



# UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

COMMENCEMENT

————— 2026 —————





# WELCOME

---

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY  
SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

---

COMMENCEMENT 2026

Friday, May 8  
9:30 a.m.

Calihan Hall  
University of Detroit Mercy  
4001 West McNichols Road  
Detroit, Michigan

## ACADEMIC PROCESSION

---

BAGPIPER

MACE BEARER

GRAND MARSHAL

---

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN  
DENTAL HYGIENE

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL  
SURGERY

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN  
GENERAL DENTISTRY

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ENDODONTICS

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ORTHODONTICS

CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN PERIODONTICS

CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

---

FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATORS OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

DEANS OF THE UNIVERSITY

VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT OF THE MICHIGAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS'  
ASSOCIATION

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY

PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY

PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

*Photographers are requested to use side aisles and the rear of the auditorium during the ceremony so as not to obstruct the view of graduates and guests. Lost items can be claimed at the guard booth or by calling (313) 993-1234.*

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

---

## PROCESSIONAL

---

### WELCOME

---

Kathi Shepherd, R.D.H., M.S.

Grand Marshal, Assistant Dean for Educational Development and Assessment

### INVOCATION

---

Patrick Dorsey, S.J.

Director of Development and Special Projects

### O CANADA

---

Chaseton Cain

Dental Class of 2027

*O Canada! Our home and native land!  
True patriot love in all of us command.  
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,  
The True North strong and free!  
From far and wide,  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
God keep our land glorious and free!  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.  
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.*

### THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

---

Chaseton Cain

Dental Class of 2027

*Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

# COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

---

## DEAN'S REMARKS

Mert N. Aksu, D.D.S., J.D., MHSA., Cert. D.P.H.  
Dean and Professor

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.  
President of the University

## COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Judith A. Jones, D.D.S., M.P.H., D.Sc.D.  
Vice President, Santa Fe Group

## DENTAL HYGIENE CLASS ADDRESS

Tara Loraine Peters  
President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2026

## DENTAL CLASS ADDRESS

Olivia Leticia Manzano, B.A.  
President, Dental Class of 2026

## PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

Mert N. Aksu, D.D.S., J.D., MHSA, Cert. D.P.H

## CONFERRING OF CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

Donald B. Taylor, Ph.D.

## DENTAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda L. Dobis, D.D.S.  
President

## RECESSIONAL

Please remain seated until the graduates and academic procession leave Calihan Hall.

## RECEPTION

Fountain  
University of Detroit Mercy

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

---

***Judith A. Jones, D.D.S., M.P.H., D.Sc.D.***

*Vice President, Santa Fe Group*



Dr. Judith A. Jones is an internationally recognized leader in dental public health and geriatric dentistry. She is board-certified in both specialties and has dedicated her career to advancing oral health for vulnerable and aging populations. Dr. Jones joined the University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry in 2017 and currently serves as an adjunct professor, previously holding the role of associate dean for academic administration.

Dr. Jones earned a Certificate in Dental Hygiene from the University of Michigan, as well as her Doctor of Dental Surgery and Master of Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She completed a Veterans Affairs Geriatric Dentistry Fellowship affiliated with the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and later earned a Doctor of Science in Dentistry (D.Sc.D.) in Dental Public Health from Boston University.

Throughout her distinguished career, Dr. Jones has held numerous national leadership roles, including serving as president of the American Board of Dental Public Health and as a spokesperson for the American Dental Association. She was recently named vice president of the Santa Fe Group, a national, action-oriented think tank focused on improving lives through oral health. She has also contributed extensively to clinical care and education within the Veterans Affairs system, leading programs focused on geriatric and special needs populations.

A respected educator and researcher, Dr. Jones has focused her work on the relationship between oral health, overall health and quality of life. Her contributions have earned national recognition, including the International Association for Dental Research Distinguished Scientist Award for Geriatric Oral Research and the ADEA Gies Award for Outstanding Innovation as an Educator.

Dr. Jones continues to mentor students and faculty while contributing to advancements in dental education, research and public health.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN DENTAL HYGIENE

---

Alhusain Al-Shawi  
Batoul Alawie  
Jasmine Marie Bazzi  
Alexandra M. Costanzo, B.S.  
Madison Lynne Costanzo, B.S.  
Jordyn Dao  
Zeinab Elkhatib  
Lauryn Elizabeth Graziani, B.S.  
Nadine Hussein Hamka  
Jimazha Jennille Hatchett  
Kastrijot Toma Juncaj  
Olivia M. Kapler  
Yomna Mazen Khalil  
Salihom Kidane  
Sierra Douachong Lee  
Emily Brittany Lopez  
Kylee Jo Marrow  
Richelle Lauren Michalak  
Seraj Munir Munasar  
Tara Lorraine Peters  
Suzanne Ali Saad  
Danna Paola Sanchez-Perez  
Daja Weaver  
Hannah Noelle Wood

*Candidates for degrees to be granted upon completion of formal requirements.*

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

---

Albert Jacob Abdelnour, B.S.  
Apoorva Akalankam, B.S.  
Fatima Al Hakim, B.S.  
Anthony Matanios Aldurra, M.A., B.S.  
Fedel Nassr Ali, M.S., B.S.  
Hamazah Alkawasmie, M.S., B.S.  
Mahdi Almothafer, B.S.  
Mohamed Almuthafer, M.S.  
Umelbanin M. Alofi, B.S.  
Marissa Andreou, B.A.  
Valerie Anton, B.S.  
Andrew Anthony Attisha, B.S.  
\*\*Kehinde Babalola, B.Ch.D., M.Sc.  
Joana Baku, B.S.  
Emily Jean Barnhart, B.S.  
Marlene Barrales Manning, B.S.  
Farah Basha, B.S.  
Vasjola Bekolli, B.S.  
Nayeli Beltran Sanchez, B.A.  
Joe Berjaoui, B.S.  
Deanna M. Beydoun, B.S.  
Krishna Bhakta, M.S., B.S.  
Julia Bielanski, B.S.  
Katelyn Shivel Bogart, B.S.  
Olivia Marie Brown, B.A.  
Grace Catherine Busch, B.S.  
Thomas James Buursma, B.S.  
Shivani S. Chati, B.S.  
Joshua Robert Dame, B.S.  
Cassidy Jean Darragh, B.S.  
Ryan Anthony Elliott, B.S.  
Bruce Elsey, J.D., B.S.  
Kathleen Fan, B.S.  
Verena Atef Farouk, B.S.  
Sara A. Fathi, B.S.  
Balgis Hasan Fhasan, B.S.  
Gavin Andrus Fruge, B.S.  
Isabelle Hiam George, B.S.  
Maria Atef Gerges, B.A.  
Sahar Ghorbani, B.S.  
Ryan James Glover, B.S.  
Christian Noah Gonzales, B.S.  
Kyle Andrew Gorospe, M.P.H., B.S.  
Parneek Grewal, B.S.  
Nicole Marie Halatsis, B.S.  
Ahmed Alan Harajli, B.S.  
\*\*Fernando Harp Ruiz, D.D.S.  
Ryan Patrick Hart, B.S.  
Nathan Michael Hellebusch, B.S.  
Joseph William-Mina Henein, B.S.  
Vinh A. Hoang, B.A.  
Coulson Lane Hoover, B.S.  
Ryan T. Huelsman, B.A.  
Brian Jaeyoung Hur, B.A.  
Olivia Suzanne Huszti, B.S.  
Manha Shaukat Iftikhar, B.S.  
Ameer F. Jaber  
Andrea Gianna Johnson, B.S.  
\*\*Dolrudee Jumlongras, Ph.D., D.D.S.  
Harmanjot Kaur Kahlon, B.S.  
Nikhil G. Kalra, B.S.  
Kinaan Kana, B.S.  
Ryan Shaker Karjo, B.A.  
Kevin Allen Kathawa, B.S.  
Alyssa Jean Keller, B.S.  
Mitchell Patrick Kellerman, B.A.  
Sundoz H. Kesbeh, B.S.  
\*\*Eman Bashir A. Khalil, D.D.S.  
Haroon Rasheed Khan, B.S.  
Saif Khan, B.S.  
Zohair A. Khan, B.S.  
Angad Singh Khatra, B.A.  
Savannah Mary Khemmoro, B.A.  
Edmond Pierre Kirouac, B.A.  
Daryna Kucherenko, B.S.  
Sandra Labib, B.S.  
Aahil Lakhani, B.S.

## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

---

Kristy Tuong Vi Le, B.S.  
Flavia Leal Rosado, B.S.  
Hyunjin Lee, B.A.  
Seotack Lee, B.S.  
Sung Min Lim, B.S.  
Marc Daniel Hess Longe, B.S.  
Andrew A. Low, B.S.  
Shirin Maalhigh Fard, B.S.  
Hyder S. Mahdi, B.S.  
Gorgina Amir Makram, B.S.  
Daniel K. Maliszewski, B.S.  
Olivia Leticia Manzano, B.A.  
Michael Andrew Marenger, B.S.  
Megan Patricia Marshall, BMSc  
Evelyn Mathew, B.S.  
Morgan Michelle McCarter, B.S.  
Drake Michael McLaughlin, B.S.  
Lauren Marie Miles, B.S.  
Kang Ryul Min, B.A.  
Laila Mirza, B.S.  
Lawrence Raphael Murad, M.S., B.S.  
Colin Patrick Murphy, B.S.  
Anvi Mudugurki Nandish, B.S.  
Rama Naser, B.S.  
Nancy Ali Nassar, B.S.  
Deana A. Nasser, B.S.  
Hau D. Nguyen, B.S.  
Klein Tuan-Phong Nguyen, M.S., B.S.  
Rachelle Minh Ha Nguyen, B.S.  
Jackson Louis Northouse, B.S.  
Danya A. Obeid, B.S.  
Shelby Lynn Ostrander, B.A.  
Neil N. Parikh, B.S.  
Simon Sangbeom Park, B.S.  
Kiran A. Patel, B.S.  
Lauren Paige Perry, B.S.  
Anh Ngoc Lan Pham, B.S.  
Chelsea Ann Philpot, B.S.  
\*\*Francisco Jose Plaza Villegas, D.D.S., M.S.  
MacKewin John Powell, B.S.  
Blerta Prenaj, B.S.  
Brandon Peter Putrus, B.S.  
Alessia Celeste Quenneville, B.S.  
Ramtin Rahbari, B.S.  
Lexie Lee Rivard, B.S.  
Rylyn Nicole Roth, B.S.  
Humam Sagman, B.S.  
Tammam Sagman, B.S.  
Elias George Said, B.S.  
\*\*Khaled Saleh, D.D.S., M.S.  
Noor Wadea Salih, B.S.  
Alaa Salloum, B.S.  
Ritika Sai Sanikommu, B.S.  
Elie Sassine, B.A.  
Reeta Shaffo, B.S.  
Syeda Sheza Shaheen, B.S.  
Mubarra Shahid, B.S.  
Reem Saad Shebrain, B.S.  
Shaima Shebrain, B.S.  
Rayven George Sheena, B.S.  
Sara El Shwihy, B.S.  
Khushpreet Singh, B.S.  
Danyel W. Smyk, B.S.  
Ethan Daniel Spring, B.A.  
Abigail L. Stewart, B.S.  
Simon Wolfgang Tomazic, B.S.  
Christina Mary Varghese, B.S.  
Frank Vukaj, M.S.  
\*\*Rutvi Vyas, B.D.S., M.D.S.  
Samuel Francis Wakefield, B.S.  
Anna Simone Walker, B.S.  
Cindy Fei Wu, B.S.  
Jonathan George Yousif, B.S.  
Zachary Alec Zweig, B.A.

\*\*Candidates receiving a Doctor of Dental Surgery in the Advanced Standing Program for International Dental Graduates

*Candidates for degrees to be granted upon completion of formal requirements.*

## CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ADVANCED EDUCATION IN GENERAL DENTISTRY

---

John Ballouz, D.D.S.  
Gerald James Greenan IV, D.D.S.  
Holly Mabel Mclean, D.D.S.  
Jade Mourad, D.D.S.  
Melanie LaShea Ransom, D.D.S.  
Sarah E. Wojcik, D.D.S.

Program Director – Christina Van Dam, D.D.S.

## CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ENDODONTICS AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

---

Mario Endiakov, D.D.S.  
Sean Patrick Rillahan, D.D.S.  
Mykolas Varkalis, D.D.S.

Program Director – Susan Paurazas, D.D.S., MHSA, M.S.

## CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN ORTHODONTICS AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

---

Adnan Ihab Hamka, D.D.S.  
William Preston Marsh, D.M.D.  
Anupam Patil, D.D.S.  
Maria Alejandra Tosta Briceno, D.D.S.  
Nuri Ray Turkoglu, D.D.S.

Program Director – Riyad Al-Qawasmi, B.D.S., M.S.D., Ph.D.

## CANDIDATES FOR CERTIFICATE IN PERIODONTICS AND THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF SCIENCE

---

Josh Graham, D.M.D.  
Minki Kim, D.D.S.  
Jung Il Yoon, D.M.D., M.M.S.

Program Director – Anthony Neely, D.D.S., M.Dent.Sc., Ph.D.

*Candidates for degrees to be granted up on completion of formal requirements.*

## CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

---

**Fatima Al Hakim, B.S.**

Student Admissions Ambassadors  
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Mahdi Almothafer, B.S.**

American Academy of Esthetic Dentistry Award

**Marissa Andreou, B.A.**

American Dental Society of Anesthesiology Horace Wells Senior Award

**Emily Jean Barnhart, B.S.**

Dental - School of Dentistry Outstanding Academic Achievement Award  
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee  
American Association of Orthodontics Award  
Academy of Dentistry International Student Servant Leadership Award

**Farah Basha, B.S.**

International Congress of Oral Implantology Pre-Doctoral Achievement Award

**Julia Bielanski, B.S.**

American College of Prosthodontics Graduate Achievement Award

**Shivani S. Chati, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Joshua Robert Dame, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

**Ryan Anthony Elliott, B.S.**

The American Academy of Orofacial Pain Outstanding Senior Award  
Detroit Mercy Dental Excellence in Research Award  
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Gavin Andrus Fruge, B.S.**

Vice President, Dental Class of 2026  
Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee  
Pierre Fauchard Academy Senior Student Award  
School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition  
School of Dentistry Excellence in Academic Leadership  
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Parneek Grewal, B.S.**

Academy of Operative Dentistry Award

**Nicole Marie Halatsis, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Ahmed Alan Harajli, B.S.**

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Periodontics

# CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS

## DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

---

**Ryan Patrick Hart, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee  
Whip Mix Hanau Best of the Best Prosthodontic Award  
School of Dentistry Biomedical Sciences Award

**Harmanjot Kaur Kahlon, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee

**Kinaan Kana, B.S.**

Detroit Mercy Dental Senior Oral Surgery Award

**Kevin Allen Kathawa, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee  
American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology Dental Student Award

**Sundoz H. Kesbeh, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee  
Student Admissions Ambassador  
School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition  
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Daryna Kucherenko, B.S.**

Student Admissions Ambassador  
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Sung Min Lim, B.S.**

Student Admissions Ambassador

**Marc Daniel Hess Longe, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition  
F.B. Vedder Society Nominee

**Hyder S. Mahdi, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Olivia Leticia Manzano, B.A.**

International College of Dentists Student Leadership Award  
Dr. Michelle Ann Kuroakus Wheeler Memorial Scholarship  
Eleanor J. Bushee Senior Dental Student Award  
President, Dental Class of 2026  
President, Student Government Association  
School of Dentistry Pediatric Dentistry Clinical Excellence Award  
School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Michael Andrew Marenger, B.S.**

Academy of General Dentistry Award

**Megan Patricia Marshall, B.M.Sc.**

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

# CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS

## DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

---

**Lauren Marie Miles, B.S.**

Brian D. Stone Memorial Award

**Kang Ryul Min, B.A.**

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Laila Mirza, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Colin Patrick Murphy, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

**Anvi Mudugurki Nandish, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Danya A. Obeid, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

**Lauren Paige Perry, B.S.**

Secretary, Dental Class of 2026

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry Predoctoral Student Award

**Anh Ngoc Lan Pham, B.S.**

Quintessence Award for Clinical Achievement in Restorative Dentistry

**Mackewin John Powell, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

F.B. Vedder Society Awardee

**Blerta Prenaj, B.S.**

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

**Brandon Peter Putrus, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

Quintessence Award for Research Achievement

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

F.B. Vedder Society Nominee

**Ramtin Rahbari, B.S.**

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons-Dental Student Award

**Elias George Said, B.S.**

Russell W. Bunting Periodontal Society Award

Student Admissions Ambassador

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

## CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS DOCTOR OF DENTAL SURGERY

---

**Rayven George Sheena, B.S.**

American Association of Endodontics Award

**Kushpreet Singh, B.S.**

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology Achievement Award

**Simon Wolfgang Tomazic, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee

Class Representative, Dental Class of 2026

**Frank Vukaj, M.S.**

American Academy of periodontology Dental Student Achievement Award

Class Representative, Dental Class of 2026

School of Dentistry Pediatric Award of Excellence Recognition

F.B. Vedder Society Nominee

**Anna Simone Walker, B.S.**

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Recognition Award

School of Dentistry Community Service Award

Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford Student Leadership Award

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

**Jonathan George Yousif, B.S.**

Omicron Kappa Upsilon Dental Honor Society Inductee

School of Dentistry Student Research Recognition

# CLASS OF 2026 AWARDS

## DENTAL HYGIENE

---

**Batoul Alawie**

Colgate Student Total Achievement Award

**Jasmine Marie Bazzi**

Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler Award

School of Dentistry Clinical Enrichment Recognition

**Jordyn Dao**

Student Government Dental Hygiene Representative

**Zeinab Alkhatib**

School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene Outstanding Academic Achievement Award

School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene Biomedical Sciences Award

**Salihom Kidane**

American Association of Public Health Dentistry Community Service Award

**Kylee Jo Marrow**

East Shore District Dental Hygienists' Society Award

School of Dentistry Dental Hygiene Periodontology Achievement Award

School of Dentistry Clinical Enrichment Recognition

Student Ambassador

**Tara Loraine Peters**

Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene Honor Society

President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2026

Student Ambassador

**Danna Paola Sanchez-Perez**

University of Mercy Dental Hygiene Alumni Award

**Daja Weaver**

Loa Petri Clinical Dental Hygiene Award

Falcon Family Award

**Hannah Noelle Wood**

Vice President, Dental Hygiene Class of 2026

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

---

Architecture	Blue Velvet	Law	Purple
Arts and Letters	White	Library Science	Lemon
Business Administration	Drab	Medicine	Green
Dentistry	Lilac	Music	Pink
Economics	Copper	Nursing	Apricot
Education	Light Blue	Pharmacy	Copper
Engineering	Orange	Philosophy	Blue
Fine Arts	Brown	Physical Education	Sage Green
Journalism	Crimson	Public Administration	Brown

The custom of wearing academic gowns, caps and hoods dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century and likely had its inception in France, where the wearing of the cap and gown marked the formal admission of the “Licentiate” to the body of masters. The cold buildings of medieval times, in which the masters were obliged to teach, required caps and hoods which naturally were patterned after the prevailing dress of the times. Since a large number of scholars were clerics, the robes resembled the monks’ dress. The hoods were fashioned after the monks’ cowl and were attached to the gown so that they might be drawn over the head. Later, when the hood was displaced by the skull cap as a head covering, it was made separately from the gown. The skull cap evolved into a pointed cap which is evidenced today in the mortar board cap with its tassel.

Considering the development described above, it is natural that there would be a great variety of styles and usage. In order to maintain uniformity, an *Intercollegiate Code for Academic Costumes* has been adopted by most leading institutions of learning. As a result, the gowns and hoods of this country are a badge of learning, symbolic of the degree attained.

This code calls for three types of gowns: The Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctor’s. The Bachelor’s gown is made with an open or closed front with long pointed sleeves. The Master’s gown is an open front garment with extremely long closed sleeves - the arms protrude through a slit at the elbow. The ends of the sleeves are square and are further characterized by an arc of a circle appearing near the bottom. The Doctor’s gown is also an open front garment, with round bell-shaped sleeves along the length of the arm. There are wide, black velvet panels facing down the front with three velvet bars on each sleeve, which may portray the color that represents the degree earned or may remain black.

It is in the design of the hood that is distinctly American. Simple, yet beautiful, each degree, Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctor’s, is represented by a distinct shape or form. The Bachelor’s hood is the smallest of the three - the velvet edging is narrower and less exposed. The Master’s hood is the same length as the Doctor’s - the velvet edging is somewhat wider than the Bachelor’s and more of the lining can be seen. The Doctor’s hood is easily recognized by the width of the velvet edging, its wide panels and the full exposure of the lining. The lining of the hood indicates the colors of the institute conferring the degree and the color of the velvet trimmings represents the degree.

The black gowns, trimmed with multi-colored velvet and worn by some members of the Dental Faculty, indicate membership in the American College of Dentists or the International College of Dentists.

## ACADEMIC PROCESSION & MACE

---

The order of the Academic Procession (see page 2) is governed by academic protocol. College and School order of march is determined by their founding. Leading the Procession is the Grand Marshal. The Grand Marshal is the Master/Mistress of Ceremonies and Mace-bearer.

The mace is ceremonial and dates back to sixteenth century England where it was used as a formidable weapon to protect high ranking civil, educational and religious officials, and royalty. Today the mace has become a symbol of authority and is carried by a distinguished member of the academic community.

Attached to the silver crown of the mace is a double-sided University crest. Circumscribed around the consolidated institutions' crests is the wording, "University of Detroit Mercy." The left side of the inner circle portrays two wolves at a pot, symbolizing the generosity of the Loyola family (Ignatius Loyola was the founder of the Society of Jesus). After all the family and the workers were fed, even the wild animals had the pot to lick.

The motto of the Jesuits, "Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam" (For the Greater Glory of God), is located above the wolves and the pot. The date 1877 refers to the founding of University of Detroit by the Jesuits.

On the inner circle, right side, is a silver cross which is the symbol of the Religious Sisters of Mercy, who founded Mercy College of Detroit in 1941. The three canettes are taken from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Detroit, symbolizing the Archdiocese and the City. The open book is the traditional symbol for a college. Upon the open pages is inscribed Mercy College's motto, "Maria, Sedes Sapientiae" (Mary, Seat of Wisdom).

The shaft of the mace is made of silver and ebony.

## THANK YOU

---

We acknowledge the following people for their contribution to the 2026 commencement ceremony.

### **Bagpiper**

Mr. Terrence J. Bradley

### **Volunteer Ushers**

Administrators, faculty and staff



