

University Recognition

2026 Valedictorian

The Valedictorian is the student who has demonstrated academic excellence by achieving a 3.8 or higher GPA, University involvement, service and leadership. The awardee has the honor of delivering the valedictory address at the University commencement ceremony on May 9.

The valedictorian will be announced at a future date.

The University Honors Program at Detroit Mercy

The University Honors Program at University of Detroit Mercy serves the Colleges of Business Administration, Engineering & Science, Health Professions & McAuley School of Nursing, Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences and the School of Architecture & Community Development. The program strives to integrate the intellectual, spiritual, ethical and social development of its members by fostering a community of scholarly excellence, encouraging exploration of the larger world beyond the classroom and promoting compassionate community engagement. Students graduating from the Honors Program may graduate with the Presidential Scholar Award or the Honors Cum Laude Award.

Presidential Scholars

Students who have completed the Honors Program curriculum, volunteered a minimum of 100 hours of community-engaged service and achieved a minimum GPA of 3.75.

Jason J. Zanchetta – College of Business Administration

Justin Francis – College of Health Professions

Haley L. Gavigan – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Ronan Mansilla – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Sarah Morar – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Joshua Otten – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Grace K. Patrick – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Morgen Rhodes – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Jenna Saker – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Yousef D. Al-Ani – College of Engineering & Science

Mostafa I. Ismail – College of Engineering & Science

Ji X. Luth – College of Engineering & Science

Marc G. Naddaf – College of Engineering & Science

Shirli Qushku – College of Engineering & Science

Honors Cum Laude

Students who have completed the Honors Program curriculum, volunteered a minimum of 100 hours of community-engaged service and achieved a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Nashia N. Aldhahi – College of Engineering & Science

Qamar Elia – College of Engineering & Science

Maria Isabella Goolsby – College of Engineering & Science

Hadi H. Harb – College of Engineering & Science

Mohamed Hijazi – College of Engineering & Science

Alexandria J. Jarbo – College of Engineering & Science

Tamara Laska – College of Engineering & Science

Institute for Leadership & Service (ILS) 1995

Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) Leadership Pin and Leadership Medallion

The ELP is designed to educate, engage, and empower all Detroit Mercy students. Using the Social Change model, the ELP offers the opportunity to explore student leadership potential and abilities through involvement in programs, events, and activities that include learning, leadership, spirituality, mentoring, and service on and off campus. An asterisk indicates the student is earning a Minor in Leadership.

Leadership Pin Award Candidates

Ongoing involvement in student organizations, spirituality workshops, leadership workshops, mentoring, and 100 hours of community service.

College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Rumaysa Khan – Cybersecurity

Natasha Davis Mickles – Political Science – Psychology

Morgen Rhodes – Honors Political Science – Women's and Gender Studies*

College of Engineering and Science

Amira S. Abuhmoud – Honors Biology*
Deniya E. Cowart – Honors Biology*
Hadi H. Harb – Honors Biology*
Mohamed Hijazi – Honors Biology*
Alexandria J. Jarbo – Honors Biology, Psychology*
Miranda J. Jasinski – Biology*
Roseann H. Karana – Biology*
Harleen Kaur – Biology*
Dalia Khoshe – Biology*
Mazin Mehmood – Biology*
Abigail M. Shamoan – Biology*
Brigita Sumskas – Chemistry, Psychology*

College of Business Administration

Kyah Benn – Accounting*
Victoria King – Accounting, Catholic Studies*
Vinny Levesque – Business*
Jason Zanchetta – Honors Business*

School of Architecture & Community Development

Taylor Myers – Architecture*

College of Health Professions & McCauley School of Nursing

Hannah Dawood – Nursing*
Justin Francis – Honors Nursing*
Isabella Kardachian – Honors Nursing*
Joyce Olatunde – Nursing*

Leadership Medallion Award Candidates

These students have met the requirements of the Leadership Pin and have additional involvement in student organizations, spirituality retreats, completed leadership coursework, mentoring, and 200 hours of community service.

College of Engineering and Science

Amira S. Abuhmoud – Honors Biology*
Deniya E. Cowart – Honors Biology*
Hadi H. Harb – Honors Biology*
Mohamed Hijazi – Honors Biology*
Alexandria J. Jarbo – Honors Biology, Psychology*
Miranda J. Jasinski – Biology*
Roseann H. Karana – Biology*
Harleen Kaur – Biology*
Dalia Khoshe – Biology*
Mazin Mehmood – Biology*
Abigail M. Shamoan – Biology*
Brigita Sumskas – Chemistry, Psychology*

College of Business Administration

Kyah Benn – Accounting*
Victoria King – Accounting, Catholic Studies*
Vinny Levesque – Business*
Jason Zanchetta – Honors Business*

School of Architecture & Community Development

Taylor Myers – Architecture*

College of Health Professions

Hannah Dawood – Nursing*
Justin Francis – Honors Nursing*
Isabella Kardachian – Honors Nursing*
Joyce Olatunde – Nursing*

The John Daniels Student Servant Leader of the Year

The student awarded The John Daniels Student Servant Leader of the Year Award has shown outstanding growth throughout their undergraduate career at Detroit Mercy and has distinguished his/herself by exemplary commitment in the role of servant leader. This award is named for John Daniels, Director of the Institute for Leadership & Service from 2001-09.

Victoria King – Accounting, Catholic Studies*

Kappa Gamma Pi

Membership in Kappa Gamma Pi, the national Catholic college graduate honor society, is awarded to students who exemplify excellence in leadership, scholarship, faith and service.

Aleya Marra – College of Business Administration

Victoria King – College of Business Administration

Yuridia Hernandez-Osorio – College of Business Administration

Alexandria Jarbo – College of Engineering & Science

Lena Bawazir – College of Engineering & Science

Joyce Olatunde – College of Health Professions

Alena Haio – College of Health Professions

Melissa Converse – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Kimberlynn DeBolt – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Natalia Bajjey – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Morgen Rhodes – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Erin DeFever – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Jesse Walker – College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences