

# Pfeiffer

UNIVERSITY



Commencement Exercises

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025

NORTH LAWN  
MISENHEIMER, NC

# PFEIFFER UNIVERSITY

## 2025 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Scott W. Bullard, Ph.D., President, Presiding



Prelude

Robert W. Smith  
*"A Mother's Hymn"*  
Richard L. Saucedo  
*"Triumphant Fanfare"*

\* Processional

Sir Edward Elgar  
*Pomp and Circumstance*

\* Invocation

Rev. Kristina K. Mares  
*University Chaplain*

Welcome

Dr. Scott W. Bullard  
*President*

Welcome from the Board of Trustees

Mr. Marshall C. Rogers, Sr.  
Trustee

Reflections from the Class of 2025

Jackson Coffey '25

Musical Selection

Alan Menken  
*"Go The Distance"*  
Pfeiffer University Wind Ensemble and Friends  
Tim Hedrick, Director  
Lisa Ewers '89 - Vocalist  
Carmella Hedrick - Accompanist

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

President Bullard

Commencement Keynote Address

Mr. Palmer Brown  
*Chief Executive Office, Compass Group, PLC*

Introduction of Honorary Degree Recipient

President Bullard

Awarding of Honorary Degree

President Bullard

Recognition of Senior Scholastic Achievement      Dr. Daniel S. Mynatt  
*Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs*

A Commencement Prayer      Shania Haynes '25

Presentation of Candidates for Baccalaureate Degrees

Conferring of Baccalaureate Degrees

Presentation of Diplomas

Presentation of Candidates for Graduate Degrees

Conferring of Graduate Degrees

Presentation of Diplomas

\* Pfeiffer University Alma Mater      Dr. Richard Brewer

Hail, Alma Mater! All Hail to thee!  
It's Pfeiffer University, in the land of the free.  
Everlasting friendships found will ever remain.  
Our loyalty reigns evermore. All Hail! All Hail!

Hail, Alma Mater! All Hail to thee!  
The ringing chimes and chapel spire for all they inspire.  
Black and gold our colors wave forever on high.  
And Pfeiffer University, All Hail! All Hail!

\*Benediction      Rev. Mares

\*Recessional      Robert W. Smith  
*"Flying Fortress"*

---

\*The audience will please rise.

Participation in the commencement ceremony is not official verification of graduation requirements. Likewise, the appearance of an individual's name in the program does not constitute acknowledgement that all degree requirements have been completed. The official status for the conferral of all degrees is maintained by the Registrar's Office.

# 2025 BACCALAUREATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

---

Gisell Acosta  
Albemarle, NC  
B.S. Biology

Wesley Nikaii Baptiste  
Waxhaw, NC  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Isaiah Malik Barbee  
Albemarle, NC  
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Walker Marie Barbee  
Oakboro, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Benjamin Holland Barnes  
Marion, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Daymon Jamal Beckwith  
Jacksonville, NC  
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Jessica Bordeaux  
Starksboro, VT  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Mary Elizabeth Bowers  
Albemarle, NC  
B.S. Biology

Jonathan Thomas Bradsher  
Roxboro, NC  
B.A. History  
B.A. Religion & Practical Theology

Cassidy Marie Brinkley  
Lexington, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Alyssa Dawn Broadus  
Mechanicsville, VA  
B.A. Psychology

Jordyn Mikayla Bruno  
Four Oaks, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Emma Hope Bullin  
Ararat, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Andreau Gladys Burgess  
Randleman, NC  
B.A. Elementary Studies

Alexis Nicole Bynum  
Charlotte, NC  
B.A. Sport Management

Karen Capote-Tetelcingo  
Shannon, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Brandon Michael Casper  
Salisbury, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Hailey Nicole Caudle  
Albemarle, NC  
B.A. Psychology

Madeline Abigail Chadbourne  
Jacksonville, FL  
B.S. Biology

Emma Grace Chopko  
Mooresville, NC  
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

Jackson Grant Coffey  
Charlotte, NC  
B.A. Religion & Practical Theology  
B.A. Counseling & Human Services

Jonathan Morrow Coles  
Marietta, GA  
B.A. Psychology

Ryan Christopher Conte  
Albemarle, NC  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Jaci Marie Cook  
Waynesville, NC  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Ayden Mitchel Cox  
Fayetteville, NC  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Sydney Drew Cromer  
King, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Alexander Amir Cunningham  
Greenwood, SC  
B.A. Sport Management

Chase Anthony Dadabo  
Lexington, SC  
B.A. Sport Management

Megan Leah Davis  
Asheboro, NC  
B.S. Comprehensive Science Education  
B.S. Biology

Mathius Thang Minh Dessureau  
Bel Air, MD  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Marisa Nicole Elbertson  
Thomasville, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Kelsy Merie Esquivel  
Mint Hill, NC  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Cameron Elizabeth Evans  
North Wilkesboro, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Natasha Simone Feaster  
Concord, NC  
B.S. Environment & Sustainability  
Studies

Amanda Finch  
Winston Salem, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Caleb Isaiah Fleeman  
Salisbury, NC  
B.A. English

Lillyan Marie Floyd  
Lexington, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Donte Elijah Forrester-Jhagroo  
Wesley Chapel, FL  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Daniel Fulp  
Thomasville, NC  
B.A. Sport Management

Hayden Jakob Furr  
New London, NC  
B.A. Psychology  
B.A. Counseling & Human Services

Amanda Jean Garcia  
Concord, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Lauren Michelle Gattton  
Rockwell, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Justin Wiebe Giesbrecht  
Seminole, TX  
B.S. Accounting  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Jason Wiebe Giesbrecht  
Seminole, TX  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Hannah Mackenzie Goff  
Laurinburg, NC  
B.S. Biology

Asuncion Gonzalez  
Kannapolis, NC  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Caroline Taylor Greene  
Hamlet, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Annabelle Grace Griffin  
Calabash, NC  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Madison Olivia Halsey  
Durham, NC  
B.A. Psychology

Jaylen Mehkiah Hamilton  
Concord, NC  
B.A. Strategic Communication &  
Social Media

Ethan James Hayden  
Jackson Springs, NC  
B.S. Computer Information  
Systems

Shania Gabrielle Haynes  
Charlotte, NC  
B.A. Strategic Communication &  
Social Media

Emma Marie Hinshaw  
Asheboro, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Kenadie Sue Hudler  
Jefferson, NC  
B.A. Sport Management

Coleman Raye Huggins  
Thomasville, NC  
B.A. Sport Management

Jalen Lamont Huntley  
Monroe, NC  
B.A. Sport Management

Ali Bassem Jaafar  
Matthews, NC  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Autumn James  
Robbins, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Holly Marie Jernigan  
Monroe, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

James Eric Johansen  
Salisbury, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Pesu Sarah Josu  
Charlotte, NC  
B.A. Psychology

Breanna Jordan Kelley  
Burlington, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Raegan Dare Kinley  
Spencer, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Cedaria Charese Little  
Ayden, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Chris Sebastian Loreto  
Port St Lucie, FL  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Makenzie Morgan Lyall  
Sparta, NC  
B.A. Educational Studies

Emily Jane Maiers  
Gastonia, NC  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Kenede Emil Marion  
Hiram, GA  
B.A. Sport Management

Kylee Alexys Mayberry  
Harmony, NC  
B.S. Biology

Alexis Danyelle McCormick  
Candor, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Aldair Mendoza-Perez  
Salisbury, NC  
B.S. Accounting

Thomasin Carleton Waegner Merkel  
Pinehurst, NC  
B.S. Biology

Carter John Merrill  
Dallas, NC  
B.A. Psychology

Emily Brooke Moore  
Denton, NC  
B.S. Biology

Ashelyn Suzanne Murphy  
Norwood, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Cameron Neeley  
Hamlet, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Shedeur Nelson  
Richfield, NC  
B.S. Biology

Jacob Dylan Norman  
Statesville, NC  
B.A. Psychology

Antonio Bernardo Nunes Jardim  
Monaco  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Mara Ochoa Contreras  
Bradenton, FL  
B.A. Psychology

Deborah Cynthia Olmstead  
Concord, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Rebecca Elizabeth Parker  
Mount Pleasant, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education  
B.A. Special Education

MaKayla Rae Parks  
Ellerbe, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Jeffrey Clayton Patton  
Lubbock, TX  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Andrew Peacock  
Woodstock, GA  
B.A. Sport Management

Ross Gunter Pearn  
Davidson, NC  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Nicholas Jeffery Pekins  
Columbia, MD  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Cody Ray Phillips  
Concord, NC  
B.A. Counseling & Human Services  
B.A. Psychology

Skylar Nicole Price  
Marshville, NC  
B.A. Elementary Education

Gabriela Michelle Ramires-Sanchez  
Greenville, NC  
B.A. Psychology  
B.A. Counseling & Human Services

Julissa Ramirez  
Charlotte, NC  
B.A. Psychology  
B.A. Counseling & Human Services

Benjamin Scott Ramsey  
Bluffton, SC  
B.A. Sport Management

Megan Allie Rekieta  
Lubbock, TX  
B.S. Accounting

Shania Lee Rhodes Flores  
Marshville, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Trent Michael Rivers  
China Grove, NC  
B.S. Biology

Clayton Douglas Robinson  
Charlotte, NC  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Analise Locke Robinson  
Clemmons, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Jahari Malcolm Simon  
Rocky Mount, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Alison Michelle Sloop  
Rockwell, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Elias Eduardo Solano  
King, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Grayson Eli Southern  
Greensboro, NC  
B.S. Health & Exercise Science

Haley Kasso Strange  
Salisbury, NC  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Abigail Reagan Talley  
York, SC  
B.A. Special Education

Elexis Nicole Taylor  
Mount Gilead, NC  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Christian Javier Thomas  
Concord, NC  
B.S. Computer Information Systems

Alicia Marie Thompson  
Salisbury, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing



Gregory Brian Turner  
Kernersville, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Cierra Young  
Midland, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Joshua Matthew Turner  
Oak Ridge, NC  
B.S. Criminal Justice

Jaylee Grace Usher  
Salisbury, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Andres Ignacio Valdez Arze  
Plantation, FL  
B.S. Business Management &  
Leadership

Kaitlyn Reid Voss  
Shallotte, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Kaidyn Mackenzie Waggoner  
Albemarle, NC  
B.S. Environment & Sustainability  
Studies

Tyrah Washington  
Charlotte, NC  
B.A. Psychology

LaRaylon Jonelle Warren  
Charlotte, NC  
B.S. Health Administration

Micah Sinclair Welborn  
High Point, NC  
B.S.N. - B.S. in Nursing

Thomas Wesley Welton  
Raleigh, NC  
B.A. Sport Management

Christalee Alexandria West  
Gastonia, NC  
B.S. Business Management & Leadership

## **CHIEF FACULTY MARSHAL**

---

Dr. Mark McCallum

## **ASSOCIATE FACULTY MARSHAL**

---

Dr. Deborah Burris

## **FACULTY MARSHALS**

---

Dr. Marc Bartholdi  
Dr. David Cartrette  
Dr. Edward Royston

## **STUDENT MARSHALS**

---

Laurin Rauer Chief Marshal  
Joely Harrelson  
Autumn Helms  
Cooper Hyatt  
Alexander Michael  
Kaylee Ollis  
Joshua Pardue  
Annika Schneider  
Renick Sides  
Madison Varner

*\*\*Live stream the ceremony at [pfeiffer.edu/live](http://pfeiffer.edu/live)\*\**

## COLOR GUARD

---

Renata Romero - Crucifer  
Lola Cabaniss-Ali  
Aleczander Paraiso  
Crysty Flores Perez  
Yasmin Flores Perez

## ORDER OF THE SUNDIAL

---

Mary Bowers  
Jonathan Bradsher  
Jackson Coffey  
Megan Davis  
Cameron Evans

## FRANCIS SCHOLARS

---

Jonathan Bradsher  
Shania Haynes

*Gold cord denotes honor graduates. Purple cord denotes Order of the Sundial.  
Gold and blue cords denote Phi Delta Sigma. Medallion denotes student leaders.*

*Note: Due to this program's publication deadline, the list of degree candidates reflects  
information available prior to the end of the Spring 2025 semester.*

# 2025 GRADUATE DEGREE CANDIDATES

---

Karissa Marie Agosto  
Charlotte, NC  
Master of Arts Marriage & Family  
Therapy

Laith Anwar Al-Masri  
Amman, Jordan  
Master of Business Administration

Ashley Kim Andreano  
Richmond, VA  
Master of Business Administration

Alicia Blalock  
Albemarle, NC  
Masters of Organizational Change &  
Resource Management

Alexis Leigh Currie  
Albemarle, NC  
Master of Organizational Change &  
Resource Management

Sarah Anne Dunning  
Rock Hill, SC  
Master of Health Administration

Matthew Alix Hyppolite  
 Mooresville, NC  
Master of Health Administration

Susan Anne Kidd  
Greensboro, NC  
Master of Business Administration

Eric Lewis Kidd  
Charlotte, NC  
Master of Business Administration

Jeffin K. Koshy  
Des Plaines, IL  
Master of Health Administration

Melanie Anne Fernandez Manning  
 Mooresville, NC  
Master of Science in Leadership

Mackenzie Morris  
Charlotte, NC  
Master of Marriage & Family Therapy

Dakota Nicole Moser  
Concord, NC  
Master of Arts Marriage & Family  
Therapy

Jason Nicoletta §  
Greensboro, NC  
Master of Health Administration

Deborah Gyant Page  
Durham, NC  
Master of Science in Leadership

Benedikt Mika Pfeiffer  
Schliersee, Germany  
Master of Business Administration

Kathryn Riggins §  
Burlington, NC  
Master of Health Administration

Caitlin Lynn Singleton  
Troy, NC  
Master of Arts in Teaching

Whitney Nicole Swofford  
Mount Pleasant, NC  
Master of Business Administration

Ann Vandavelde Tabor  
Charlotte, NC  
Master of Arts Marriage & Family  
Therapy

Jarrett Ford Tharrington  
Durham, NC  
Master of Science in Leadership

Mark Timmons  
Danville, IL  
Master of Business Administration

Pedro Alejandro Torres - Munevar  
Charlotte, NC  
Master of Organizational Change &  
Resource Management

Alexis Elizabeth Walter §  
Taylorsville, NC  
Master of Health Administration

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

The formal academic dress worn today originated more than 600 years ago. The apparel has changed little in appearance but has taken on a significant role in identifying the degree and alma mater of its wearer.

Gowns for those with bachelor's degrees have pointed sleeves; those with master's degrees wear oblong sleeves and holders of doctoral degrees wear bell-shaped sleeves. Doctoral gowns have velvet facing on the front and three velvet stripes on each side. Hoods indicate the colors of the institution from which the degree was received and the color of the hood's border represents the academic discipline in which the degree was earned. Some of the more common disciplines are listed below:

Arts & Letters, Humanities.....	White
Business/Accounting.....	Olive Brown
Economics.....	Copper
Education.....	Light Blue
Engineering.....	Orange
Fine Arts & Architecture.....	Brown
Health Administration.....	Salmon
Communications/Journalism.....	Crimson
Law.....	Purple
Medicine.....	Green
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Occupational Therapy.....	Slate Blue
Physician Assistant.....	Kelly Green
Physical Education.....	Sage Green
Public Health.....	Salmon Pink
Science.....	Golden Yellow
Theology.....	Scarlet

The standard academic cap is appropriately known as a mortarboard. Faculty members holding master's or doctoral degrees may opt for a velvet tam.

## COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

### PALMER BROWN

*Chief Executive Officer, Compass Group, PLC*



Palmer Brown is a native of Stanly County, a graduate of Albemarle High School and UNC-Chapel Hill, and currently serves as Chief Executive Officer for Compass Group North America and as a member of the executive board of Compass Group PLC.

Mr. Brown grew up in Stanly County. His parents, Charles Brown and Lucinda Courtney Brown, encouraged a life of serious study balanced with time outdoors and competing in athletics, and – importantly – a sense of civic responsibility through active participation in various non-profit organizations. Some of his earliest memories of Pfeiffer include attending basketball camp with friends.

Habits learned in those early years paid off. An outstanding runner, in 1987 Mr. Brown was named the state of North Carolina's Outstanding Male Scholar-Athlete by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. An outstanding scholar, Mr. Brown was a recipient of the prestigious John Motley Morehead Scholarship as part of his academic journey to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he earned an undergraduate degree in Business Administration before going on to earn the Juris Doctor from the UNC School of Law.

Mr. Brown began his journey with Compass Group North America in 2001. Across more than two decades, he has served in a variety of leadership roles – including roles in the finance, strategy, and legal departments. His extensive experience and keen business acumen even led him across international waters – where he served as the Chief Financial Officer for Compass Group PLC, based in the UK.

Mr. Brown has a deep knowledge of business and has been instrumental in many strategic acquisitions during his tenure. It's his true passion for people and his unwavering commitment to ensure that each of Compass Group's associates has the opportunity to grow and leave an indelible mark on the company.

And perhaps most importantly, Mr. Brown is a husband and father, married to Hailey Knight, with whom he raises two daughters, Lucy and Abby. In their free time, the Brown family can often be found enjoying competitive swimming and volleyball or taking in a UNC athletic event.