



# COMMENCEMENT

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026



SCAN FOR  
DIGITAL PROGRAM





Mount Mary University was founded in 1913 by the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Prairie Du Chien, WI, to provide an education exemplified by the strength of its academic programs and commitment to inspire students to transform the world.

The University moved to Milwaukee in 1929, opening its doors to 132 young women who filled the two Gothic-style buildings, Notre Dame Hall and Caroline Hall. It was the first Catholic four-year women's university in Wisconsin for laywomen who wanted to pursue an education. Today, Mount Mary University welcomes students of all faiths and backgrounds in more than 50 undergraduate and 12 graduate programs.

The strength of our historical University continues to lie, not in the grace of its architecture nor the beauty of its surroundings, but rather in the diverse lives of the students it serves and those who lead them. It is this power that forms the true cornerstone of Mount Mary, transforming the world around us, one graduate at a time.

# PROGRAM

## **OPENING OF COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

Karen E. Friedlen, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

## **LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Andrea Stapleton, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Mission and Justice

## **INVOCATION PRAYER**

McKalynn Ester  
English Writing for New Media and Philosophy | May 2026

## **WELCOME**

Susan Bellehumeur '85  
Chair, Board of Trustees

## **GREETINGS ON BEHALF OF THE SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME**

Debra M. Sciano, J.D., SSND  
Provincial Leader, Central Pacific Province | School Sisters of Notre Dame

## **PRESENTATION OF HONORARY DEGREE AND COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS**

Maripat Dalum  
Class of 1963 | Occupational Therapy

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## **PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES**

Karen E. Friedlen, Ph.D.

## **CONFERRAL OF DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES**

Isabelle Cherney, Ph.D.  
President

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## **PRESIDENT'S CONGRATULATORY REMARKS**

Isabelle Cherney, Ph.D.

## **PRESENTATION OF SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

Rachel Fischer, Ed.D.  
Vice President for Student Affairs

## **COMMEMORATIVE ADDRESS, SENIOR CLASS REPRESENTATIVE**

Mahdia Bitá  
Biology and English | May 2026

## **WELCOME TO THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY**

Martha Ruvalcaba, '23

## **CLOSING OF COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

Karen E. Friedlen, Ph.D.

Spanish Speaker Translation provided by Vanessa Varela Morales, Ph.D.

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

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Mary Catherine Tiedemann  
Chido Usai \* §  
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Natalie Zuzick \*\*

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

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## CANDIDATES FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK

Jullian KaLiah Lor \*\*  
Claudia McClure \*\*\*

Brianah B Payton \*  
Supranees Yang \*\*

## CANDIDATE FOR POST-BACCALAUREATE CERTIFICATE

Zuliany M. Lopez-Ramos

## LATIN HONORS

- \* Cum Laude
- \*\* Magna Cum Laude
- \*\*\* Summa Cum Laude
- § Graduation in the Honors Program
- ^ Summer 2026 Graduate

Cum laude means “With Praise” and is indicated by the \* symbol. This is awarded to students whose cumulative grade point record reflects a 3.6 or higher. Magna cum laude means “With High Praise” and is indicated by the \*\* symbol. This is awarded to students whose cumulative grade point record reflects a 3.8 or higher. Summa cum laude translates to “With Highest Praise” and is indicated by the \*\*\* symbol. This is awarded to students whose cumulative grade point record reflects a 3.9 or higher.

*Degree conferral is certified by the official Mount Mary University transcript denoting degree completion and honor distinctions.*

*This listing of degree candidates and honor distinctions is preliminary for Spring 2026 candidates. Final honor distinctions does not constitute certification of degree conferral.*

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## THIS PROGRAM IS NOT AN OFFICIAL GRADUATION LIST

While every effort is made to ensure accuracy in this commencement program, printing deadlines may result in omission of some names and use of names of persons not completing graduation requirements as intended. This printed program, therefore, should not be used to determine a student’s academic or degree status. Mount Mary University Office of the Registrar manages all official student academic documentation.

# MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY

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# MOUNT MARY UNIVERSITY

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Helen Jane Jaeb, SSND '76  
Ann Scholz, SSND  
Addie Lorraine Walker, SSND

# HISTORY OF ACADEMIC REGALIA

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Academic regalia was inherited from the medieval universities of the 11th and 12th centuries. It is thought that the woolen gowns and hoods, worn by scholars for warmth in unheated quarters, evolved from the clerical practice of wearing a cape or mantle in religious processions. In 1895, American institutions of higher learning first produced a uniformity code for these vestments.

The cap worn almost universally in academic processions is the “Oxford cap,” better known as the mortarboard. The mortarboard, which is always black, is square to symbolize a book. A different style of academic headgear called the “Cambridge cap” resembles a large beret.

The tassel attached to the mortarboard is also typically black, although its color may be used to signify the field in which the degree is granted. Academic hoods, worn around the neck and down the back of the gown, signify the level of the degree, the field in which it was given and/or the institution that awarded it. The masters hood is moderate in length, and the doctoral hood is fuller and longer.

The gown’s exterior velvet panel color identifies the field in which the degree is awarded.

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## HOOD TRIM

Arts, Letters and Humanities:	White
Business:	Drab
Counseling:	Royal Blue
Dietetics:	Golden Yellow
Education:	Light Blue
Fine Arts:	Brown
Journalism:	Crimson
Nursing:	Apricot
Occupational Therapy:	Slate Blue
Philosophy:	Dark Blue
Science:	Golden Yellow
Social Work:	Citron
Theology:	Scarlet

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## HONORS SOCIETY CORDS

**Gold Medallion:** Graduating member of Honors Program

**Gold Cords:** Graduating with Academic Honors

**Brown and Ivory:** Kappa Gamma Pi, Graduate Honor Society

**Blue and Red:** Phi Alpha Theta, History Honor Society

**Blue and Silver:** Psi Chi, Psychology Honor Society

**Blue and Gold:** Phi Alpha, Social Work Honor Society

**Gold:** Alpha Mu Gamma, Foreign Language Honor Society

**Lavender and White:** Sigma Theta Tau International, Nursing Honor Society

**Maroon and Gold:** Delta Epsilon Sigma, National Catholic Scholastic Honor Society

**Pink and Silver:** Kappa Mu Epsilon, Mathematics Honor Society

**Red and Green:** Beta Beta Beta, Biology Honor Society

**Red and White:** Lambda Pi Eta, Communication Honor Society

**Red and Black:** Sigma Tau Delta, English Honor Society

**Scarlet:** Theta Alpha Kappa, Theology Honor Society

**Teal:** Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociology Honor Society

*Congratulations  
Class of 2026!*



# Join the Alumni Network

