SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

Class of 2020

SCHOOL FOR PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
ACADEMIC ATTIRE
The colorful attire worn by graduates, faculty, trustees and officers of the University has historic roots in the distant medieval past. Dressed in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors are part of a long tradition that dates back to Paris and Bologna, Italy, to Oxford and Cambridge, England, in the days of their Catholic glory.

The exact origins of several parts of the academic garb are a bit of a mystery. Because medieval students enjoyed the status of cleric during their university years, one might guess that their attire found its inspiration in the clerical dress of medieval times. The gown seems to be an adaptation of the robe of a friar or priest; the hood, of the monk’s or friar’s cowl; and the mortarboard cap of today recalls the skullcap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against the drafts of medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear on U.S. campuses in the late 1890s. Since that time, its use has become universal for solemn university functions, and its pattern is highly uniform.

THE GOWNS
The gowns are three in number and styling. That 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 to allow the forearms to protrude; the gown of the doctor has full, bell-shaped sleeves. Only 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 retained but detached and worn much 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. For example, Saint Louis University is known by blue chevron on a field of white. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master and doctor, is determined by the field of study.

THE CAP
The cap, or mortarboard, has become the universally accepted style for colleges and universities in the United States. Many European institutions still retain distinctive forms of academic headdress.

THE TASSEL
The tassel is perhaps the most iconic souvenir of academic attire. The doctor, following graduation, has the right to wear a gold tassel on the mortarboard; black, however, is perfectly proper and perhaps more common. A tolerated practice of varying the color of the tassel on the others has gained acceptance: arts, white; science, gold-yellow; philosophy, dark blue; education, light blue; business, drab; nursing, apricot; technology and engineering, orange; hospital administration, salmon; public administration, peacock blue; social work, citron; law, purple; medicine, green; theology, scarlet; and allied health professions, mint green.

LETTER FROM THE DEAN
Dear SPS Graduate of the Class of 2020:

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff of Saint Louis University’s School for Professional Studies, I extend my congratulations to you on completing your degree. This is no small feat. It took hours of hard work and required numerous sacrifices along the way. I am disappointed we are not able to host the traditional recognition and celebration of your accomplishment on the SLU campus. The COVID 19 outbreak has disrupted so many aspects of our lives. However, the current situation does not detract from your achievement; we share in your joy and pride.

As you graduate and move on to a new chapter in your life, I have confidence that you are ready for this next step. Apply what you have learned and continue to seek knowledge and truth in all that you do. Never give up on your goals whether they are personal, academic or professional. Serve others along the way as you put your Jesuit education to work.

My best wishes to you! Go forth from graduation to make a better country, a better society and a more fulfilling life for you and your family. Go forth with my heartfelt congratulations. You truly exemplify our vision.

Sincerely,

Tracy A. Chapman, Ph.D.
Dean, School for Professional Studies

“GO CONFIDENTLY IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUR DREAMS, LIVE THE LIFE YOU HAVE IMAGINED.”
– HENRY DAVID THOREAU
A degree is awarded for the successful completion of a program of study. The first known academic degree, the doctorate (from the Latin "docere," to teach), was granted by the University of Bologna in the mid-12th century. Originally, the doctor's and master's degrees were virtually synonymous, while the title "bachelor" indicated entrance to a course of study rather than its completion. Today, the most prevalent degrees in America are the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Science.

Latin honors accompany the degrees according to the cumulative average attained by the successful completion of the degree curriculum, as long as the last 54 credit hours were taken at Saint Louis University. Summa cum laude, with Highest Honors, is awarded to students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.9 or higher. Magna cum laude, with High Honors, is awarded to students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.7 or higher. Cum laude, with Honors, is awarded to students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher. The appropriate Latin script is embossed on the diploma in recognition of the achievement. Gold chords worn around the neck of a graduate represent the earning of a Latin honor.

ALPHA SIGMA LAMBDA*

Induction into this National Honor Society recognizes the achievements of adults who demonstrate academic excellence while facing the competing interests of home and work.
THE GRADUATES

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.
The School for Professional Studies welcomes you as a new alumnus/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 today to honor them. We want to keep you informed about all the exciting things that are happening on campus, in your programs and with our Center for Workforce and Organizational Development, so please follow us on social media.

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