



Commencement



Commencement

December 14, 2024

Bellingham, Washington



WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

December Commencement 2024

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Illustration by Janice Bond

10 A.M. CEREMONY

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COLLEGE OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

COLLEGE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

PROCESSION

WELCOME

President Sabah Randhawa

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Vocalist: Mia Lapingcao

INTRODUCTIONS

President Sabah Randhawa

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THE FACULTY

Michael Slouber, *Faculty Senate President*

GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Sabah Randhawa

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATE DEGREES

Sabah Randhawa, assisted by Brad Johnson and David Patrick

Hooding the Graduates: Manuel Montaña, *Environmental Science* and Rebekah Paci-Green, *Environmental Studies*

PRESENTATION OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Sabah Randhawa, assisted by Brad Johnson, Keith Russell, Christopher Bianco, and Teena Gabrielson

ALMA MATER

Vocalist: Mia Lapingcao

Western String Quartet: Natalie Bateman, *Violin*; Madison Hahn, *Violin*; Lily Beagle, *Viola*; Sara Kaiser, *Cello*

RECESSION

1 P.M. CEREMONY

**COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
WOODRING COLLEGE OF EDUCATION
FAIRHAVEN COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
UNIVERSITY INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

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President Sabah Randhawa

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATE DEGREES

Sabah Randhawa, assisted by Brad Johnson and David Patrick

Hooding the Graduates: Kati Johnson, *Business Administration*, A Longoria, *Secondary Education*, and Audrey Taylor, *Accounting*

PRESENTATION OF BACCALAUREATE DEGREES

Sabah Randhawa, assisted by Brad Johnson, Janelle Leger, Deanna Kennedy, Kevin Roxas, and Caskey Russell

ALMA MATER

Vocalist: Mia Lapingcao

Western String Quartet: Natalie Bateman, *Violin*; Madison Hahn, *Violin*; Lily Beagle, *Viola*; Sara Kaiser, *Cello*

RECESSION

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Western Washington University Class of 2024,

Congratulations! Commencement is a significant milestone in your life and a tremendous accomplishment. It's an honor to celebrate with you today along with your families and loved ones.

I'm confident that as you leave Western Washington University you will be well prepared for your next step—whether that is starting your career, continuing your studies, or perhaps taking some time to see the world. It is my fervent hope that the education you have received and your WWU experiences helped you grow intellectually, personally and professionally, and that your time at Western has taught you to use these gifts for the betterment of those around you and the Earth you are inheriting.

At Western, we strive to be a community that puts people first, and the social and political dynamics of the past few years have only intensified that

imperative. More than ever, the world needs people like you who consciously work to uplift others.

As you begin these next steps, please remember you will always have a home and a family here at WWU. In your future, I hope you will stay connected to the University, to the professors and advisors who have mentored you, and to the friends who have shared this time with you. The relationships you've established here will continue to shape you for years to come.

Congratulations and Best Wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sabah Randhawa". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sabah Randhawa, President

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ash Awad, Woodinville
Tina Ekhteraee-Sanaee, Student Trustee, Edmonds
Chase Franklin, Seattle
Faith Li Pettis, Chair, Seattle
John M. Meyer, Langley
María Sigüenza, Olympia
Maureen West, Bellingham
Chris Witherspoon, Vice Chair, Seattle

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

Sabah Randhawa, President, BS, MS, PhD
Brad Johnson, Provost and Executive Vice President, BS, MS, PhD
Jacqueline Hughes, Chief Diversity Officer, BA, MS, PhD
Melynda Huskey, Vice President for Enrollment and Student Services, BA, PhD
Joyce Lopes, Vice President for Business and Financial Affairs, BS, MBA, CPA
Kim O'Neill, Vice President for University Advancement and CEO of The Foundation for WWU & Alumni, BS

DEANS

Christopher Bianco, Dean, College of Fine and Performing Arts, BME, MM, DMA
Teena Gabrielson, Dean, College of the Environment, BA, MA, PhD
Deanna Kennedy, Dean, College of Business and Economics, BS, MBA, PhD
Janelle Leger, Dean, College of Science and Engineering, BS, MS, PhD
David Patrick, Vice Provost for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, BS, PhD
Kevin Roxas, Dean, Woodring College of Education, BA, MA, PhD
Caskey Russell, Dean, Fairhaven College of Interdisciplinary Studies, BA, MA, PhD
Keith Russell, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, BS, PhD

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT AND UNIVERSITY MACE BEARER

Michael Slouber, Professor, Global Humanities and Religions, PhD

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ABOUT WESTERN

MISSION

Western Washington University is a public comprehensive institution dedicated to serving the people of the state of Washington. Together our students, staff, and faculty are committed to making a positive impact in the state and the world with a shared focus on academic excellence and inclusive achievement.

VISION

Western Washington University prepares and inspires individuals to explore widely, think critically, communicate clearly, and connect ideas creatively to address our most challenging needs, problems, and questions.

STRATEGIC GOALS

- Western will provide a transformational education grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and based on innovative scholarship, research, and creative activity.
- Western will advance a deeper understanding of and engagement with place.
- Western will foster a caring and supportive environment where all members are respected and treated fairly.
- Western will pursue justice and equity in its policies, practices, and impacts.

VALUES

- Commitment to student success, critical thought, creativity, and sustainability.
- Commitment to equity and justice, and respect for the rights and dignity of others.
- Pursuit of excellence, in an environment characterized by principles of shared governance, academic freedom and effective engagement.
- Integrity, responsibility, and accountability in all our work.



A TOP UNIVERSITY

One of the top public master's granting institutions in the Pacific Northwest for 26 years in a row

According to U.S. News & World Report



A top producer of:
Peace Corps Volunteers
Fulbright Scholars



FirstGen
FORWARD
Network Member

National honor for commitment to first-generation student success

TRADITIONS

COMMENCEMENT TRADITIONS



The Mace

Originally a weapon of offense used in medieval warfare by a king or a great noble, the mace has been refined into a symbol of authority used on ceremonial occasions. In academic settings, the mace goes back to 16th century England when Queen Elizabeth I presented a replica of her own royal mace to the corporation of the University of Oxford in 1589.



The Pendant

The pendant worn today by President Randhawa was created especially for the Office of the President by Frederick Walsh and Associates of Seattle. It is made of silver with a gold flame in the center. The gold flame is emblematic of the torch of learning, as it combines the intellectual and spiritual qualities of illumination, enlightenment, and inspiration.



Memory Walk

Memory Walk has been a commencement tradition at Western Washington University since 1912. Each year, a stone representing the graduating class is laid along the Memory Walk,

which is the sidewalk that runs in front of Old Main, Western's first campus building. Beneath each of these class stones lies a time capsule. At the conclusion of commencement ceremonies, graduates are invited to leave items reflective of their time at Western in the time capsule. That capsule will be buried beneath the stone bearing their class year.

Gonfalons

These colorful banners add to the pageantry of our commencement ceremonies. They represent the seven colleges here at Western and the graduate school.

Commencement Furnishings

Podia and Diploma Table

The two podia and a diploma table were designed and hand-crafted in fall of 2014 by Randy Stribling, a local alumnus of Western Washington University. The pieces were built with sustainably yielded African mahogany and faux ebony plugs to complement the chairs on the dais. The style is Greene and Greene, an elegant form of the Craftsman style popular in the early 20th century. When Western began as the Washington State Normal School at Bellingham at the turn of the last century, the Craftsman or Mission style of furniture was used extensively throughout the campus. Many examples can still be found tucked away in Old Main and elsewhere around the university.



The Academic Dress

The history of academic dress dates far back into the early days of the oldest universities. A statute of 1321 required that all doctors, licentiates, and bachelors of the University of Coimbra (Portugal) wear gowns. Although the origin of academic dress is still a vexed question, most authorities believe its sources are found chiefly in ecclesiastical rather than in civilian dress. Originally the hood was a tippet, or shoulder covering, worn by begging friars in the Middle Ages. It also served as a head covering. When caps came into fashion in the 15th century, hoods became ornamental and

were draped over the shoulder and down the back. The cap was conferred as a symbol of the master's degree and varied greatly. Some were stiff, some soft, some square or round with a tuft in the center. The tassel today is an elaboration of the tuft. The "mortar board" style is from Oxford, but round and soft caps are also worn today at some universities.

The practice of wearing academic dress in this country dates from 1754 when King George II chartered King's College (now Columbia University) and transplanted to the Colonies many of the regulations of Oxford and Cambridge. In time, more somber colors replaced the scarlet of

the English universities. During most of the 19th century, American colleges and universities had no standard style of academic dress. Many faculty wore gowns from European universities where they received their degrees or gowns of local origin. Only a few wore hoods, which often were assumed to be articles of ecclesiastical rather than academic dress.

It wasn't until 1895 that a commission of leading American educators adopted a code standardizing academic dress. That code is still in effect today although it was modified slightly in 1935 and again in 1960. The shape and size of the American hood marks the college degree of the wearer, and under the system established by the code, it is possible at an academic convocation to distinguish at a glance the bachelors, masters and doctors, and at the same time recognize the university and college from which the degree was obtained.

Hoods

It is the hood which is the most important and distinctive feature of the American code. The masters hood is 3 1/2 feet long with a 3-inch-wide band. The doctors hood is 4 feet long with a 5-inch-wide velvet band. The velvet band of the hood symbolizes the wearer's field of study while the lining of the hood recognizes the official colors of the institution from which the degree was granted.

Caps and Tassels

The mortarboard tassel colors serve a similar function as the velvet neck band colors on the hoods, i.e., they identify the field of study with which the wearer is associated. To view more information, visit www.edu/regalia.

Stoles and Cords

Many graduates wear stoles and cords representing an accomplishment or affiliation while at WWU. To view the various cords and stoles with their descriptions, visit www.edu/regalia.

Gowns

The code provides for three types of gowns. Those worn by the bachelors are made of black worsted material and have long, pointed sleeves with two pleats on either side. Masters may wear either black silk or woolen gowns made with long crescent-shaped, full-length sleeves. The gown has a closed front with fluted shoulders. The doctors' gowns are black silk. They have full flowing sleeves barred with velvet, and they are faced with velvet over the entire length of the gown's front closure.

Graduation Honors

Gold Cords

The gold cord designates those students graduating magna cum laude or cum laude. For the ceremony, the honors designation is based on grades earned through the previous quarter, and is therefore considered unofficial until final grades are recorded. Graduating cum laude or magna cum laude is possible from those divisions of Western Washington University which employ the A-F grading system.

White Cords

Students who complete all requirements of the University Honors College are designated by the white cord.

RESOURCES

Remembering this Important Day - Personalized Bricks

Western alumni, families, and friends can purchase a brick along the Memory Walk in front of Old Main to commemorate students' time at Western. Brick sales support Western students and alumni through scholarships and programs and can be ordered through the Western Alumni Association at <https://bit.ly/WWUFoundationBricks>.

Photography

Find today's photos of your grad! Go to GradImages.com/westernwashington to view, browse, and order digital, print, and gift options.

Flowers & Gifts

- WWU gift items from the AS Bookstore are available for purchase from their booth in the Carver Gym Lobby before and after the ceremonies, or visit the full AS Bookstore in the Viking Union, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Flowers and leis for graduates can be purchased on-site from The Commencement Group at a booth in the Carver Gym Lobby.

Video Livestream

A recording of the livestream will be available at www.edu/cmcm.

Grad Slides

See the collection of messages from our grads at commencement.wvu.edu

Stay in Touch

Graduates are now a part of a lifelong family of WWU Alumni, and we hope you will stay engaged with Western!

- For upcoming alumni events, visit foundation.wvu.edu/events
- To update alumni contact information, visit foundation.wvu.edu
- To volunteer, speak at an event, and share your talent, visit foundation.wvu.edu/become-volunteer

Social Media

Share your commencement photos with us on Instagram by following us at www.edu/instagram and using [#WWUGrad](#).

Career Center

The Career Services Center serves alumni for free. Learn more at careercenter.wvu.edu, under People We Serve.

Thank You to Our Vendors:

Live Transcription & Sign Language Interpretation

HandDancer Interpreter
Services QuickCaption, Inc

Bagpipers

Bellingham Pipe Band

Shuttle Services

Bellair Charters & Airporter
NW Golf Carts

Stage Plants

Kent's Garden & Nursery
Plant Collective NW

Video & Livestream

AltoVision Videos
Veritas Media



Memory Walk, in front of Old Main building

ALMA MATER SONG

WHITE AND BLUE

Adapted by Ada Hogle

Adagio

Far a - bove the Bay's blue wa - ter Stands our own Se - home.
Here the youth from town and sea - shore Ga - ther for the year.

5

Guard - ed all a - round by moun - tains Crowned by Ba - ker's Dome
Lear - ning truth that shall be cher - ished Form - ing friend - ships dear.

9

Nest - ling there a - mong the gran - deur Reigns the White and Blue
Soon the ties must all be sev - ered But they leave with you

13

Col - ors of our Al - ma Ma - ter Hail all hail to you!
Hap - py mem - ories and best wish - es For the White and Blue!

