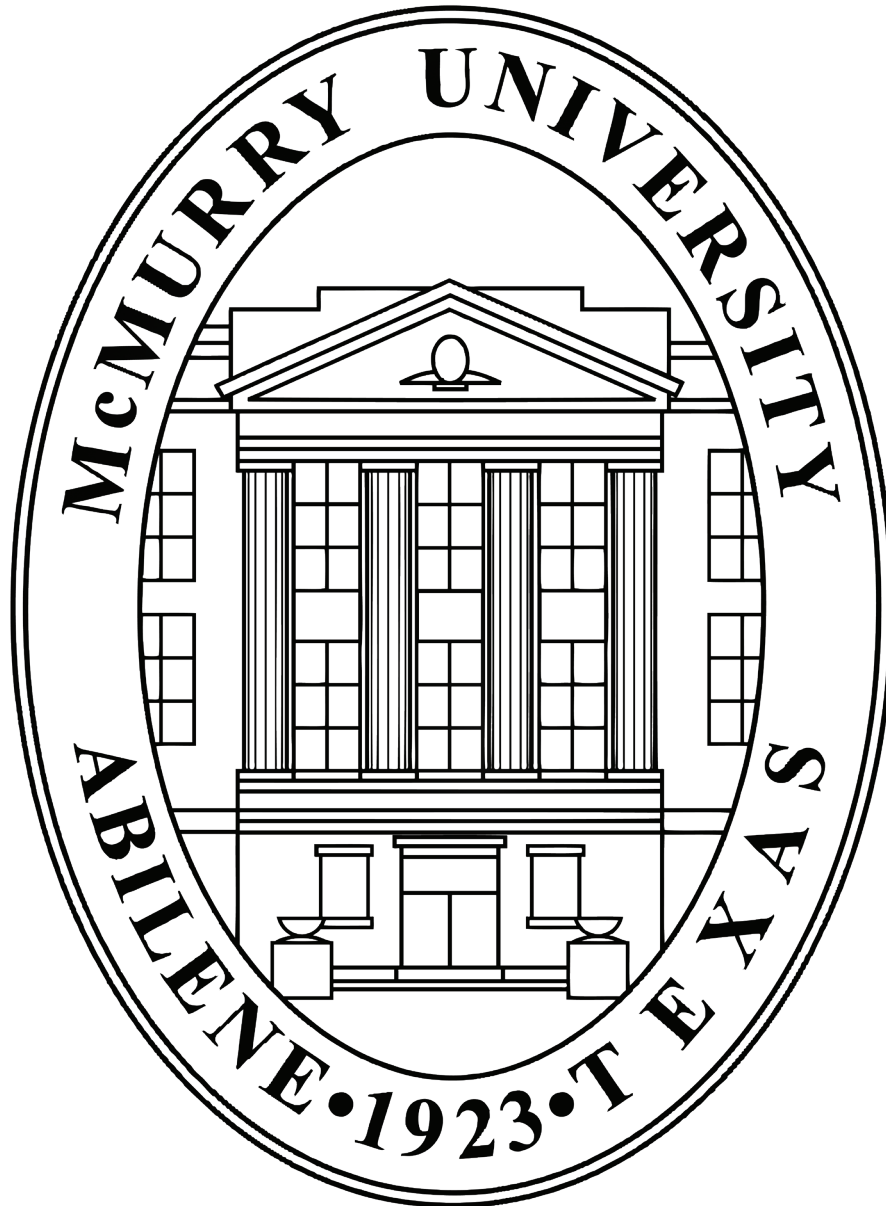


McMurry University



Fall Commencement 2025

Radford Auditorium
Saturday, December 13
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:

- At the end of the ceremony during the Recessional, please rise, remain standing, and wait until the graduates and faculty have exited. Wait to exit once all graduates, faculty, and the stage party have exited, and please do not block the exit.
- Please follow all staff instructions and posted signs at all times.

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 8. A link to the photos may be found on mcm.edu and on our social media.

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 57 semester hours in resident courses at McMurry University.

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.

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.

Completion of Degree:

This program contains the names of degree and honors for December 2025 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.

Ring Turning:

As part of McMurry University's cherished traditions, graduates are invited to turn their class rings after receiving their degrees and before moving their tassels during the Commencement ceremony.

With the emblem now facing outward, this symbolic gesture marks the transition from student to graduate — ready to carry the McMurry spirit into the world.

May this ring serve as a lasting reminder of your journey and the McMurry community.

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

A university president's chain of office is a ceremonial necklace, featuring a medallion and other decorative components unique to the university it represents. It symbolizes the authority and trust vested in the president by the institution's governing body. Dr. Murray's presidential medallion is suspended from a gold chain set with garnets and adorned with the University's iconic McM monogram. At its center, the medallion features Old Main, McMurry's first building, with the University's founding year, 1923, inscribed in gold.

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

Purple and Gold
Red and Green
Purple
Red and Gold
Black and Gold
Rose Pink and Silver
White and Green
Blue and Silver
Teal
Light Blue and Gold
Gold
Green and Blue
Black and Red
Maroon and White
Red, White, and Blue

Department

Art
Biology
Education
English
Kinesiology
Mathematics
Physics
Psychology
Sociology
Theatre
McMurry University
McMurry University
McMurry University
McMurry University
McMurry University

Society Name

Kappa Pi
Tri Beta
Kappa Delta Pi
Sigma Tau Delta
Phi Epsilon Kappa
Kappa Mu Epsilon
Sigma Pi Sigma
Psi Chi
Alpha Kappa Delta
Alpha Psi Omega
Latin Honors
Alpha Chi
Alpha Beta Kappa
Athletics Team Member
US Military Active Duty/Veteran

Dr. Marcia Straughn Commencement Speaker

Dr. Marcia Straughn serves as Dean and Professor of McMurry's Patty Hanks Shelton School of Nursing. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in both music and nursing, and she earned her Ph.D. in Nursing Science from Texas Woman's University. In her days as a direct care nurse, she worked at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, Denton Regional Medical Center, and Hendrick Health. Prior to joining the McMurry faculty in 2023, her academic nursing career included appointments at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Abilene Christian University.

Marcia brings more than twenty-five years of experience in nursing practice, higher education, and program leadership to her role providing strategic, administrative, and academic direction for all McMurry nursing programs. Her scholarly work includes national and international presentations on nursing education, affective learning, and clinical education, as well as multiple grant awards for nursing education initiatives. She is committed to cultivating compassionate, highly skilled nursing professionals who will serve their communities with integrity and purpose.

Marcia's passions extend beyond academia. She sings on the worship team at University Church of Christ and serves as Vice President for Planning and Development on the Board of Directors for the Abilene Community Theater (ACT), where she has secured multiple grant awards from the Texas Commission for the Arts and the Abilene Cultural Affairs Council. She volunteers in many other capacities at ACT, including as a director, backstage crew, and actor.

Marcia and her husband, Greg, have been married for 31 years. They have three strong, smart, compassionate daughters who all reside in Abilene.

Dr. David Carver '74 Honorary Doctor of Science

Dr. David Carver is the founder of Carver Scientific and inventor of the energy storage and energy generation technologies upon which the company was founded. He serves as the Chief Scientist responsible for all research and development efforts and is a director of the company. Dr. Carver is recognized as an innovator of novel Chemistry for alternative energy technologies and pharmaceutical development. He previously founded several successful corporations which, under his direction, invented, developed, and commercialized a diverse and complex set of core technologies with similar risks and complexity. His discoveries and patents for the extraction and purification of Paclitaxel (commonly known as Taxol™) in part enabled the drug to become the world's leading anti-cancer medication. He also developed, patented, and commercialized HPLC (High Performance Liquid Chromatography) instrumentation technologies that today still account for a meaningful percentage of the world markets for HPLC equipment.

Dr. Carver is a 1974 graduate of McMurry University with a degree in Chemistry. He received his Ph.D. in Synthetic Organic Chemistry from Virginia Tech in 1979 and was a National Institute of Health Postdoctoral Fellow at Colorado State University. Dr. Carver holds over 200 issued patents in advanced energy, synthetic organic chemistry, and analytical instrumentation. In 2022, Dr. Carver received the Outstanding Alumni Award in Math and Sciences.

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. Lynne Murray
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

Special Recognitions

Awarding of Honorary Degree Dr. Lynne Murray and Dr. Cyndi Martin
Dr. David Carver Doctor of Science

Commencement Address

Introduction of Commencement Speaker Dr. Lynne Murray

Commencement Address Dr. Marcia Straughn
Dean of Nursing

Conferring of Degrees

Presentation of Graduates and Candidates for Degrees Dr. Cindy Martin
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Awarding of Degrees Dr. Lynne Murray

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 Cheyenne Wuthrich '02
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 2025 Graduates

Master Degree Recipients

Krista Ashby	Master of Science in Nursing	Education	Abilene, Texas
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Bachelor and Associate Degree Recipients

† Yordanos Wondwosen Ayelework <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Computer Science Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Science	Computer Science	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Brooke Helyne Kromer <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Art & Design Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Arts	Multimedia and Graphic Design	Kerrville, Texas
† Matthew Chase Nevels <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Psychology Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Science	Psychology Neurocognitive Concentration	Joshua, Texas
Jaclynn Alissa Berzosa Ramirez <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Business Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Business Administration	Accounting & Finance	Midland, Texas
Miranda Faith Soileau <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Departmental Honors in Curriculum and Instruction Graduate of the University Honors Program	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Houston, Texas
Travis James Alonge	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership & Management	Houston, Texas
Gabriel Alfredo Aragon <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership & Management	Fort Worth, Texas
Christopher David Baker Jr.	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership & Management	Arlington, Texas

Jenna Kaitlin Barouh	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Nursing	Aledo, Texas
Haylie Marie Blakley	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Frisco, Texas
Keommi Kay Bond	Bachelor of Arts	English and Writing	Brownwood, Texas
Trinity Leigh Brewster <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	General Business	Abilene, Texas
Drew Riley Brown	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership & Management	Buda, Texas
Caitlyn Brook Clawson	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Hamlin, Texas
Edward Crawford Coleman Jr.	Bachelor of Business Administration	General Business	Waco , Texas
Caleb Chad Dale	Bachelor of Science	Biology	Safford, Arizona
Isabela Angelique Dorsey <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Waco, Texas
James Clayton Dukes <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Marketing	Weatherford, Texas
Savannah Esquivel <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Psychology	Los Fresnos, Texas
Eduardo Tristan Garcia	Bachelor of Science	Biomedical Science	Brownsville, Texas
Felipe Gonzales	Bachelor of Science	All Level Physical Education	Van Horn, Texas
Sabrina Ann Graf	Bachelor of Science in Nursing	Nursing	San Antonio, Texas
Zhadestian Griffin	Bachelor of Science	Sports Industry	Fort Worth, Texas
Nelly Hewitt	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Arlington, Texas
Simen Løvås <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Finance	Fannrem, Trøndelag, Norway
Whitney Shea Martin <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Abilene, Texas
Whitney Marie Massey <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Hawley, Texas
Trinity Cheyenne McCandless <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Abilene, Texas
Shepherd Ray Miller <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Multidisciplinary Studies II	Perryton, Texas
Campbell Elaine Mitchell <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Frisco, Texas
Armel Noumbissie	Bachelor of Science	Biomedical Science	Abilene, Texas

Devlin Offutt	Bachelor of Science	Life Sciences Grades 7-12	Lubbock, Texas
Arik Heinz Phillips	Associate of Science	General Studies	Wills Point, Texas
Jaelynn Portillo	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance	Dallas, Texas
Rhianna Cheri Price	Bachelor of Science	Early Childhood Education	Anson, Texas
Matthew Jerome Pyle	Bachelor of Science	Physics	Bedford, Texas
† Michelle Lynette Soto Ramirez <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	General Business	Abilene, Texas
Jonathan Scott Rhodes	Bachelor of Science	Exercise Science and Human Performance Personal and Community Wellness Concentration	Waco, Texas
Brandon Rodriguez	Bachelor of Business Administration	Finance	Abilene, Texas
Shaely Nicole Rogers	Bachelor of Business Administration	Marketing	Bandera, Texas
Rhett Aaron Ryan	Bachelor of Arts	Communication Studies	Roanoke, Texas
DonTre RayVon Sinegal	Bachelor of Business Administration	Business Administration	Beaumont, Texas
Abigale Tedra-Marie Soto	Bachelor of Business Administration	Marketing	Abilene, Texas
Madison Rose Soultanova	Bachelor of Science	Criminology & Sociology	Jacksonville, Texas
Aliyah Faith Tanguma	Bachelor of Arts	Psychology	Kyle, Texas
Matthew Corson Walker	Bachelor of Business Administration	General Business	Benbrook, Texas
Miles Walker	Bachelor of Arts	Art Education	Lubbock, Texas
Nathan Jamal Weatherspoon	Bachelor of Business Administration	Business Administration	New Orleans, Louisiana
† Mackenzie Lynn White <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Arts	History & English and Writing	Tuscola, Texas
Jazzmin Alexis Williams	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	Kinesiology, Early Childhood Education, and Public Health and Wellness Concentrations	Aubrey, Texas
Markeis Williams	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership & Management	Houston, Texas
Jennika Ann Willis	Bachelor of Science	Sports Leadership & Management	Abilene, Texas
Katie Raquel Wilson <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Business Administration	Entrepreneurship	Liberty Hill, Texas
Laynie Paige Wilson <i>Cum Laude</i>	Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies	Early Childhood Education English, and Film Studies Concentrations	Danbury, 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.