

Saint Louis

2026 PRECOMMENCEMENT

University



TRUDY BUSCH VALENTINE
SCHOOL *of* NURSING

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY | THURSDAY, MAY 14 | CHAIFETZ ARENA

ABOUT SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY



Saint Louis University is one of the oldest and most prestigious Catholic universities in the United States. Founded in 1818, the University is recognized nationally for world-class academics, life-changing research and a strong commitment to faith and service.

Guided by its enduring Jesuit mission, Saint Louis University offers students a highly rigorous and deeply transformative education that empowers them to become bold, confident leaders.

As a nationally recognized leader in research and innovation, SLU is a Research-1 (R1) university, advancing groundbreaking discoveries in St. Louis and around the world.

Saint Louis University educates 13,307 students from all 50 states and 93 countries. The University's campus in Madrid, Spain, enrolled 1,285 students last fall.

A dedication to values-based education and social justice has earned Saint Louis University widespread acclaim and bolstered its status as a character-building college. SLU is one of only 7% of colleges nationwide to hold the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement, which honors the service-centered work of the University community.

SLU is also a catalyst for urban renewal in the heart of a vibrant city. More than \$2 billion in housing, retail and business development is underway in Midtown St. Louis, and the University is in the center of the neighborhood's growth.

Inspired by its pioneering spirit, Saint Louis University continues to move forward, committed to serve a higher purpose while seeking the greater good.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

SLU ranks as one of the country's top colleges by *The Princeton Review*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *U.S. News & World Report* – and as the No. 11 “Best Catholic College in America.” (Niche)

R1 STATUS

With \$65.1 million in externally funded research expenditures, SLU's R1 status places the University in an elite group of U.S. research universities.

SERVICE

1.5 million hours of service are completed by the SLU community annually. Seventy-two percent of students volunteer each year.

ATHLETICS

An NCAA Division I institution, SLU is a member of the Atlantic 10 Conference and competes in 18 sports. Recent successes include men's basketball advancing to the second round of the NCAA Championship.

MASCOT

The University's unique mascot, the Billiken, is a mythical good-luck figure who represents “things as they ought to be.”

ALUMNI

SLU's new graduates join more than 142,000 alumni who lead lives of meaning and purpose around the world.

WELCOME

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

School of Nursing administrators

School of Nursing faculty

Candidates for the degree Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Candidates for the degree Master of Science in Nursing

Candidates for the degree Doctor of Nursing Practice

Candidates for the degree Doctor of Philosophy

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

Cristina McGroarty,
Ph.D., RN, CNE
Associate Professor
Traditional BSN Program
Coordinator Level Two

INVOCATION

David Suwalsky, s.j.
Vice President for
Mission and Identity

WELCOME AND REMARKS

Kristine L'Ecuyer,
Ph.D., RN, CNL, CNE
Dean, School of Nursing

PRECOMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Kevyn Schroeder,
PNP, MPH, RN
Alumna

PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES

Presented by:

Karen Cugar, RN, Ph.D., CNE CNL
Associate Professor of Nursing

Traditional BSN Program Coordinator Level One

Candidates for Bachelor of
Science in Nursing Degree

Candidates for Master
of Science in Nursing
Degree, Accelerated

Candidates for Master of
Science in Nursing Degree,
Clinical Nurse Leader

Candidates for the Doctorate
of Nursing Practice

Candidates for Doctor of
Philosophy in Nursing

RECOGNITION OF NOMINEES AND RECIPIENTS OF AWARDS AND HONORS

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS AND HONORS

Devita Stallings, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Associate Professor

Associate Dean of Undergraduate and Prelicensure Nursing Education

BENEDICTION

David Suwalsky, s.j.
Vice President of Mission and Identity

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

TRADITIONAL OPTION

MAY 2026 GRADUATES

Nasro Abdi □○
Lilly Aboussie
Kayla Abraham ○
Olivia Abraham +○
Leah Airoidi
Tabarak Alhussainy
Sophie Astell ○
Katelin Augustin +○
Grace Bachara ○
Johanna Bauers ○
Maureen Boland ○
Ella Bressanelli ○
Hannah Brummel ○
Kaitlin Buckle □○
Kirsten Burchfield ○
Natalie Burchfield ○
Alison Carter
Kenna Cashman ○
Zinnia Castro ○
Amy Ceko ○
Joshua Charter
Helene Che ○
Ava Cole
Paola Contreras ○
Naomi Creasy ○
Sheila Cronin ○
Morgan Degroot ○
Ellie Eldridge ○
Riviera Ell
Abigail Enselek ○
Kimberly Estrada ○
Moriah Fleming ○
Charles Fletcher ○
Grace Forthaus ○
Ana Fracchia ○
Karlyn Freed
Baylee Frisch ○
Alexandra
Garnmeister ○

Esther Gbloesse +○
Allison Gillespie □○
Lauren Gilmartin +○
Zakiah Glenn □
Timothy Gosser ○
Margaret Groth
Abbey Halter ○
Caroline
Harrington +○
Veronica Harrison ○
Jaimison Heese ○
Hanna Hensley
Adrien Herrera ○
Emily Hetman +○
Megan Hornberger ○
Sarah Hornberger □○
Irene Ibay ○
Jordan Ireland □
Kernen Jarr ○
Amanda Jorgensen +○
Hannah Joseph □○
Virginia Jost ○
Emma Kelley ○
Ian Kelley
Kaya Kielbasa □
Miranda Kovarik +○
Isabella Krause
Carys Lacy ○
Davia Lakine
Marisa Lasky □○
Taylor Levison ○
Avrie Levy
Rosana Liang ○
Grace Lietz ○
Angelina Ly ○
Hollie Lyons ○
Michelle Magsaysay ○
Reagan Manning ○
Makala Matlick
Gabrielle Matthews +○
Claire McDermott ○

Jasmyne Montoya
Andrew Mezyk ○
Presleigh Mickells ○
Ava Miller
Georgia Mingle ○
Shinbee Moon ○
Cindy Nguyen ○
Jessica Nguyen □○
Titilayo Osibamiro
Ellie Paloucek ○
Anjali Panjwani
Autumn Parrott ○
Jiya Patel ○
Kerani Patel
Brenna Pepper ○
Kyle Pezold
Serena Philip ○
Katherine Pi □
Anjaly Poothurail ○
Raquel Potteiger
Adrian Pyrdol ○
Devin Racho
Gabriel Rivera
Madison Ryan ○
Nicholas
Sackschewsky ○
Fernanda Sandoval ○
Cameron Saucedo
Madison Serrano ○
Gina Shin
Ava Simon ○
Ava Southern □○
Cassidy Stangel ○
Sarah Stemper
Lily Stup
Allison Sullenger □○
Yanxi Sun ○
Lilian Thomas ○
Paige Trautman ○
Lauren VanCardo ○
Catherine Wagner □

Shayna Watters ○
John West ○
Morgan Westcott
Frances Wiacek □
Emily Wilson ○
Ella Winter ○
Seoyeon Yim ○
Abigail Yock ○

ACCELERATED OPTION

MAY 2026 GRADUATES

Chidera Agina-ik ○
Erica Amponsah ○☆
Leanna Brewer ○
Avery Buckanavage ○☆
Syreeta Burrell ○
Jacqueline Cheung ○
Caleb Corbin ○
McKenna Crawmer ○
Erin Curley ○☆
Kalinda Dhawan ○
Tiffany Fenwick ○☆
Andrew Jasukaitis ○
Makayla Kennedy ○
Brendan Knobbe
Edwin Lin
Kelly Marquardt ○
Donaizza Mattes ○
Zerina Mesanovic ○
Osazenomen
Osayawe ○
Clara Plass ○
Lejla Pozegic ○
Lesley Pozos ○
Brittany Purser ○
Zachary Ramirez ○
Susan Rippee ○
Rachel Roberts ○☆
Sophia Rokke ○
Erica Ross ○
Casey Rowe ○

CANDIDATES FOR BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

Elizabeth Sanders ○ ☆
Zoe Schoen ○
Reese Stetina ○ ☆
Josiah Thompson ○ ☆

Corrine Walton-
Macauley ○
Amy Wildes

RN TO BSN
MAY / AUGUST 2026
GRADUATES
Tiffany Hood
Amber Ibanez

Ashley Knibb ☆
Shamica Tucker ☆
Joseph Waters

CANDIDATES FOR MASTER OF SCIENCE IN NURSING

ACCELERATED

MAY 2026 GRADUATES

*Hooded by Heather
Wade DNP, FNP-BC, RN,
CNL*

Juliet Burlew
Tajja Cook
Genevieve Culp
Kaitlin Dally
Rosaline Dedo
Emma Dos Santos ☆
Vivian Ezike
Mia Fiordelisi

Katelyn Greaser ☆
Pujita Gubbala
Jasmine Guercin
Allana Guffey ☆
Brooklyn Hager
Ryli Hagler
Terrell Jackson
Lakshmi Kannan
Erin Lessie
Caitlyn Loeffelman ☆
Abigail Magliano
Thien Mai

Kristena McGlothlin
Spencer Murphy
Rachael Noble
Adeola Ogundipe
Sophie Rock ☆
Lee Sapp
Khushi Shah
Michael Sodeke ☆
Celeste Stewart
Ty Svensson
Hector Vargas-Puente

CLINICAL NURSE LEADER

MAY 2026 GRADUATES

*Hooded by Bobbi Shatto,
Ph.D., RN, CNL*

William Ditullio
Emma Lane
Francis Lo
Hannah Moore
Meghan Murray
Azra Okic
Juliana Speth

- † Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society
- Anticipated Honors
- Certificate in Family Nursing
- ◇ Nursing Workforce Diversity Program
- ☆ Sigma Theta Tau International
Honor Society of Nursing

Graduation honors for candidates appearing in this book are calculated based on the Grade Point Average at the end of the Fall semester.

University honors will be officially calculated when final grades have been submitted and the degrees are conferred.

This program is not an official document.

CANDIDATES FOR THE DOCTOR OF NURSING PRACTICE



MAUREEN M. MERCIER ☆

PROJECT TITLE:

Robotic versus Open Kidney Transplant and the Effects on Wound Complications

CHAIR: Christopher Hemmer
DNP, ANP, ONP-C, FAANP, FNAON



DAWN L. PFEFFER-WRIGHT

PROJECT TITLE:

Hospitality Suite Utilization: A Quality Improvement Initiative for Medicine Unit Discharges

CHAIR: Karen S. Moore
Ph.D., DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-C, CGNC, FAANP, FAAN
Professor, DNP Program Director,
Coordinator of Global and
Planetary Health



KATIE SKOSKY †

PROJECT TITLE:

Open Access Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Testing to Decrease barriers to care in a University

Student Health Center

CHAIR: Karen S. Moore
Ph.D., DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-C, CGNC, FAANP, FAAN
Professor, DNP Program Director,
Coordinator of Global and
Planetary Health



HALEY STREBLER

PROJECT TITLE:

Strategies to improve Basic Bleeding Control Knowledge in Laypersons

CHAIR: Christopher Hemmer
DNP, ANP, ONP-C, FAANP, FNAON



**TIFFANY DYANN
YOUNG-DAVIS ☆**

PROJECT TITLE:

Accuracy of Blood Loss Measurement Methods for Identifying Postpartum Hemorrhage

CHAIR: Karen S. Moore
Ph.D., DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FNP-C, CGNC, FAANP, FAAN
Professor, DNP Program Director,
Coordinator of Global and
Planetary Health

NURSING ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Trudy Busch Valentine School of Nursing Alumni Association welcomes you as new alumni/alumna of Saint Louis University. Special thanks to all the graduates participating in the ceremony and those family members, friends, faculty and staff in attendance this morning to honor them.

We want to keep you informed about all the exciting things that are happening on campus and in your program, so please follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/slunurse

SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING PLEDGE

As a Saint Louis University School of Nursing graduate, I solemnly pledge myself before God and in the presence of this assembly to faithfully practice my profession of nursing. As a health care professional dedicated to enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities, I am committed to fulfilling my responsibilities with compassion for patients' care. I pledge collaboration with all my colleagues similarly committed to meeting health care needs of individuals and their communities. I will constantly endeavor to increase my knowledge and skills in nursing and use them wisely. As a person for others, I will assist all in safeguarding and promoting the health and happiness of mankind.

THE SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING PIN

The tradition of the nursing pin dates back to 1880. The school of nursing that initiated this tradition was Bellevue Hospital School of Nursing in New York.

The Saint Louis University School of Nursing pin, which dates back to 1928, expresses by its symbolism the spirit and objectives of the School. The upper left section of the shield displays a representation of what was the seal of the Sisters of Saint Mary (now the Franciscan Sisters of Mary) under whose direction the School of Nursing was first conducted as a University school for Sisters and lay nurses (1928). The seal of the Sisters of Saint Mary exhibited as its central feature a large capital "M" representing the name of Mary. The upper arms of the letter "M" enclose a heart, symbolic of Christ and His love. This compound symbol rests in the angle made by two crossed arms, one representing Christ, and the other, Saint Francis, whose spirit the Sisters of Saint Mary adopted.

In the lower right section of the shield is the seal of Saint Louis University. A modified American Eagle, taken from the Great Seal of the United States, symbolizes the presence of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in the United States. The large shield on the breast of the eagle exhibits the letters HIS (Iota, Eta, Sigma), the first three letters of the Greek name for Jesus and the symbol of the Society of Jesus. In the right talon, the eagle holds a cross, signifying the primary reason the Jesuits came to America – to teach Christianity. In the left talon,

the eagle holds a laurel branch or palm, signifying the Jesuits' secondary purpose for coming to America – to teach liberal arts. Around the eagle, there are three fleur-de-lis, the symbol of France and that of King Louis IX, the saint after whom the City of St. Louis and the University are named.

In the upper right small triangular field is the caduceus, which is universally accepted as the symbol of the medical profession. Traditionally, it is the wand of the god Mercury who was regarded by the Romans, the Greeks, and the nations of the Roman period as the god of healing or health. It reflects two serpents intertwined around a central staff. From the head of the staff springs a pair of outstretched wings. A capital "N" overlying the caduceus represents Nursing.

In the lower left of the shield, there is a lamp of science and of truth. Florence Nightingale is represented traditionally as carrying such a Roman lamp and is referred to as the "Lady with the Lamp." For this reason, a lamp has been adopted as a symbol of nursing.

The pin itself is shaped as a defensive shield with a very rigorous outline around the edges to symbolize the vigor and strength of the School. The border in the original design, though not in the pin, is blue enamel and the field of the shield is white. The two colors, blue and white, are the colors of the University. The blue signifies the Jesuits' devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary, and the white, the color of the lilies of France.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

The attire worn by graduates, faculty, trustees and officers of the University has historic roots in the medieval past.

The gown seems to be the adapted robe of the medieval friar or priest; the hood, like the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap recalls the skullcap that protected tonsured heads in drafty medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear on U.S. campuses in the late 1890s.

THE GOWNS

The gown of the bachelor is a yoked, closed-front garment with long pointed sleeves; that of the master has sleeves long and closed but slit just above the elbow; the gown of the doctor has full, bell-shaped sleeves. The doctor's gown is trimmed with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and attached to the gown. When the skullcap was introduced, the hood was detached and worn as it is today.

Each degree (bachelor's, master's, doctoral) has its special hood, which varies in length and, for the doctor, also in pattern. The color or colors lining the hood are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree. Saint Louis University is known by blue chevron on white. The colored velvet edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master and doctor, is determined by the field of study.

THE CAP

The mortarboard has become the accepted style for U.S. colleges and universities.

THE TASSEL

The tassel is perhaps the most iconic souvenir of academic attire. The doctoral graduate can wear a gold or black tassel on the mortarboard. However, varying the color of the tassel based on the field of study has gained acceptance throughout academia.

Colors include:

Allied health professions: Mint green

Arts: White

Business: Taupe

Education: Light blue

Hospital administration: Salmon

Law: Purple

Medicine: Green

Nursing: Apricot

Philosophy: Dark blue

Professional studies: Maroon

Public administration: Peacock blue

Science: Gold-yellow

Social work: Citron

Technology and engineering: Orange

Theology: Scarlet



SAINT LOUIS
UNIVERSITY™

— EST. 1818 —

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