

2026

Commencement and Hooding Ceremony

MAY 17, 2026
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

School of Pharmacy
and Health Professions
School of Medicine



Creighton
UNIVERSITY

Creighton
UNIVERSITY
AG. PIPER
CHARITABLE TRUST
HEALTH SCIENCES BUILDING



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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

President, Creighton University



Dear Creighton University Graduate,

Congratulations on reaching this remarkable milestone. It is the culmination of a journey marked by hard work, embracing meaningful experiences, and the forming of skills and relationships that will guide you into the next chapter in your personal and professional life.

Commencement is an incredibly special time, and it is yours to cherish in the company of your family, friends, and supporters. As a Creighton graduate, you carry the hopes and dreams of those who have supported you as well as the legacy of others who have come before you. I am proud to count myself among the many individuals who have watched you embrace the challenges of higher education and become all the stronger and more compassionate because of it.

There is much to look forward to, but for today I encourage you to reflect on all that has brought you to this moment. Your academic rigor, service to the community, and commitment to a better world place you among the select few who have dared to pursue academic and professional excellence with courage and heart.

During your time at Creighton, you embraced the unknown and stepped out of your comfort zone. You forged new connections, explored unfamiliar places, and, most importantly, pursued truth in all its forms. I challenge you to carry forward that spirit of exploration and hold with you the lessons of your Jesuit, Catholic education as you mature into the leaders the world needs.

As you join the Creighton alumni family of more than 80,000, remember that the change you want to see in the world will not simply appear. It is your responsibility to seek it out with clarity of purpose and fullness of soul. Keep pursuing truth, embracing discomfort, and creating change, not just as a graduate, but as a Creighton graduate.

May God bless you and your family as you celebrate today. You have earned this moment, now it is time to continue your journey with courage and conviction, knowing you will be a Bluejay, always.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Daniel S. Hendrickson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "H".

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Order of Exercises

PROCESSION

PROGRAM BANNER CARRIERS

School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Paul Price, PharmD, BCPP
Senior Associate Dean

Occupational Therapy

Carrie Bose, OTD, OTR/L, BCP
Assistant Professor

Pharmacy

Keith Christensen, PharmD, BCPS
Associate Professor

Physical Therapy

Kathleen Sutton, PT, DPT, PhD
Assistant Professor

PROVOST'S WELCOME

Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN
Provost

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Laura Halley
Class of 2026

INVOCATION

Rev. Kevin L. Dilworth, SJ
Chaplain, Phoenix Campus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President

DEAN'S MESSAGE

Susan Speliopoulos Weems, MS
Assistant Dean

BOARD AUTHORIZATION

Presented by

Board of Trustees Member

DEGREE CONFERRAL STATEMENT

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR EARNED DEGREES

Susan Speliopoulos Weems, MS

Names read by

Gianluca Del Rossi, PhD, ATC
Professor

Hooding of OTD candidates by

Sarah E. Dahlhauser, OTD, OTR/L
Assistant Professor

Andrea Fleischman, OTD, MS, OTR/L
Assistant Professor

Hooding of PharmD candidates by

Yousef Toma, PharmD, BCPS, CSP, AAHIVP
Assistant Professor

Matthew Cheung, PharmD
Clinical Assistant Professor

Hooding of DPT candidates by

James Lynskey, PT, PhD
Associate Professor

Stefany Shaibi, PT, DPT, EdD
Associate Professor

RECITATION OF OATHS

Oath of an Occupational Therapist presented by

Carrie Bose, OTD, OTR/L, BCP

Oath of a Pharmacist presented by

Yousef Toma, PharmD, BCPS, CSP, AAHIVP

Oath of a Physical Therapist presented by

Kimberly Somers, PT, DPT, CSCS
Assistant Professor

TURNING OF THE TASSEL

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

STAGE PARTY, FACULTY AND GRADUATE RECESSIONAL

CANDIDATES FOR EARNED DEGREES

Dean: Amy Friedman Wilson, PharmD

DOCTOR OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Laura Madison Halley
Torrington, Wyoming

Elisabeth Jean Hemstreet
Pendleton, Oregon

Ayesha Kamal
Sammamish, Washington

Meg Brianna Nielsen *
Elkhorn, Nebraska

Jessica Noemi Ponce-Ruelas
Las Vegas, Nevada

Emily B. Simms
Bolton, Mississippi

Megan Leigh Smith
Overland Park, Kansas

Audrey Louise Van Leuven
Saint Charles, Missouri

Flori Glenn Witenstein
Phoenix, Arizona

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Robert Anthony Brown *
Phoenix, Arizona

Ana Maria Castro *
Glendale, Arizona

Jiwon Choi
Glendale, Arizona

Haley Marie DeMartinis
La Porte, Indiana

Adib Mehrpouya
Phoenix, Arizona

Megan Sierra Paul
Phoenix, Arizona

Megan Nicole Phillips *
Mesa, Arizona

Jillian Justine Ramos
Gilbert, Arizona

Salwan Taher
Phoenix, Arizona

Omar Jesus Villalpando
Phoenix, Arizona

DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

Micah James Akira Wong Abe
Kāneohe, Hawaii

Madison Belle Baber *
Temecula, California

Katelyn Marie Barajas
Goodyear, Arizona

Linda A. Barcenas Jaquez
Somerton, Arizona

Hailey Nicole Beach
Albuquerque, New Mexico

Luis Francisco Beltran
Phoenix, Arizona

Katherine C. Bender *
Dallas, Texas

Elizabeth Judit Chico
Chandler, Arizona

Kevin Robert Crowell
Brownsville, Oregon

Meagan Lynn Davis
Mesa, Arizona

Talle Lamar Donley
Phoenix, Arizona

Alyssa D. Farrell
Kaibeto, Arizona

Jalyn Zackery Thomas Gorman *
Fort Defiance, Arizona

Kemma Grace Goudreau
Gilbert, Arizona

Brendon Isaac Harrington
Northridge, California

Kelly Nicole Jehle *
Phoenix, Arizona

Tyler Kirts
Tempe, Arizona

Emily Ann Kurley
Peoria, Arizona

Kelsy Kalani Lum
Chandler, Arizona

Tyler James Martin
Las Vegas, Nevada

Emily Nicole Mitchell *
Buckeye, Arizona

Amaris Mariah Mori
Phoenix, Arizona

Andy Quach
Peoria, Arizona

Thomas Anthony Riddle III
Tupelo, Mississippi

Noah Douglas Sargent
Peoria, Arizona

Evan Myles Schneider
Great Bend, Kansas

Kate Elizabeth Sehr
Iowa City, Iowa

Elizabeth Anne Spencer
Sloughhouse, California

Maria Torres Cota
Tempe, Arizona

Cole Thomas Travis
Peoria, Arizona

Jason Thanh Truong
Ankeny, Iowa

Jade Vella-Wright *
Melbourne, Australia

Leah Cossette Videen
Peoria, Arizona

Isabelle Jewell Ward
Surprise, Arizona

Elisabeth Huxley Wolf
Phoenix, Arizona

Oath of an Occupational Therapist

From the privilege and rights this degree brings, I hereby pledge to hold my knowledge in trust for the good of those people whom I serve. Therefore, I will:

Endeavor to keep both the profession and the occupational needs of the clients and communities I serve foremost in my thoughts and actions;

Deliver occupational therapy services that demonstrate excellence at all levels of care while valuing and honoring diversity and respecting others as equals;

Advocate for needed services and the rights of clients regardless of the constraints I may face;

Strive to always act in a manner that is consistent with the philosophical base and values of the profession by upholding the occupational therapy code of ethics, abiding with those in need of care even in the face of personal risk, and upholding the dignity of all human beings regardless of their condition; and

Model and foster leadership, and facilitate spiritual, personal, and professional growth for myself, my profession and in others.

In keeping with the high ethical and moral standards of Creighton University, I will seek to be receptive to what those around me have to teach me, be committed to scholarship and the lifelong pursuit of truth, and be dedicated to building a human community of justice, respect, and mutual concern.

Oath of a Pharmacist

I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy. In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will treat all patients with dignity and respect and will not discriminate against any patient.

I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.

I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

Oath of a Physical Therapist

*In the presence of my colleagues, friends, families and teachers,
and in view of the honored profession I am entering into,
I solemnly and willingly state that I dedicate myself to the following:*

I will practice physical therapy with compassion for the vulnerabilities in each of my patients and will work to preserve their dignity and promote their health and welfare.

I will value the lives of my patients as I value my own life, through my concern for their significance and with respect for them and the confidential nature of our relationship.

I will be humble.

I recognize my limitations and will continue to consult with my colleagues and co-workers for knowledge with which I can better treat my patients and for the inspiration to expand and augment my education.

I will share my knowledge with my colleagues and patients freely, with compassion and patience.

I will work toward the improvement of the quality of life for all of my patients.

I will honor the choices that my patients make with respect to their wishes and needs.

I will do no harm to another human.

I will work to improve the practice of physical therapy so that all who seek it will receive treatment which is proper, ethical and just.

I will not allow my judgment regarding the practice of my profession to be influenced by race, creed, religion, greed or unethical behavior.

I will expect the same behavior from my colleagues and co-workers.

Thus, with this oath, I freely accept the obligations and rewards which will accompany my practice of physical therapy.

School of Medicine

Order of Exercises

PROCESSION

BANNER CARRIER

Moustafa I. Hazin, DO
Clinical Professor

PROVOST'S WELCOME

Mardell A. Wilson, EdD, RDN
Provost

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Gargee Khaparde
Class of 2026

INVOCATION

Rev. Kevin L. Dilworth, SJ
Chaplain, Phoenix Campus

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD
President

BOARD AUTHORIZATION

Presented by
Board of Trustees Member

DEGREE CONFERRAL STATEMENT

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR EARNED DEGREES

Robert W. Dunlay, MD
Dean, School of Medicine

Names read by

Doug Jones, MD
Associate Dean, Student Affairs

Hooding of candidates by

Sonal P. Haerter, MD
*Associate Program Director,
Department of Internal Medicine*

Mark A. Fischione, MD
Assistant Dean, Medical Education

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AWARDS

Robert W. Dunlay, MD

Randy R. Richardson, MD
Regional Dean, Phoenix Campus

Rachel M. Jones, MAEd
Assistant Dean, Student Affairs

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Robert W. Dunlay, MD

PHYSICIAN'S OATH

Randy R. Richardson, MD

SENIOR CLASS SPEAKER

Saif Alshaka
Class of 2026

TURNING OF THE TASSEL

Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

STAGE PARTY, FACULTY AND GRADUATE RECESSIONAL

CANDIDATES FOR EARNED DEGREES

Dean: *Robert W. Dunlay, MD*

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE

Shadee Aghel

*Portland, Oregon
UC San Diego Medical Center, San Diego, CA
Internal Medicine*

Saif Alshaka

*Amman, Jordan
Mayo Clinic School of Graduate Medical Education, Phoenix, AZ
Otolaryngology*

Kristine Yuke Ping Rie Au

*Honolulu, Hawaii
University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, TX
Anesthesiology*

Bella Tere Ayala

*Merced, California
UC San Francisco—Fresno, Fresno, CA
Psychiatry*

Lilit Babayan

*Glendale, California
Keck School of Medicine of USC, Los Angeles, CA
Internal Medicine*

Ajeet Bains

*Phoenix, Arizona
Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Mesa, AZ
Psychiatry*

Jason Matthew Becker

*Hartington, Nebraska
University of Utah Health, Salt Lake City, UT
Neurology*

Gabriel A. Bitar

*Beirut, Lebanon
Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, MI
Otolaryngology*

Joshua Adam Borsa

*Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Preliminary Medicine
Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Diagnostic Radiology*

Simardeep Cheema

*Rowland Heights, California
UC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Pediatrics*

Chelsea Hyun Ju Choi

*San Diego, California
Sutter Health, Oakland, CA
Internal Medicine/ABSMC*

Mitchell James Christiansen
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin

Laura Maria Cogua

*Omaha, Nebraska
Zucker School of Medicine—Northwell NS/LLJ, New Hyde Park, NY
General Surgery*

Jessica Andrea Da Mota

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UC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Psychiatry*

Joseph Daniel Daus

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Prisma Health-University of South Carolina School of Medicine, Columbia, SC
Emergency Medicine*

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University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix, AZ
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Anesthesiology*

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UC San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Anesthesiology*

Lily Catherine Goodman

*Lemont, Illinois
University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas, TX
General Surgery*

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Coto De Caza, California
Naval Medical Center
Portsmouth, Portsmouth, VA
Pediatrics*

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Brayden Haberman

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New York-Presbyterian Hospital—Columbia & Cornell, New York, NY
Emergency Medicine*

Devin Francis Hannon

*Bethesda, Maryland
Lankenau Medical Center, Wynnewood, PA
Internal Medicine*

Shervin Harirchian

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Psychiatry*

Madilynn Grace Hintz

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Honor Health, Scottsdale, AZ
Preliminary Medicine/
TP—Dermatology
Honor Health, Scottsdale, AZ
Dermatology*

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Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA
Otolaryngology*

Kelton McLain Hunt

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Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
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Diagnostic Radiology*

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Diagnostic Radiology*

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Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
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Justin Johnson

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Medicine—Primary*

Priyanka Kolli

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Isabella Anna Lach

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*Fremont, California
UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital, Oakland, CA
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Braden Michael Lopez

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University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, AZ
Orthopaedic Surgery*

Andrew J. Luker

*Grand Junction, Colorado
St. Mary's Medical Center SCL Health, Grand Junction, CO
Family Medicine*

John Kamakaehukai Mailolo

*Honolulu, Hawaii
Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Family Medicine*

Augustus Gray Malan

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Creighton University School of Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Preliminary Medicine
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Diagnostic Radiology*

Trenton Daniel McKinnon

*Mesa, Arizona
Creighton University
East Valley, Chandler, AZ
Emergency Medicine*

Kathleen Sullivan Moore

*Phoenix, Arizona
Barrow Neurological Institute at SJHMC, Phoenix, AZ
Neurology*

DOCTOR OF MEDICINE *CONTINUED*

Robert Alan Morrisset

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University of Utah Health,
Salt Lake City, UT
Emergency Medicine

Chloe Alexis Morton

Highlands Ranch, Colorado
Creighton University School of
Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Vinh Hoang Ngo

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Anesthesiology

Cynthia Thu-Trinh Nguyen

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UC Davis Medical Center,
Sacramento, CA
Internal Medicine

Jacqueline Nhã Nguyen

Irvine, California
University of Southern
California, Los Angeles, CA
Emergency Medicine

Katherine Taylor Nusbaum

Nashville, Tennessee
Phoenix Children's
Hospital, Phoenix, AZ
Pediatrics

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Boise, Idaho
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Creighton University School of
Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Diagnostic Radiology

Rajan Jay Parikh

Houston, Texas
Tulane University School of
Medicine, New Orleans, LA
Preliminary Medicine/Radiology
Tulane University School of
Medicine, New Orleans, LA
Diagnostic Radiology

Sagar Patel

Portland, Oregon
Santa Clara Valley Medical
Center, San Jose, CA
Preliminary Medicine
Stanford Health Care,
Stanford, CA
Anesthesiology

Sai Vaishnavi Pidathala

Tracy, California
Loma Linda University,
Loma Linda, CA
Internal Medicine

Dorina Pinkhasova

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Health Education
Services—TN, Tucson, AZ
Transitional Year/Tucson
Sunrise Health GME
Consortium, Las Vegas, NV
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Lauren Marie Pisani

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University of Missouri—KC
Programs, Kansas City, MO
Orthopaedic Surgery

Ashley Ponce

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University of Arizona College
of Medicine, Phoenix, AZ
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Esai Jonathon Ponce

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University of Arizona College
of Medicine, Phoenix, AZ
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Richmond, Virginia
SUNY Health Science Center
Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY
Neurology

Clay Amin John Rahaman

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Creighton University School of
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Preliminary Surgery

Dayne J. Ramos

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Tripler Army Medical
Center (AMC), Honolulu, HI
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Austin Reed Reynolds

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Cedars—Sinai Medical
Center, Los Angeles, CA
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Transitional Year/Tucson
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Stanford, CA
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Won S. Shin

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University of Southern
California, Los Angeles, CA
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Yumna Zulekha Siddique

Diamond Bar, California
El Rio Health, Tucson, AZ
Psychiatry

Erin Colleen Sinai

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UCLA Medical Center,
Santa Monica, CA
Family Medicine/UCLA/
Santa Monica

Arshdeep Singh

Vernon, Connecticut
Creighton University School of
Medicine-Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Preliminary Medicine
Schwab Rehabilitation
Hospital, Chicago, IL
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation

Neal Sinha

Manhattan, New York
NYMC—Metropolitan Hospital
Center, New York, NY
Psychiatry

Laura Karine Stewart

Yakima, Washington
University of Utah Health,
Salt Lake City, UT
Internal Medicine

Christian Peter Sutherlin

Captain, U.S. Air Force
Gilbert, Arizona
Wright—Patterson Medical
Center, Wright Patterson
Air Force Base, Dayton, OH
Internal Medicine

Adam Royce Taylor

Castle Rock, Colorado
Rush University Medical
Center, Chicago, IL
Internal Medicine

Grace Catherine Tolan

Rosemount, Minnesota

Bryant-Hau Phuc Tran

Arcadia, California
Adventist Health White
Memorial, Los Angeles, CA
Preliminary Medicine
Harlem Hospital Center
(Columbia University Medical
Center), New York, NY
Diagnostic Radiology

Jaylin Kay Tuman

Woodbury, Minnesota
University of Minnesota
Medical School, Minneapolis, MN
Neurology

Joshua Martin Vellozzi

San Pedro, California
Los Robles Health System,
Thousand Oaks, CA
Anesthesiology

Olivia Venvertloh

San Diego, California
Nationwide Children's
Hospital, Columbus, OH
Pediatrics

Caitlyn Nicole Voth

Cave Creek, Arizona
Creighton University School of
Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
General Surgery

Daniel Shou En Wang

Houston, Texas
Loma Linda University,
Loma Linda, CA
Plastic Surgery (Integrated)

Harvey Yifan Wang

Honolulu, Hawaii
Kirk Kerkorian School of Medicine
at UNLV, Las Vegas, NV
Orthopaedic Surgery

Brianna Ariel Werner

Gilbert, Arizona
Creighton University School of
Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Anesthesiology

Maximilian E. Whooley

Phoenix, Arizona
John Peter Smith Hospital,
Fort Worth, TX
Emergency Medicine

Megan Alice Witsoe

Scottsdale, Arizona
University of Arizona College
of Medicine, Phoenix, AZ
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Jessica Trudy Wong

Arcadia, California
Creighton University School of
Medicine—Phoenix, Phoenix, AZ
Obstetrics & Gynecology

Zoe Alexis Wyse

Portland, Oregon
University of Vermont
Medical Center, Burlington, VT
Psychiatry

Kathleen Zhou

Folsom, California
Santa Clara Valley Medical
Center, San Jose, CA
Internal Medicine

AWARDS

School of Medicine

Obstetrics & Gynecology Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Neurology Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Neurology.

Internal Medicine Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Internal Medicine.

Surgery Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Surgery.

Pediatrics Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Pediatrics.

Family Medicine Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Family Medicine.

Emergency Medicine Outstanding Student Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Emergency Medicine.

The Sanford Ornstein Radiology Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Radiology.

The Yukari Kawamoto Psychiatry Excellence Award

For outstanding academic ability, strong clinical skills, maturity, dedication to learning, and high professional standards in Psychiatry.

Outstanding Service to the School of Medicine

Presented by the Offices of Student Affairs and Medical Education.

Outstanding Service to the School of Medicine

Presented by the Office of Admissions

Merck Manual Awards

For outstanding scholastic achievement in medical studies.

The Leonard Tow in Humanism Faculty Award

Presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation to a faculty member for exceptional compassion and empathy, who serves as a role model for students and colleagues alike, and who shows genuine concern for others in the practice of medicine.

The Leonard Tow Humanism in Medicine Student Award

Presented by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, to a graduating senior for exceptional compassion and empathy, and who shows genuine respect for others.

Class Officer Awards

For service to their class and to the School of Medicine.

AWARDED AT AN EARLIER CEREMONY

Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society

For scholarship, personal integrity, compassion, and potential leadership in the field of medicine.

Gold Humanism Honor Society

For integrity, respect, compassion, empathy, and altruism—the qualities of the humanistic healer.



Physician's Oath

As I enter the practice of medicine, I solemnly pledge to give my life and talents to the service of humanity.

I will practice medicine with conscience and dignity.

I will not permit considerations of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, nationality, ideology or social standing to intervene between my art and my patient.

The health and life of my patient will be my first consideration and I will abstain from whatever is deleterious or mischievous.

I will hold in confidence all that my patient confides in me.

I will give respect and gratitude to my deserving teachers and all who have helped me in my pursuit of knowledge, empathy and wisdom.

My colleagues will be my brothers and sisters and, by instruction and example, we will impart a knowledge of the art to those who wish to learn it.

I will maintain the utmost respect for human life and the dignity of my fellow man.

I will not use my knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity and will strive to do no harm.

May God grant me the wisdom and compassion to practice this art. I make this oath freely and upon my honor.



Academic Attire

Academic regalia dates to the earliest — and coldest — universities. During the Middle Ages, scholars at early English and European universities wore wool or fur garments to stay warm in drafty stone buildings.

The academic gown made its first recorded appearance at the University of Cambridge in 1284. The tradition crossed the Atlantic with King’s College in New York, now known as Columbia University, and took root in the United States.

By the late 1800s, representatives from American universities created the Intercollegiate Code for Academic Costumes to standardize academic dress. The system assigned meaning to the colors and designs of caps, gowns and hoods, allowing observers to recognize a graduate’s degree level and alma mater by their regalia.

Today, while gowns and hoods are no longer worn for warmth, they remain symbols of years of study and academic achievement. The hood is reserved for those who have earned advanced degrees beyond the bachelor’s level.

The colors

The colors used on gown trim, hood edging and cap tassels represent specific academic disciplines and professional fields. A few examples:

Arts and Humanities	Education	Philosophy
Science	Medicine	Dentistry
Business	Nursing	Law
Occupational Therapy	Pharmacy	Physical Therapy



The gown

Black is the traditional color for academic gowns. Sleeve styles vary by degree: bachelor’s gowns have long, pointed sleeves; master’s gowns feature oblong sleeves with slits at the ends; and doctoral gowns stand out with bell-shaped sleeves, velvet trim on the front and neck, and three velvet bars on each sleeve.



The cap

In the U.S., the most common graduation cap is the square, tasseled mortarboard. Master’s and doctoral graduates, along with faculty, often wear a soft cap or tam, a round velvet hat with a more traditional style. During the ceremony, graduates begin with the tassel on the right side of the cap and move it to the left after receiving their degree.



The hood

The hood is one of the most recognizable parts of academic regalia, showing both the wearer’s degree and the institution where it was earned. The lining reflects the school’s colors — white and blue for Creighton graduates — while the velvet trim represents the degree. At Creighton, bachelor’s candidates do not wear hoods. Master’s and doctoral candidates have theirs placed upon them during their ceremonies.

Traditions of Creighton

Creighton Seal

The Creighton University seal includes elements representing the Creighton family, Creighton's Jesuit tradition and the Omaha Archdiocese.

The gold stripes on the red field, in the upper left-hand quadrant of the shield, come from the family coat of arms of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). The lion rampant comes from the Creighton family coat of arms, and the three seashells on a field of white and red sable come from the Wareham family coat of arms—paying homage to Creighton University's founding families. The design for the shield's final quadrant, in the lower left, comes from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Omaha. The starburst behind the shield comes from the seal of the Society of Jesus.



Ceremonial Mace

In the Middle Ages, the mace was a club used in battle and carried by a bodyguard to defend a person of authority. Over the years, it began to lose its warlike image and became a symbol of peaceful leadership.

At an academic institution, the mace is the symbol of the legal and chartered authority of the leadership to whom the board of trustees has delegated authority. When the ceremonial mace is present, the authority of the University is present. Use of the mace is reserved for occasions of outstanding importance, and it is an honor to bear the mace.

The Creighton University mace was designed and fashioned by Brian K. Besack, operations supervisor of the University's carpenter shop, at the invitation of then president, the Rev. John P. Schlegel, SJ, to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the University.

Using a cherry wood baluster from a long-abandoned staircase in the attic of Creighton Hall, the oldest building on Creighton's campus, Besack designed and fashioned the shaft, head and foot of the mace. Each facet of the nine-sided head displays a bronze, gold-plated medallion bearing the name and founding date of the University's schools and colleges. Its foot is sheathed in gold-plated brass, and cradled in its shaft rests the official seal of the University. At its top, the mace is crowned with a three-dimensional blue and gold medallion symbol of the Society of Jesus.



Graduation Honors — Students may graduate with honors. Criteria for graduation honors can be found in the Creighton University catalogs. Honors for students with previously conferred degrees are listed in this program. Honors for students with May degrees met the honors criteria based on Fall 2025 cumulative grade point averages. Official honors will be awarded on the transcript and diploma based on Spring 2026 cumulative grade point averages. Honors for students who anticipate completing their degree requirements in August or December are not listed in this program. Honors will be awarded on the transcript and diploma at the time of degree conferral.

Degree Conferral — Creighton University confers degrees three times per year: August, December, and May. Annual University commencement ceremonies are held in May for all Colleges and Schools. The hooding ritual is included in the commencement ceremony for master's- and doctoral-level students. An additional graduate level commencement ceremony is held in December. Students who complete their degree programs in August or December may attend the commencement ceremony following completion, or with the approval of the Office of the Dean, in the preceding May. Participation in a commencement ceremony does not guarantee a degree is officially earned. A degree is conferred only after the dean verifies all academic requirements are met and the degree is posted on the student's transcript by the Office of the Registrar.

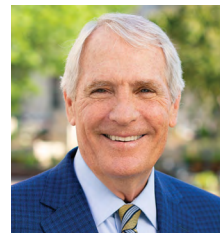
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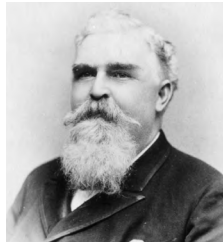
*Creighton alumnus/alumna



Edward Creighton



Mary Lucretia Creighton



John Creighton



Sarah Emily Creighton

History of Creighton University

Edward and Mary Lucretia Creighton, along with Edward's brother, John, settled in Omaha in the 1850s. John married Mary Lucretia's sister, Sarah Emily Wareham, in 1868, and the four are considered the founders of Creighton University. Edward's work with the transcontinental telegraph and freighting, ranching, railroading and banking became a major force in the city's economic development. The two brothers were widely known for their business enterprises, and the two couples were also widely regarded for their philanthropy.

Edward died in 1874, and his widow included \$100,000 in her will to establish Creighton College in memory of her husband. Mary Lucretia died in 1876, and her executors, who included her brother-in-law John, purchased 6.2 acres of land at the northwest corner of what is currently 24th and California streets. The land and additional securities were transferred to Bishop James O'Connor of Omaha, and construction began on the school.

The bishop asked the Jesuits to operate the school and the first president, Roman A. Shaffel, S.J., arrived in Omaha in late 1877; the school opened on Sept. 2, 1878. One priest, two scholastics, a layman and a laywoman formed the faculty. The school began with 120 students ranging in age from 6 to 30. On Aug. 14, 1879, Bishop O'Connor surrendered his trust to the Jesuits, who incorporated "The Creighton University" under Nebraska law. Much of the initial teaching was below the collegiate level; in 1891, Creighton University awarded its first baccalaureate degree.



Edward and Mary Lucretia's generosity is credited with establishing Creighton College, while John and Sarah Emily's philanthropy enlarged it to a five-school university. Today, Creighton University consists of nine schools and colleges:

- College of Arts and Sciences (1878)
- School of Medicine (1892)
- School of Law (1904)
- School of Dentistry (1905)
- School of Pharmacy and Health Professions (1905)
- Heider College of Business (1920)
- Graduate School (1926)
- College of Nursing (1971; four-year bachelor's degree program began in 1958)
- College of Professional and Continuing Education (Established as University College in 1983)

*Welcome to the
Creighton University
alumni family,*

now more than 80,000 strong. While your time as a student is coming to a close, your time in our global alumni community is just getting started. No matter where life takes you, we will be here to support you with opportunities and benefits to help you stay connected. **Bluejays for life.**



alumni.creighton.edu

Alumni & Family Weekend

**CREIGHTON
DAYS**

OCT. 2-4, 2026

Reconnect with classmates. Reminisce about your college days. And remember that Creighton forever remains your home away from home.

More info: creighton.edu/creightondays

Lord, teach me to be generous; teach me to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labor and not to ask for reward; save that of knowing that I am doing your will.

A Prayer for Generosity

St. Ignatius of Loyola, Founder of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits)



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