Honors and University Honors with Honors in Major

Students who complete the Honors College curriculum (36 hours) graduate with University Honors. If students also complete a senior honors thesis, they graduate with University Honors with Honors in Major.

Collegiate Honors and Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

Students who fulfill the requirements for the honors program in the college of their major, including 21 hours of honors courses; who complete an Honors College minor, or who complete 21 hours of approved honors courses. If students also complete a senior honors thesis, they graduate with Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major.

Membership in The Honors College and Membership in The Honors College with Honors in Major

Students who affiliate with the Honors College during their undergraduate years and complete fewer than 21 hours of honors courses. If students also complete a senior honors thesis and fulfill the requirements of their major with distinction, they graduate with Membership in The Honors College with Honors in Major.

Honors in Major

Students who complete a senior honors thesis but are not members of the Honors College.

University Honors with Honors in Major

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

Reece Simmons

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS

Shaiza Pasha

Collegiate Honors with Honors in Major

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

Alyssa Marie Stewart

Honors in Major

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Gada Al Taie

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

Gerald Cedillo

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS

Maggie Fuller
Aleia Sen
Ben Jose Tuason

University Honors

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE
OF BUSINESS

Emma Xuan Biasotti
Kenya Cardenas
Emma Catherine Christensen
Shaema George
Samantha Gonzalez
Simon Henry
Zuha Batool Kazmi
Fahim Kunhi Mohamed
Sarah Maria Lahlali
Josephine Amber Liu
Liam Ty Lucas
Sarina Momin
Lauren Isabel Morales
Gabrielle Renee Murat
Minh-An Nguyen
Zachary Kent Patton
Jason Ren
Nikolas Skarzenski
David Torres
Justin Torres

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Dalia Kaissi
Abby Martinez
Yasmine Rawas
Ayse Sevinc
Devin Watkins

CULLEN COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

Rudolph Barrels
Craig A. Gilmore
Kaden I. Helmka
Lance D. Ishimura

CONRAD N. HILTON
COLLEGE OF GLOBAL
HOSPITALITY
LEADERSHIP

Gina Grenyo

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

Vanessa Sena Adeti
Gracie Austin
Dylan Bouyer
Noah Cook
Coreen Dacosta
Asia Alyiah Darby
Kailey Dianne Delorenzo
Yasmeen Elfeki
Evelyn Entrekin
Richard Espinosa-Garza
Alexandra Goodin
Alex Faith Heiliger
Simisola Jaiyesimi
Anum Khan
Aditi Kashinath Khareedhi
Wendy Novoa
Lauren Marie Ogburn
Rekia Powers
Gemma Satterwhite

Teasia Tamar Stewart
Jody Taller
Hadi Totonchian
Melanie Valencia
Sidon Weldai
Kamryn Williams

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS

Lara Badran
Mike Bastidas
Julianna Marie Hamilton
Vaishnavi Jayaraman

Andrea Martinez Rodriguez
Lizbet Valdez

ANDY AND BARBARA
GESSNER COLLEGE
OF NURSING

Mekha Thomas

Collegiate Honors

KATHRINE G.
MCGOVERN COLLEGE
OF THE ARTS

Rebecca Unger-Moon

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Oreoluwa Timileyin Adejuwon

CULLEN COLLEGE OF
ENGINEERING

Ali Nidal Ardda
Zachary Franics Carr
Teddie Ann Hall

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ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

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Zain Ali
Sebastian M Breaux
Faith Brown
Madeleine Olivia Couling
Benito Del Toro
Carla Flores
Joshua Godfrin
Lizbeth Jaimes
Talisa Jenkins
Grace Lewis
Annika Monroe
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Jesse Quintero
Joshua Roberson
Catherine Olivia Rodriguez
Deanna Luisa Rojas
Oluwafifunmi Shonuga
Elise Shoss
Duaa Tanvir
Samari Eugene Telfort
Bridget Marie Thompson

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS

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Mohammad Shamsuddin Anwar
Michael Bui
Brice Gallardo
Clark Horak
Omoyeni O. Kuku
Mustafa Meraj
Stephen Nwosu
Shanaya Premjee
Zoubida Houda Rezki
Miguel Trejo

UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENT SUCCESS –
INTEGRATED STUDIES

Maya Iyer

Membership in The Honors College

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL
ARTS AND SOCIAL
SCIENCES

Brandon Martinez
Syed Rizvi

COLLEGE OF NATURAL
SCIENCES AND
MATHEMATICS

Shivani Gadhavi

ANDY AND BARBARA
GESSNER COLLEGE
OF NURSING

Kasey Jackson
Sheila Lopez Baltazar







Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

Let me be the first to welcome you to the UH Alumni Association. You are joining a global network of over 305,000 Cougars. With your participation, we can only grow stronger. As you embark on this next chapter, know that your Alumni Association is here to help you stay connected with your beloved alma mater. From volunteering at an event, joining an Association or Network, signing on to UH Link, to becoming a

Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

Please scan the QR code below to enjoy all the activities that soon await you. In the meantime, savor this moment and continue to soar.

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sandy G. Lee'.

Sandy Lee ('84)
UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President

**Have You Completed
Your Alumni Checklist?**



<https://houstonalumni.com/recent-grads/>



