



2026

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



SUNDAY, MAY 10 *at* 2:30 P.M.

RICHARD L. JANTZ STADIUM

THE SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Alma Mater

*Far above the Walnut Valley
On a lofty height,
Stands our noble Alma Mater,
Bathed in golden light.*

Chorus

*Lift the chorus, speed it onward,
Over hill and dale,
Hail to thee, beloved Southwestern,
Alma Mater, Hail!*

*Far above the stir and bustle
Of the busy town,
Reared against the arch of heaven,
Looks she calmly down.*

*To the heights she calls us daily,
Alma Mater, dear,
Heights of knowledge, hope, and courage,
Free from doubt and fear.*



The Class of 2026

Valedictorians

Sarah Elizabeth Akin
Joseph Wa Kaswima Kasongo
Madeline Paige Nichols
Emma Willesden

Doctorate of Education in Leadership

Alice Bendinelli, Italy
Amanda Jo Bintz, West Bend, Wisconsin
Jose Miguel Martinez, Dodge City, Kansas
Bryce Wachs, Larned, Kansas
Adrienne Wyatt, Atlanta, Georgia

Master of Education

Susannah Jean Charleton, Ridgway, Illinois
Joshua Sipes, Oxford, Kansas
Brittany Marie Williams, Junction City, Kansas

Master of Arts in Sport Management

Luis De La Cueva, Aurora, Colorado
Emily Elizabeth Me'chelle McElroy, Port Arthur, Texas
Abraham Rodriguez Jr., San Antonio, Texas

Master of Business Administration

Minda Ki Allen, Attica, Indiana
Kudzaiishe Busu, Zimbabwe
Robert Keali'iokalani Brown III, Kapaa, Hawaii
Mālieokekai Pei-yee Da-Mate, Haleiwa, Hawaii
Aaron J. Delgado, Indio, California
James W. Ethridge, Mineral Wells, Texas
Preston Fansher, Piedmont, Oklahoma
Emily C. Feihle, Stuttgart, Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany
Dre'Shaun Deon Flowers, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Nathan M Kaimathiri, Marietta, Georgia
Nathaniel Lowrey, Mansfield, Connecticut
Ethan James Mapp, Gosport, United Kingdom
McKenzie Kay Risser, Wichita, Kansas

Master of Science in Leadership

Minda Ki Allen, Attica, Indiana
Lisa Denae Dreiling, Colwich, Kansas
Sherroda L. Griffin, Lacey, Washington
Shawn Paul Kennedy, St. Louis, Michigan
Cheryl Roberts, Wichita, Kansas
Daylon J. Smith, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Gregory Ralph Stafford, Houston, Texas
Sarah Beth Stephenson, Winfield, Kansas

Master of Science in Management

Christopher A. Batiste, Inglewood, California
Aubrey Elaine Coons, Springfield Illinois
Blake A. Crawford, Marion, Kansas
Claire Nichols, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Master of Science in Security and Emergency Studies

Christopher Paul Black, Mt. Olive, North Carolina
Jaimee Elizabeth Malcom, Cheney, Kansas
Jose Ivan Roque Jr., Batavia, Ohio
Loren M. Swank, Manhattan, Kansas

Bachelor of Arts

Colton Lane Adams, Business Administration, Minor in
Christian Discipleship Studies, Johnson City, Kansas
Ryan Auten, Business Administration,
Basehor, Kansas
Samuel Benz, Magna Cum Laude,
Business Administration, Martinez, California
Jayden Bridgeman, Business Administration
Environmental Safety Management,
Sperry, Oklahoma
Jaxon Tyler Burns, Business Administration,
Willis, Texas
Johnny Lamont Burton, Business Administration,
Eufaula, Oklahoma
Noah A. Butler, Elementary Education,
Plano, Texas
Macey E. Charleston, Communication,
Wakefield, Kansas
Heather Nicole Chiesi, Cum Laude, Accounting,
Kansas City, Missouri
Jaycee L. Clark, English with Emphasis in Secondary
Education, Clearwater, Kansas
Kobe Jordan Cole, Business Administration,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Christopher Emmanule Antonio Collier-Surly, Psychology,
Bentonville, Arkansas
Lucy Gladys Lorraine Daniel, Psychology,
Mulvane, Kansas
Emery Jacob Eberhard, Summa Cum Laude, Criminal
Justice and Legal Studies, Minor in Business
Administration, Lafayette, Colorado
Kielee Ferrell, Philosophy and Religion,
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Allyson Frank, Sport Management,
Rio Rancho, New Mexico
Christopher G. Harm, Liberal Arts and Sciences,
San Dimas, California
Tiara Renae Henry, Accounting, Business Administration,
Enid, Oklahoma
Zachariah G. Hidalgo, Business Administration,
Hooker, Oklahoma

Bachelor of Arts *cont.*

- Matthew Isaiah Holthusen, Summa Cum Laude,
Accounting, Business Administration, Wichita, Kansas
- Finlay Benjamin Hughes, Sport Management,
London, England, United Kingdom
- Nigel O. John, Sport Management,
Dallas, Texas
- DeAndre Jones, Business Administration,
Guthrie, Oklahoma
- Samantha M. Joyner, Business Administration,
Minor in Leadership, Wichita, Kansas
- Jodi M. Keener, Cum Laude, Business Administration with
Emphasis in Marketing, Winfield, Kansas
- Lauren Jacquelyn Kelly, Business Administration with
Emphasis in Marketing, Minor in Psychology,
Amarillo, Texas
- David Michael Koller, Cum Laude, Chemistry,
Minor in Biology, Winfield, Kansas
- Mariano Kremer, Summa Cum Laude, Business
Administration, Sankt Augustin, Germany
- MaKaylin Ann Kuchar, Summa Cum Laude, Elementary
Education, South Haven, Kansas
- Koda Richard Larsen, Magna Cum Laude, Accounting,
Francis, Utah
- Tate R. Lewis, Cum Laude, Business Administration,
Dewey, Oklahoma
- Milton Leon Lewis III, Sport Management,
Jonesboro, Arkansas
- Conner R. Light, Business Administration with Emphasis
in Management, Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Reece Nicole Likes, Business Administration
Haysville, Kansas
- Jon Peter Andre Luiten, Sport Management,
Whangarei, New Zealand
- Ayden James Markovich, Business Administration,
Winfield, Kansas
- Kier Masso II, Cum Laude, Business Administration
Tulsa, Oklahoma
- Robert L. Mays, Business Administration,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Vanessa Mariaelena Mendoza Ramos, Magna Cum Laude,
Accounting, Business Administration with Emphasis
in Management, Arkansas City, Kansas
- Taylor Mesna, Biology, Minor in Psychology,
Del City, Oklahoma
- Sarah Elaine Neale, Elementary Education,
Kansas, Oklahoma
- Tanner K. Nesvold, Mathematics, Secondary Licensure in
Mathematics, Seneca, Missouri
- Kinser Newquist, Sport Management,
Hutchinson, Kansas
- Madeline Paige Nichols, Summa Cum Laude, Elementary
Education, El Dorado, Kansas
- Brice A. Nittler, Business Administration,
Arkansas City, Kansas
- Tertullian Takudzwa Nyamakope, Accounting, Minor in
Business Administration, Chanute, Kansas
- Lauryn M. Peterson, Accounting,
Junction City, Kansas
- Trevor James Pierce, Cum Laude, Business Administration/
Construction Management,
Arkansas City, Kansas
- Haylie Juliet Poole, Business Administration,
Sarasota, Florida
- Arnoldo Portillo Jr., Sport Management
Blanchard, Oklahoma
- Matthew Rayley Pryce, Philosophy and Religion,
Minor in Minors in Leadership and Christian
Discipleship Studies, Wellington, Kansas
- Princeton D. Rayson, Biology, Minor in Psychology
Houston, Texas
- Sebastian J. Read, Business Administration,
Kingsville, Texas
- Kyle Lamar Richardson, Sport Management,
Henryetta, Oklahoma
- Avery Catherine Riedel, Summa Cum Laude,
Mathematics, Minor in Leadership, Secondary
Licensure in Mathematics, Augusta, Kansas
- Carson Patrick Riney, Communication,
Edmond, Oklahoma
- Jamell Anthony Sanchez, Sport Management,
Minor in Communication,
Pueblo of San Felipe, New Mexico
- Eli J. Sawyers, Cum Laude, Accounting,
Business Administration, Salina, Kansas
- Hayden Sims, Business Administration/Environmental
Safety Management, New Braunfels, Texas
- Johnny E. Smith Jr., Business Administration,
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Joseph E. Smyth, Sport Management
Palmyra, New Jersey
- Jaylen D'Von Spencer, Business Administration,
Edmond, Oklahoma
- Clay Dale Stoner, Business Administration with Emphasis
in Management, Bokchito, Oklahoma
- Jonas Ward Stoy, Business Administration/Construction
Management, Arkansas City, Kansas
- Brady B. Strausz, Business Administration with Emphasis
in Marketing, Wichita, Kansas
- Jaydon Kai Sundgren, Cum Laude,
Business Administration, El Dorado, Kansas
- Riley A. Valley, Psychology,
Osburn, Idaho
- Mateus de Marcos Varotti, Magna Cum Laude,
Business Administration, Jaboticabal, Brazil
- Emma Willesden, Summa Cum Laude, Psychology, Minor
in Criminal Justice and Legal Studies,
Hoisington, Kansas

Bachelor of Arts *cont.*

Saherena B. Williams-Clardy, Communication,
Enid, Oklahoma
Albert F. Wilson, Business Administration,
Ponca City, Oklahoma

Bachelor of General Studies

Leslie Paul Berry, General Studies,
Winfield, Kansas
Jennifer Elizabeth Troy, General Studies,
Parma, Michigan

Bachelor of Science

Sarah Elizabeth Akin, Summa Cum Laude, Health Science,
Durant, Oklahoma
Corey M. Allen, Summa Cum Laude, Security
Management, Sparta, Wisconsin
Sharon L. Alman, Human Resource Management and
Development, Great Falls, Montana
Jayden D. Anderson, Magna Cum Laude, Physical
Education, Fairland, Oklahoma
Elizabeth Lamai Andreen, Criminal Justice, Security
Management, Andover, Kansas
Raisean Avila-Dorsey, Criminal Justice and Legal Studies,
Vallejo, California
Jack Bagley-Etheridge, Physical Performance and Sport
Studies, Hoddesdon, United Kingdom
David M. Bednara, Business Administration,
Collinsville, Illinois
Natalie Belanger, Summa Cum Laude, Biology,
Collinsville, Oklahoma
Nicholas Derek Bentley, Security Management,
Wichita, Kansas
Andre Kyle Berryman, Business Administration,
Fredericksburg, Virginia
Benjamin Michael Bohnestiehl, Organizational
Psychology, Collinsville, Illinois
Jeremy Boquist, Business Quality Management,
Martinez, Georgia
Jolie Layne Boyd, Health Science,
Conroe, Texas
Andrew S. Brautman, Physical Performance and Sport
Studies, Arkansas City, Kansas
Alyson Carey Brule, Criminal Justice
Tampa, Florida
Robert M. Burnham, Computer Science,
Tyler, Texas
Rodney Adam Case, Magna Cum Laude, Computer
Science, Dardanelle, Arkansas
Rachel Case, Human Resource Management and
Development, Las Vegas, Nevada
Matthew Reid Cason, Information Systems Management,
Mooresville, North Carolina

Bryan Gil Hernandez Chan, Criminal Justice,
Saipan, MP
Tina Childs, Human Resource Management,
Belton, Missouri
Hayden Clark, Health Science,
Yukon, Oklahoma
Jessica Clark, Magna Cum Laude, Human Resource
Management and Development, Organizational
Psychology, Wichita, Kansas
Matthew J. Correa, Operations Management,
Yuba City, California
Justin Everett Crandell, Strategic Leadership,
Rose Hill, Kansas
Hanna Elaine Culp, Health Science,
Kingfisher, Oklahoma
Breyon S. Davis, Business Administration,
Danville, Virginia
Matthew Vincent De La Cruz, Strategic Leadership,
Brooklyn, New York
Kyle A. Dean, Business Quality Management,
Goddard, Kansas
Kyle James Deschamps, Summa Cum Laude, Computer
Science, Medford, Oregon
Eric Reid DiGregorio, Business Quality Management,
North Pole, Alaska
Zachary Chase Earl, Accounting,
Lansing, Michigan
Michael R. Feagin, Cum Laude, Operations Management,
Rockwall, Texas
Derrick Michael Fisher, Business Administration, Longton,
Kansas
Matthew S. Garcia, Operations Management,
McDonough, Georgia
Lisa M. Garraud, Business Quality Management, Strategic
Leadership, Simpsonville, South Carolina
Brayan Grandez, Summa Cum Laude, Computer Science,
Newburgh, New York
Jordan Rae Griggs, Health Science, Minor in Psychology,
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
Esak William Hadley, Business Administration, Information
Systems Management, Ciudad Perdida, California
Meliah Renee Hanna, Health Science,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Lainey Kendra Hardman, Health Science,
Hays, Kansas
Angela N. Hargett, Computer Science,
Colorado Springs, Colorado
Joshua J. Harmer, Cum Laude, Operations Management,
Piedmont, South Dakota
Khalil Hart, Computer Science,
Farmington, Utah
Cody Thomas Hayden, Summa Cum Laude, Business
Quality Management, Florence, Kentucky

Bachelor of Science *cont.*

- Jake Michael Heindel, Business Administration,
Wichita, Kansas
- April Holland, Cum Laude, Organizational Psychology,
Strategic Leadership, Fayetteville, North Carolina
- Jacob Astor Hoogerheyde, Cum Laude, Operations
Management, Valley Center, Kansas
- Isaac Hopkins, Computer Science,
Emporia, Kansas
- Jacob E Hopper, Summa Cum Laude, Information
Systems Management, Greencastle, Missouri
- Lyrix G. Howard, Summa Cum Laude, Computer Digital
Arts with Emphasis in Digital Arts, Tahlequah,
Oklahoma
- Heath Jarret Howard, Computer Science,
Derby, Kansas
- Dexter Jake Siapno Ibasan, Summa Cum Laude,
Information Systems Management,
Santa Clara, California
- Connor J. Inlow, Computer Digital Arts with Emphasis in
Digital Arts, Wichita, Kansas
- Kevin L. James Jr., Information Systems Management,
Montgomery, Alabama
- Kaja Dreona Johnson, Human Resource Management
and Development, Tacoma, Washington
- Steven T. Johnson, Security Management,
Thomasville, North Carolina
- Dylan Peter Cha Johnston, Cum Laude, Security
Management, Ashland, Oregon
- Brandon Paul Jones, Business Administration,
Tucson, Arizona
- Joseph Wa Kaswima Kasongo, Summa Cum Laude,
Computer Digital Arts with Emphasis in Computer
Science, Minor in Mathematics, Lubumbashi, D.R.
Congo
- Tylar Blaze Kelley, Information Systems Management,
Liberty, South Carolina
- Brock A. Klander, Physical Education, West, Texas
- Stan Kowalewski, Summa Cum Laude, Business Quality
Management, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
- Grayson Ivan Lambert, Cum Laude, Strategic Leadership,
Magna, Utah
- Michelle A Lee, Healthcare Administration,
Wichita, Kansas
- Lizeth Loera, Business Administration, Strategic
Leadership, Wichita, Kansas
- Francis A. Losos Jr., Business Administration,
Lancaster
- Susan Luna, Business Quality Management,
Woodland, California
- Johann K. Lynch, Human Resource Management and
Development, San Lorenzo, California
- Andrew Joseph Martinez, Healthcare Administration,
Tucson, Arizona
- Clint Martinson, Operations Management,
Junction City, Kansas
- Michael T. Mason II, Magna Cum Laude, Computer
Science, Spotsylvania, Virginia
- Caleb Maybury, Marine Biology,
Olathe, Kansas
- Justin M. McGreevy, Business Quality Management,
Las Vegas, Nevada
- Jailyn M. Miller, Cum Laude, Business Administration,
Fort Walton Beach, Florida
- Daniel J. Miller II, Magna Cum Laude, Business
Administration, Fremont, Ohio
- Nhan K. Nguyen, Magna Cum Laude, Computer
Programming Technology,
Rochester Hills, Michigan
- Justin M. Nolden, Computer Programming Technology,
St Louis, Missouri
- Sean William Nolte, Summa Cum Laude, Business
Administration, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- James Odom, Summa Cum Laude, Physical Performance
and Sport Studies, Minor in Psychology,
San Diego, California
- Jessica Valarie O'Donnell, Strategic Leadership,
Arkansas City, Kansas
- Eric O. Olson, Summa Cum Laude, Strategic Leadership,
Brunswick, Maine
- Kalissa Socorro Ortega, Health Science, Minor in
Psychology, Friant, California
- Trista Christine Overton, Health Science,
Maize, Kansas
- Joshua Ryan Pagan, Information Systems Management,
Brooklyn, New York
- Oscar Samuel Perez, Computer Science,
Beavercreek, Ohio
- Caleb E. Phillips, Physical Education,
Coweta, Oklahoma
- Macey Katherine Pond, Cum Laude, Health Science,
South Haven, Kansas
- Isabelle Ramirez, Summa Cum Laude, Computer Digital
Arts with Emphasis in Computer Science, Minor in
Mathematics, Wichita, Kansas
- Christopher Jason Reed, Magna Cum Laude, Operations
Management, Des Moines, Iowa
- Corey Thane Riner, Strategic Leadership,
Burlingame, Kansas
- Niya J. Rison, Cum Laude, Business Innovation and
Entrepreneurship, Hampton, Virginia
- Isaiah J. Rivera, Computer Science,
Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Chandler Joseph Romer, Computer Programming
Technology, Deltona, Florida
- Israel Juan Pablo Rosario, Cum Laude, Human Resource
Management and Development, Allen, Texas

Bachelor of Science *cont.*

- Torrey Ben Sanchez, Operations Management,
Kennewick, Washington
- Sebastian Antonio Saverino, Summa Cum Laude,
Information Systems Management,
Roseville, California
- Peyton Shaffer, Security Management,
Harpersfield, New York
- Justin Shoffner, Magna Cum Laude, Information Systems
Management, Liberty, North Carolina
- Keouaokalani M. Sibayan, Cum Laude, Physical
Performance and Sport Studies, Lihue, Hawaii
- Angela D. Smith, Organizational Psychology,
St. George, Utah
- Brandon Loyd Smith, Magna Cum Laude,
Strategic Leadership, Little Rock, Arkansas
- Vivianna Solis, Health Science, Minor in Computer
Science, San Antonio, Texas
- Kourtlyn Sinclair Stafford, Strategic Leadership, Alexandria,
Louisiana
- Lawrence Joseph Stricklin, Operations Management,
Dixon, California
- Carlos I. Suarez Salazar, Computer Digital Arts with
Emphasis in Digital Arts, Minor in Computer
Science, League City, Texas
- Thomas Taylor, Cum Laude, Physical Education,
Iola, Kansas
- Earl Devone Taylor Jr., Computer Science,
Waldorf, Maryland
- Austin Marshall Tener, Physical Education,
Noble, Oklahoma
- Zachary Ryan Thompson, Business Quality Management,
Clinton, Utah
- Ramiro Ray Torres, Operations Management,
Sabinal, Texas
- Marisa J. Van Scoter, Information Systems Management,
Derby, Kansas
- Mark Vaught, Magna Cum Laude, Computer Science,
O'Brien, Florida
- Kalli Gabrielle Viegra, Health Science,
Arkansas City, Kansas
- John M. Von Lange, Operations Management,
North Branch, Minnesota
- Kaitlyn Nicole Walker, Summa Cum Laude, Health
Science, Wichita, Kansas
- Holly Jeanelle Wallen, Business Administration,
Ponca City, Oklahoma
- Jaquinthia Warren, Human Resource Management and
Development, Sparta, Georgia
- Zachary Watkins, Operations Management,
Orlando, Florida
- Callie Faye Watson, Business Administration,
Valley Falls, Kansas
- Steven A. Whitener, Security Management,
Austin, Texas
- Ella Marie Wiechman, Summa Cum Laude, Health
Science, Minor in Leadership, Valley Center, Kansas
- Maximilian Wyckoff, Magna Cum Laude, Information
Systems Management, Hilliard, Ohio

The Class of 2026





2026 *Order of the Mound*

Sarah Akin, *Valedictorian*

Corey Allen

Matthew Holthusen

Joseph Kasongo, *Valedictorian*

MaKaylin Kuchar

Madeline Nichols, *Valedictorian*

Isabelle Ramirez

Kaitlyn Reynolds

Ella Wiechman

Emma Willesden, *Valedictorian*

The Order of the Mound is the official Honor Society for Southwestern College graduates. Although the society was formally organized in 1917, membership in the Order of the Mound includes graduates from 1889 onward. The Order of the Mound recognizes students graduating in the top 10% of the class. It is celebrated annually with a ceremony held at Cole Mound Plaza the morning of graduation. Order of the Mound members wear bundled purple and gold cords indicating their status.

2025-2026 *Student Leadership*

Student Government

Association Executive Team

Rylee Frager, *President*
Corbyn Clement, *Vice President*
Abigail Eckert, *VP of Student Concerns*
Hannah Brown, *VP of Registered Student Organizations*
Karla Lopes, *VP of Finance*

Class Presidents

Senior - Isabelle (Izzy) Ramirez
Junior - Jack Titgemeyer
Sophomore - Abbey Denly
Freshman - Haleigh Weber

Student Foundation

Saherena Williams, *President*
Eva Navrat, *VP of Marketing*
Derek Ponce, *VP of Sports*
Aunestee Gonyaw, *VP of Traditions*
Collin Schrader, *VP of Community*

Senate

At-Large Senators:

Andruw Rodriquez
Harper (Sophia) Evans

Natural Science:

Lyra Codney
Gideon Galdiano

Business:

Zach Hidalgo
Jamell Sanchez

Communications:

Aden Armstrong

Social Science:

Maddie (Maddison) Levings
Chris (Christopher) Collier-Surly

Student Life

Residence Hall Staff

Marcus Anderson III
Saherena Williams-Clardy
DreShaun Flowers
Rylee Frager
Keigan Good
Aunestee Gonyaw
Tiara Henry
Ivy Keyes
Joseph Kasongo
Vanessa Mendoza Ramos

Z'Nyaa Pouncil
Mackenzie Reinert
Jeremiah Schaefer
Collin Schrader
Jaylen Spencer
Jack Titgemeyer

MasterBuilders

Mateus Varotti
Saherena Williams-Clardy
Vanessa Mendoza-Ramos
Ella Wiechman
Zachariah Hidalgo
Avery Riedel

Dawn Pleas Student Affairs Leadership Award

Kalli Viegro

Honors Scholars

Lyra Codney
Eliana Ortiz
Adam Urich
Taya Gable
Adi Pemberton
Ellie Kucera
Lucas Vaughn
Haleigh Weber
Andrew Porter
Ethan Harmon
Ben Patkowski
Zacharis Prudhomme
Matthaus Morales
Hailey Rosan
Gideon Galdiano
Monroe Swope
Macey Collier
Abbey Denley
Abigail Eckert
Cameron Surles
Joshua Mars
Connor Stampley
David Koller
Ella Weichman, *Class of 2026*
Emma Willelsen, *Class of 2026*
Saherena Williams, *Class of 2026*
Lauren Broz
Hannah Brown
Keigan Good

Minor in Leadership

Avery Riedel
Ella Wiechman

Certificate in Leadership

Tertullian Nyamakope
Mateus Varotti
Kalli Viegro
Christopher Collier-Surly

Distinguished Seniors of Christian Discipleship

Matthew Pryce
Joseph Kasongo
Colton Adams
Lucy Daniel

Teachers of Promise

Jayden Anderson
Jaycee Clark
MaKaylin Kuchar
Madeline Nichols

Campus Players

Colton Adams, *Class of 2026*
Samantha Joyner, *Class of 2026*
MaKaylin Kuchar, *Class of 2026*
RJ Mader, *Class of 2026*
Saherena Williams, *Class of 2026*
Hannah Brown
Taliana Corns
Abbey Denly
Austin Fairbanks
Lyanna Gholston
Ethan Green
Vanessa Lopez
John Moberly
Andrew Porter
Hailey Rosan
Jaidyn Soldin
Jessica Talcott
Hayley Tarr
Kimberly Taundi
Jack Titgemeyer
Adam Urich
Emerson Williams

Graduating

Members of DECA

Kudzaiishe Busu (MBA)

Jordan Griggs

Kier Masso -

Top 10 Finalist at DECA Nationals

Jamell Sanchez

Jaylen Davis -

Top 10 Finalist at DECA Nationals

Bishop Scholars

Kimberly Chikukwa
Vasty Kabongo Ntumba
Joseph Kasongo
Florence Fifteen
Capranzine Hunguana
Tertullian Nyamakope
Kimberly Taundi

General Information

Graduation with Honors General honors are awarded to those members of the graduating class who have completed their degrees and have attained a high level of scholastic achievement. *Graduates with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.85 or higher graduate **summa cum laude** (with highest honors); a 3.70 is required for **magna cum laude** (with high honors), and a 3.50 for **cum laude** (with honors).* For students who have transferred hours to Southwestern, both the resident and cumulative GPAs must meet the standard.

Order of the Mound Southwestern College honors those members of the graduating class who have completed their degrees and whose academic work has been outstanding by naming them members of the Order of the Mound. After calculation of their final grades, these seniors are the top 10% of the graduating class. Students must have 60+ graded hours completed at Southwestern College to be eligible. A purple and gold cord denotes this honor.

Valedictorian/Salutatorian The graduating senior with the highest grade point average is recognized as valedictorian. The second highest ranking student is named salutatorian. If two or more persons are ranked equally for valedictorian, all are named such and no salutatorian is recognized. A purple and gold neck ribbon with a medallion denotes this honor.

Sashes and honor cord color designations Membership in honor societies is denoted as follows: Beta Beta Beta (biological honor society), red and green sashes; Pi Gamma Mu (social science honor society), royal blue and white cords; Sigma Theta Tau (nursing honor society), purple and white cords; Kappa Mu Epsilon (mathematics honor society), pink and white cords, pins; and Phi Beta Delta (international honor society), medallions with red and yellow ribbon. Education graduates are wearing light blue and white cords; gold, purple, green, and red cords denote membership in Campus Players. Southwestern College Honors Program Scholars are wearing an Honors medallion.

Professor Fran Jabara Professor Jabara earned his undergraduate degree from Oklahoma State University and completed his graduate studies at Northwestern University. He was an advocate of the American free enterprise system and founded the Center for Entrepreneurship at Wichita State University in 1977. A nationally recognized leader in entrepreneurship, Mr. Jabara, received numerous recognitions, awards, and honors during his lifetime. He died in 2015 at the age of 90. Two students are honored with the Fran Jabara Leadership Award each year at commencement.

Charles H. Kopke '44 and Verda R. Kopke Charles and Verda Kopke have endowed the Distinguished Teaching Award at Southwestern College to annually recognize members of the college's faculty who exemplify Southwestern's commitment to excellence in teaching. The Kopkes, who have both passed away, left a philanthropic legacy – their strong support of Southwestern and of outstanding educators is made visible through the award presented today.

Professor Emeritus One of the most significant honors a college can bestow on a professor is the title of emeritus. This status serves as a marker of the ending of a time of excellent service, denotes separation from the institution, and allows the honoree to retain the rank they have achieved throughout the rest of their lives whether they serve in academia again or not. At Southwestern, this honor requires a minimum of ten years of distinguished service and is approved only by vote of the Board of Trustees.

Junior Marshals Junior marshals lead the procession of graduates and are garbed in ivory robes with purple stoles. They are chosen from Main Campus students who are of junior status and maintain the highest GPAs.

Late May and Summer Graduates Late May and Summer Graduates Students who plan to complete their degrees in late May or during the summer of 2025 are invited to process in this ceremony. Since their degrees are not yet conferred, their honors are not reflected in this publication.

Academic Regalia

On formal academic occasions, the faculty appears in academic dress that originated in the Middle Ages. This dress includes the gown, the hood, and the mortarboard (cap). The gown distinguishes holders of the three degrees—doctorate, master’s, and bachelor’s. The doctoral gown is faced with velvet and has bell-shaped sleeves, on each of which are three velvet chevrons. The master’s gown has sleeves which reach nearly to the knees and are slit above the elbow. The bachelor’s gown has pointed sleeves and lacks the velvet trimming of the doctoral gown.

The hood indicates, by the color of its velvet edging, the area of study in which the wearer’s degree was taken, and its silk lining displays the color or colors of the institution that conferred the degree. (For instance, Southwestern College’s colors are purple and white.) On most campuses the most common degrees are in arts, letters, or humanities (white); business administration or accounting (drab); economics (copper); education (light blue); fine arts (brown); journalism (crimson); library science (lemon); music (pink); nursing (apricot); philosophy (dark blue); physical education (sage green); science (golden yellow); social science (citron); speech (silver gray); and theology (scarlet).

The mortarboard tassel of the faculty holding bachelor’s or master’s degrees is usually black. Gold tassels are worn only by holders of doctoral degrees and by heads of institutions.

Academic dress that differs from this description usually indicates a degree from a university abroad.

Guest Services

Official photographs A&J Studio (Southwestern College Alumnus) will be taking official commencement photographs. Each student will receive a card and an email with a link to their personalized gallery of photos. Once they are uploaded, A&J Studio’s professional photos will be available for purchase at anj-studio.gotphoto.com/login accessible with your graduate’s access code.

Additionally, an institutional gallery of images from commencement weekend ceremonies along with the video recording of this afternoon’s ceremony will be available at www.sckans.edu/commencement. Family and friends may use the stairs to get near the track to take individual pictures. Please make way for others once your graduate has returned to their seat. Please observe areas that should not be accessed by guests as indicated by Campus Security. Following the formal ceremony family and friends are invited to the track to congratulate your graduate.

Alternative viewing location/Live Stream Commencement may also be viewed by way of live streaming at [YouTube.com/SouthwesternBuilders](https://www.youtube.com/SouthwesternBuilders). The campus location screening the live stream is Richardson Performing Arts Center (RPAC) in Christy Administration Building. RPAC offers a comfortable and climate-controlled viewing environment that may be more suitable for some guests.

Restrooms Restrooms are located in the main level of the Stewart Field House near the lobby and in the lower level of Stewart Field House, accessed from Farney Family Plaza. Additional restroom facilities are available on the main level of Christy Administration Building.

Assistance/Medical Care Should you require assistance during your time on campus, please contact a member of staff, identified by white Southwestern College name badges or call Campus Security at (620) 229-0012.

Video and photos from today’s ceremonies will be archived at sckans.edu/commencement

Thank you for supporting the Southwestern College Class of 2026. Go, Builders!

