



# 2022

## Physician Assistant Commencement and Hooding Ceremony

DECEMBER 10, 2022





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# Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD

*President, Creighton University*



Dear Creighton University Graduate,

On this momentous occasion and on behalf of the entire Creighton University community, I offer my heartfelt congratulations to you, a proud member of the Class of 2022.

Commencement is a well-deserved, joyous celebration, a culmination of your persistent efforts and dedication, and the dawn of unlimited opportunities in your life. I know I join your family, friends, professors, and mentors when I say that you have my utmost admiration for maintaining your sense of purpose, commitment, and focus throughout the rigors of your course of studies.

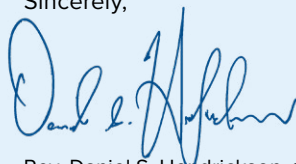
Please take a moment during this exhilarating time in your life to reflect on the transformative journey you have undertaken, and how you have deepened your understanding of yourself, those around you, and the world.

You are prepared to make meaningful contributions to your profession and the communities you will join and serve. I have faith that you will be a leader who is steadfastly driven and notably compassionate as you seek purposeful results and justice and equality for all.

May you take from Creighton University the best of what your Jesuit, Catholic education offers—inquiry, imagination, and inspiration. You are a changemaker, and the world awaits.

Know, too, that you are not alone in this journey. You are now part of a Creighton alumni family that is nearly 80,000 strong and stretches across the globe. Enjoy this milestone in your life, and may God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,



Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD



# Order of Exercises

## WELCOME

**Stephane VanderMeulen, MA, MPAS, PA-C**  
*Program Director*

## INVOCATION

**Rev. James Clifton, SJ**  
*Associate Dean for Mission and Identity*

## REMARKS

**Stephane VanderMeulen, MA, MPAS, PA-C**  
**Robert W. Dunlay, MD**  
*Dean, School of Medicine*

## SIGNIFICANCE OF HOODING

**Patty Esch**  
*PA Class of 2022*

## HOODING CEREMONY

**Patty Scholting, MPAS, MPH, PA-C**  
*Director of Curriculum*

**Rachel Cushing, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C**  
*Academic Director*

**Bridget Burke, MPAS, PA-C**  
*Academic Director*

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREE

**Robert W. Dunlay, MD**

## PROFESSIONAL OATH

**Darwin Brown, MPH, PA-C**  
*Director of Clinical Education*

## AWARDS

**Erin Hoffman, MPAS, PA-C**  
*Director of Didactic Education*

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Tylen Pavlovsky**  
*PA Class of 2022*

## BENEDICTION

**Rev. Kevin FitzGerald, SJ, PhD, PhD**  
*Chair, Department of Medical Humanities*



Seanna Claire Block  
Courtney Alexis Brackin  
Bailey Matthew Braun  
Austin Jay Campbell  
Drew Michael Cottrill  
Allison Marie Eaton  
Patricia Rose Esch  
Malin Hope Ferre  
Jocelyn Elizabeth Gates  
Janel Courtney Gerace  
Andrew James Haggerty  
Isabella T. Herrera

Brady Charles Ihnen  
Anna Christine Johnson  
Megan Lee Kasik\*  
Alex John Kramer  
Margaret Joanne Lesnefsky\*\*  
Grace Sophia Engel Lesniewski  
Benjamin Michael Lewis  
Marissa Danielle Lutzkanin\*\*\*  
Emily Jane Mayberger\*\*  
Alayna Danielle McGary  
Alexandra Eileen Meekin  
Tylen Joe Pavlovsky

Kyle Alexander Rotherham  
Huy Nguyen Tran  
Jordan Wardy  
Katherine Grace Wewel

\* *Summa Cum Laude*    \*\* *Magna Cum Laude*    \*\*\* *Cum Laude*

## Awards

### Alpha Nu Award

Megan Kasik

### Heart of Service Award

Tylen Pavlovsky  
Meg Lesnefsky

### Magis Award

Bailey Braun

### Pi Alpha Inductees

Anna Johnson  
Megan Kasik  
Seanna Block

### Preceptor of the Year Award

Kyle Brown, PA-C

### NAPA Scholarship

2021

Anna Johnson

2022

Drew Cottrill

## Creighton Physician Assistant Student Society Officers

### President

Bailey Braun

### Vice President

Anna Johnson

### Secretary

Jordan Wardy

### Treasurer

Megan Kasik

### State Chapter Representative

Seanna Block

### AOR

Tylen Pavlovsky

### AOR Alternate

Patty Esch

### Magis Representative

Isabella Herrera



## Mission

The Creighton University Physician Assistant Program mission is to foster a tradition of excellence by transforming learners into compassionate physician assistants who are dedicated to exemplary patient care. Rooted in our Ignatian heritage, we empower students to realize their full potential through a commitment to professional growth and service to humanity.

## The Physician Assistant Professional Oath

**I pledge to perform the following duties with honesty and dedication:**

- I will hold as my primary responsibility the health, safety, welfare and dignity of all human beings.
- I will recognize and promote the value of diversity.
- I will uphold the tenets of patient autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence and justice to provide compassionate and effective care to all patients.
- I will assess my personal capabilities and limitations, striving always to improve my medical practice.
- I will actively seek to expand my knowledge and skills, keeping abreast of advances in medicine and expand knowledge within the profession.
- I will hold in confidence the information shared in the course of practicing medicine.
- I will collaborate and respect my professional relationship with the physician and other members of the health care team.
- I will nurture an altruistic spirit with service to my patients, my community, and my profession.

These duties are pledged with sincerity and upon my honor.



## **Creighton Physician Assistant Program Faculty and Staff**

**Stephane VanderMeulen, MA, MPAS, PA-C, Program Director**

**Patty Scholting, MPAS, MPH, PA-C, Director of Curriculum**

**Erin Hoffman, MPAS, PA-C, Director of Didactic Education**

**Darwin Brown, MPH, PA-C, Director of Clinical Education**

**Bridget Burke, MPAS, PA-C, Academic Director**

**Rachel Cushing, DMSc, MPAS, PA-C, Academic Director**

**Erin McKown, DScPAS, PA-C, Academic Director**

**Tami Dolphens, MPAS, PA-C, Special Faculty**

**William Gossman, MD, FAAEM, Medical Director**

**Geri Horton, BA, Program Manager/Admissions Specialist**

**Sadie Bohnenkamp, BA, Curriculum Coordinator**

**Donna Czarnecki, BS, Clinical Coordinator**

**Alynne Wize, MEd, Academic Success Counselor**

**Jo Walton, Administrative Coordinator**

# 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, S.J., 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.





# History of Academic Regalia

The robes, hats and hoods worn by faculty members and graduates as they march into the commencement hall, and even the different colors you see on them, have historical origins and significance. During the Middle Ages, scholars at the earliest English and European universities wore wool or fur garments to stay warm in the drafty, stone buildings that were poorly heated. Most of the scholars were also monks or priests, and as such had the hair shaved from the crowns of their heads in the distinctive clerical tonsure. Most wore cloaks that included a hood that could be pulled up to keep their heads warm. The academic gowns and hoods were adapted from both secular and clerical garments of the time, and the hood was chosen by the early scholars to indicate by color, trim or binding the degree held by the wearer.

The style of academic dress most frequently worn in the United States dates back to colonial times, although it was not formally adopted until near the end of the 19th century, when it was chosen as appropriate attire by the Intercollegiate Commission during a meeting in New York. It has remained the general standard in America since, although some variations occur at individual institutions. In the United States, black is the traditional color for academic gowns, although some institutions allow holders of doctoral degrees to wear robes in the university's colors.

The sleeves of the robes vary, depending on the degree held by the wearer. The bachelor's robe has long, pointed sleeves. The master's robe has sleeves that are oblong and closed at the ends, with slits through which the arms may be extended. The doctoral robe has a full sleeve with a velvet facing on the front and at the neck, and three velvet bars on each sleeve. The velvet may be black or of a color that symbolizes the degree held by the wearer.

The head covering most commonly used in the United States is the square, tasseled "mortarboard." Some American universities, however, use berets, and in other countries a variety of styles of head coverings is worn with academic regalia. The tassel is usually black and is worn over the left front quarter of the mortarboard. Holders of doctoral degrees may wear gold tassels.

The hood is the most distinctive feature of American academic dress, which through color and design may indicate the wearer's degree and the institution at which that degree was earned. Hoods are lined with the colors of the institution that awards the degree, and may be faced with the color designating the degree awarded. Hoods vary in length. The bachelor's hood is about three feet long, the master's slightly longer and the doctoral version is longer still and is decorated with broad color panels.

Candidates may have the hood ceremoniously placed upon them, as is done at some British universities, or a college/school may 'self-hood' en masse at the appropriate time during the ceremony as has been the practice at Fordham University in the United States. Additionally, the code allows for the wearing of the hood into the commencement ceremony as part of the academic procession, but only if neither of the two procedures above are being employed.

The code also states: "It is quite appropriate for the bachelor's gown to be worn without a hood." Many institutions, particularly larger ones, have therefore dispensed with the bachelor's hood at commencement ceremonies altogether, though a graduate is still entitled to wear one once the degree is conferred. Honorary and/or earned doctoral degrees are very often conferred by the highest academic officer of an institution bestowing the appropriate hood at the podium, regardless of the procedure being followed for other candidates at the ceremony.

Only one hood may be worn at any given time. Trim colors may not be combined or displayed together in any way to attempt to indicate more than one academic field. The regalia indicating the highest degree attained is usually worn, though the code seems to allow for a graduate to revert for some occasion to the entire academic costume (e.g., robe style, trim width, hood length, etc.) of a lesser degree earned. Those who hold multiple degrees of the same level (i.e., more than one master's or doctorate degree) may wear at any given time the regalia, in its entirety, of any one degree earned. The code does not allow for "mixing-and-matching." The regalia prescribed by an academic institution and the degree actually awarded by that institution to the wearer (as indicated by trim color, hood length, robe style, etc.) must be consistent. The one exception is for officers of the academic institution who, while wearing a doctoral gown of the university being served, may display one hood from any degree earned from any institution.



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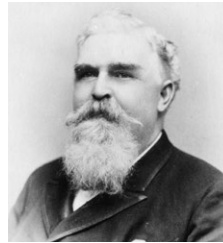
\*Creighton alumnus/alumna



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)



*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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 @creighton1878 | @creightonalumni

 Creighton University | Creighton President | Creighton University Alumni





## *Welcome to the Creighton University alumni family,*

now nearly 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](http://alumni.creighton.edu)