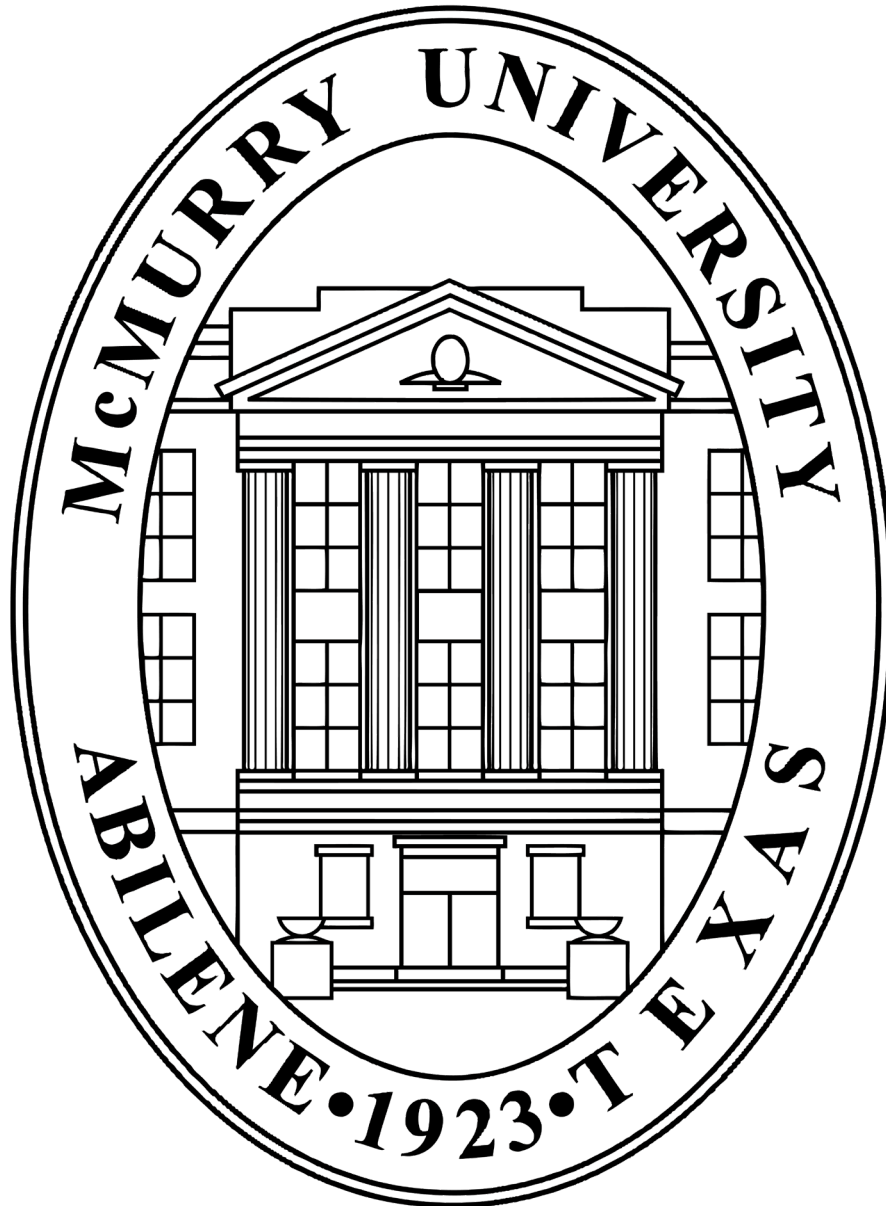


# McMurry University



## Fall Commencement 2024

Radford Auditorium  
Saturday, December 14  
Abilene, Texas

# Ceremony Notes

## Processional and Recessional Guidelines:

McMurry University asks that you read and be mindful of a few guidelines in order for the commencement ceremony to be safe and respectful at all times:

- After the ceremony has ended, please wait for the graduates to process out before leaving.
- Please follow all staff instructions and posted signs at all times.
- For the Recessional, please rise and remain standing until the graduates and faculty have exited. Do not block the exit.

## Photography:

You are respectfully asked to remain in the seating area while taking any personal photographs. Graduate photos will be available online the week of January 2.

## Academic Honors Designations:

† Member of the James Winford Hunt Chapter of Alpha Chi National Honor Society.

Honors listed in the program are computed through the end of the previous semester. At the time of graduation, a student is designated for honors based on the following cumulative grade point average: Summa Cum Laude -- 3.85-4.0; Magna Cum Laude -- 3.7-3.84; Cum Laude --3.5-3.69. To be eligible for graduation with academic honors, a student must have completed a minimum of fifty-seven semester hours in resident courses at McMurry University.

Departmental Honors graduates have completed a senior thesis in an academic discipline, usually the student's major field, with the endorsement of the faculty members of that department, and maintained a grade point average of at least 3.25.

University Honors Program graduates have fulfilled all requirements for Departmental Honors, maintained a grade point average of at least 3.5, and completed several honors classes in other areas of the university curriculum.

## Completion of Degree:

This program contains the names of degree and honors for Decemeber 2024 candidates for graduation based on information available at time of printing. Inclusion of candidates in the program is not confirmation of completion of degree or honors designation.

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## Academic Dress

Academic regalia derive from two garments, a type of robe and a hood or head covering worn in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Since the clergy composed the majority of the educated class, academic dress is an adaptation of the cape that was worn for warmth in unheated buildings and in religious processions.

Through the years, great diversity in color and style of cap, gown, and hood developed until 1895 when an intercollegiate code was adopted in the United States to encourage standard designs and usage. An academic costume consists of three items: the gown, the hood, and the Oxford cap or mortar board. Their sleeves easily distinguish gowns. The bachelor's gown has long pointed sleeves. The sleeves of a master's gown are oblong panels reaching nearly to the hem of the gown. A doctor's gown has full and bell-shaped sleeves which carry three horizontal bars; it also has a velvet panel extending around the neck and down from the front of the hem. The velvet trim is usually black but may be of the color associated with the degree.

Hoods for the master's and doctor's regalia are similar. The former are shorter and are trimmed with a narrower velvet band. Color of the trim of a hood identifies the wearer's degree: brown, fine arts; dark blue, philosophy; buff, business; golden yellow, science; light blue, education; orange, engineering; pink, music; apricot, nursing; white, arts and letters; and scarlet, theology. Color of the hood lining identifies the institution that conferred the degree.

The Oxford cap, commonly called the mortar board, is black and has a long tassel that is fastened by a button on the top. Doctors wear a gold tassel.

# Mace

Once a familiar weapon in medieval combat, the mace evolved over time into a symbol of rulership and became associated with the pride of a nation and its origins. Later the mace was adopted by universities as a symbol of the power of the academic quest for truth and wisdom.

The mace that leads the procession is a symbol of McMurry's rich history. The base of the wooden staff holds bands signifying each president of the university. In the center of the staff lies an inlaid eagle feather symbolizing strength and purpose.

The globe of the mace captures the essence of the university. The Zuni bowl represents the Native American heritage of Dr. J.W. Hunt, McMurry's founding father, who lived on the Kaw Indian Reservation as a child. At the crest of the globe is the United Methodist cross and flame, symbolic of our strong ties and heritage within the United Methodist Church.

The mace was designed and cast by Terry Gilbreth, sculptor, and a 1968 graduate of McMurry University.

# Presidential Medallion

The Presidential medallion consists of the McMurry University seal displaying the founding date of 1923 in maroon. Dr. Harper's starting date of October 1, 2013, as the President of McMurry University, is engraved on the reverse side.

# Cords

Cords are symbolic of a student's achievements throughout their academic career. They allow the audience to visually recognize graduates who have completed an academic honor, those who have participated in certain academic societies or clubs, or graduating from a particular school or department within the institution that grants graduation cords as keepsakes for that degree program. Cords obtained by our students include:

Color	Department	Society Name
Purple and Gold	Art	Kappa Pi
Red and Green	Biology	Tri Beta
Purple	Education	Kappa Delta Pi
Red and Gold	English	Sigma Tau Delta
Black and Gold	Kinesiology	Phi Epsilon Kappa
Rose Pink and Silver	Mathematics	Kappa Mu Epsilon
White and Green	Physics	Sigma Pi Sigma
Blue and Silver	Psychology	Psi Chi
Teal	Sociology	Alpha Kappa Delta
Light Blue and Gold	Theatre	Alpha Psi Omega
Gold	McMurry University	Latin Honors
Green and Blue	McMurry University	Alpha Chi
Black and Red	McMurry University	Alpha Beta Kappa
Maroon and White	McMurry University	Athletics Team Member
Red, White, and Blue	McMurry University	US Military Active Duty/Veteran

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## Dr. Paul Fabrizio Commencement Speaker

Dr. Paul Fabrizio is a Professor of Political Science at McMurry University. Born and raised in southern California, he received his Associate of Arts degree from Santa Ana College and his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Southern California. He worked for several years as an automotive market researcher at J.D. Power & Associates in Los Angeles, and as a manager for the U.S. Census Bureau in Baltimore. He then received his master's and doctoral degrees from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, and taught at Darton College in Georgia before moving to Texas to join McMurry's faculty in 1996.

Paul has had a varied career at McMurry. In addition to being a professor, he was named dean of the School of Arts & Letters in 2007 and in 2010 was selected as the vice president for academic affairs, a position he served in for five years. He also has assisted McMurry in several interim roles, including dean of students, athletic director, and president. From 2005 to 2020 he was co-host of the local political radio talk show, "The Professors" with the late McMurry Professor Rev. Dr. Bill Libby. He is also a frequent guest on local news stations, state and nationwide publications, and international radio shows speaking about politics and elections. He also is host of the Division of Humanities, Religion, and Social Sciences' podcast, "McMurry Minds."

In his career, Paul has been honored with several awards including the Abilene Young Lawyer's Association's Liberty Bell Award and McMurry's own Gordon R. and Lola J. Bennett Award for Outstanding Teaching, Service, and Leadership. McMurry graduates have twice awarded him their Faculty Appreciation Award, and he has received the Outstanding Faculty Award and the Outstanding Administrator Award during his twenty-eight years here.

Paul and his wife of 31 years, Ginger, have two children; Robert and Juliana both graduated from McMurry and reside in Abilene.

# Commencement Program

- \* Processional ..... “Pomp and Circumstance” ..... by Edward Elgar..... Key City Brass  
Dr. David Amlung, Trumpet; Dr. Bernard Scherr, Trumpet; Dr. Robert Tucker, Horn;  
Clay Johnson, Trombone; Dr. Jeffrey Cottrell, Tuba
  
- Marshal ..... Dr. Robert Wallace  
Professor of Sociology and Criminology
  
- Welcome from the President ..... Dr. Sandra S. Harper  
McMurry University President
  
- \* Invocation..... Rev. Ricky Harrison  
University Chaplain and Director of Religious Life
  
- \* Hymn ..... “Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” .....Directed by Amanda Guidi  
Adjunct Instructor of Voice

## Commencement Address

- Introduction of Commencement Speaker ..... Dr. Sandra Harper
  
- Commencement Address .....Dr. Paul Fabrizio  
Professor of Political Science

## Conferring of Degrees

- Presentation of Graduates and Candidates for Degrees ..... Dr. Cindy Martin  
Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty
  
- Awarding of Degrees ..... Dr. Sandra Harper
  
- Announcing the Graduates ..... Ms. Neena McLain  
Assistant Professor and Department Chair of Theatre

## Introduction of Degree Candidates

- Presentation of the Graduates ..... Dr. Cindy Martin
  
- Welcome from the Alumni Association ..... Alana Jeter ‘01  
Alumni Association Board of Directors Representative
  
- \* Singing of the “Alma Mater” ..... Directed by Amanda Guidi
  
- \* Benediction ..... Rev. Ricky Harrison
  
- \* Recessional ..... “La Rejouissance” ..... by G.F. Handel ..... Key City Brass

# Alma Mater

Hail to our dear McMurry!  
Long wave Maroon and White!  
Pride of our western prairies,  
Spirit of Honor, Truth, and Right!  
We cherish your traditions;  
Ever true we'll be.  
Your Hall of Fame is in our hearts!  
All Hail to Thee!

## Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful joyful we adore Thee  
God of glory Lord of love  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee  
Opening to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness  
Drive the dark of doubt away  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day

All Thy works with joy surround Thee  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around Thee  
Center of unbroken praise  
Field and forest vale and mountain  
Flowery meadow flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee

Mortals join the mighty chorus  
Which the morning stars began  
Love divine is reigning o'er us  
Binding all within its span.  
Ever singing march we onward  
Victors in the midst of strife  
Joyful music lifts us sunward  
In the triumph song of life



**McMURRY**  
UNIVERSITY

## Fall 2024 Graduates

### Master Degree Recipients

Thomas Dylan Bryant	Master of Accountancy	Accountancy	Tuscola, Texas
Shawnnta Lanette Clark	Master of Accountancy	Accountancy	Denver City, Texas
Talon Victoria Bays	Master of Science in Nursing	Family Nurse Practitioner	Lubbock, Texas
Jessica Elise Gaura	Master of Science in Nursing	Family Nurse Practitioner	Abilene, Texas

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### Bachelor Degree Recipients

† Abigail Grace Barzyk <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Human Health Science Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Science	Human Health Science Medical and Research Concentration	Arlington, Texas
Brooke Kaylee Boyer <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Human Health Science Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Science	Human Health Science Medical and Research Concentration	Burleson, Texas
Luke Mendez <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Religion Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Arts	Christian Ministry	Baird, Texas
Addyson McKinsey Tiffin <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Music Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Arts	Music	Amarillo, Texas
Dylan Abbott <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Biomedical Science	San Angelo, Texas
Garrett Blake Arendall	Bachelor of Science	Criminology	Stamford, Texas

Atinuke Comfort Arowolo <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Nursing	Lagos, Nigeria
Treycee Dion Bertrand	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Fort Worth, Texas
Cortlynn Marie Boone	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	Psychology, Allied Health, and Kinesiology Concentrations	Argyle, Texas
Luke Bradshaw	Bachelor of Business Administration	Business Administration	Waco, Texas
Reid Davis Unuluk Brock	Bachelor of Science	Sustainability and Renewable Resources	Anchorage, Alaska
Cooper Broeske	Bachelor of Science	All Level Physical Education	Garland, Texas
Jonah Bulls	Bachelor of Fine Arts	Multimedia and Graphic Design	Abilene, Texas
Kyle Andrew Canada	Bachelor of Arts	History	Breckenridge, Texas
Priscella Caruso	Bachelor of Science	Computer Science	Tomball, Texas
Luke Zachary Cochran	Bachelor of Arts	History	Abilene, Texas
Celie Michele Dickey	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	Psychology, Allied Health, and Business Administration Concentrations	San Angelo, Texas
Dalton Enberg	Bachelor of Arts	History Grades 7-12	Llano, Texas
Landon Eiji Evans	Bachelor of Science	Criminology	Austin, Texas
Laura Elizabeth Flores	Bachelor of Arts	Political Science	Haskell, Texas
Aren Caroline Gaines <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Management	Coleman, Texas
Tyrik Dawayne Gill	Bachelor of Business Administration	Business Administration	Arlington, Texas
Tashaja Jene Gonzales	Bachelor of Fine Arts	Multimedia and Graphic Design	Ballinger, Texas
Drew Goodwin Hagler <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Arts	History Grades 7-12	Anson, Texas
Samantha Diane Hamilton <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Biology	Cleburne, Texas
Michelle Denee Hatton	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Compton, California
Joshua Hunter Hendricks	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership and Management	Cleburne, Texas
Kayla Leeann Hicks <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Arts	Psychology Counseling & Human Development Concentration	Tuscola, Texas
Bohn Dawson Hilliard	Bachelor of Science	Criminology	College Station, Texas
Jack Ross Ishmael	Bachelor of Arts	History	Royce City, Texas
Caleb Christian Kwiatkowski	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Corpus Christi, Texas

Dakota LaFontaine <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Management	Richland Hills, Texas
Timothy Leatherman <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership and Management	Kerrville, Texas
Kristopher Martin	Bachelor of Business Administration	Business Administration	Paradise, Texas
† Christina Kay LaVerne Martinez <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Business Administration	Long Beach, California
Victoria Ashley Martinez-Serrano	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Abilene, Texas
† Abby McElroy <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Criminology	Abilene, Texas
Karis Lesley Medina	Bachelor of Business Administration	General Business	Abilene, Texas
Daniel Scott Morey <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Human Health Science Medical and Research Concentration	Abilene, Texas
Nakiya Adanna Oleru	Bachelor of Science	Psychology Counseling and Human Development Concentration	Merkel, Texas
Hannah Elizabeth Page	Bachelor of Arts	Communication Studies	Lubbock, Texas
Esmeralda Celia Pimentel	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	El Paso, Texas
Brilyn Rains	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Abilene, Texas
Taylor Sierra Rivers <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	General Business	Abilene, Texas
Maxwell Tol Roberts <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Entrepreneurship	Houston, Texas
Joshua Lee Rojas	Bachelor of Science	Sports Industry	Aspermont, Texas
Sean Schaefer	Bachelor of Arts	English and Writing	Abilene, Texas
Aubrie Payton Sibley	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Bluff Dale, Texas
Jaddis Marihia Smith	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Abilene, Texas
McKenna Noelle Standifer	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Flower Mound, Texas
Olivia Valdovinos	Bachelor of Science	Biology	Victorville, California
Jacob Matthew Wiggins	Bachelor of Business Administration	Accounting	Hawley, Texas
Demarius Jaden Wilson <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Finance	Houston, Texas
Nadia Young	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	Psychology, Allied Health, and Public Health and Wellness Concentrations	Abilene, Texas



## **Core Values**

**Christian Faith** as the foundation of life;  
**Personal Relationships** as the catalyst for life;  
**Learning** as the journey of life;  
**Excellence** as the goal of life;  
**Service** as the measure of life.