**Merrimack College**

73rd Commencement | Class of 2023

The School of Liberal Arts and the School of Nursing and Health Sciences

Saturday, May 20, 2023

# ACADEMIC PROCESSION

**MACE BEARERS**

Anne Boxberger Flaherty, Ph.D.

Interim Associate Dean, School of Liberal Arts

Traci Alberti, Ph.D., FNP-BC

Associate Dean of Nursing, School of Health Sciences

**CROSS BEARER**

Rebecca Jimenez

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students

**THE GRADUATES**

Led by Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**THE FACULTY**

**THE DISTINGUISHED ASSEMBLY**

Academic Deans

Distinguished Speaker

The Board of Trustees

Vice Provosts

Executive Vice President

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

President

The audience is requested to stand if they are able during the Academic Procession, Invocation and National Anthem, and to remain in place until the Academic Procession leaves at the end of the exercises.

# PROGRAM

**PRESIDING**

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.,

President

**PROCESSIONAL**

Merrimack College Band

**INVOCATION**

Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

Mackapella

**WELCOME**

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D.,

President

**REMARKS FROM THE PROVOST**

Sean “John” Condon, Ph.D.

Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

**ADDRESS TO GRADUATES**

The Rev. Nicholas A. Sannella, J.D., M.D.

Pastor, Lowell Collaborative, Archdiocese of Boston

**RECOGNITION OF GRADUATES AND PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS**

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., President

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., President

**BENEDICTION**

Father Raymond Dlugos, O.S.A., Ph.D., Vice President for Mission and Ministry

**CLOSING OF THE EXERCISES**

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., President

**RECESSIONAL**

Merrimack College Band

# SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS | MASTER’S DEGREE IN COURSE

Anne Abreu

Annabella Agnoletti

Claire Aki-Cobham

Lisa Allen

Stephen Almeida

Haley Andersson

Bridget Garvey Austin

Meghan Shaye Barrasso

Darnnellyz Raquel M. Batista Q.

Katherine Bonney

Rochelle Brothers

Brianne Christopher

Bailey Ann Clurman

Melissa Lynn Cochrane

Justine Autumn Cook

Cristina Daniels

Ashley A. Davies

Gianpiero de Mari

John William Delaney

Margery Susan Dwyer

Maria Eaton

Scott J. Falzano, Jr.

Paula Flynn

Kiera Noreen Foley

Ana Isabel Fox

Tyler Calisay Furnari

Katie Gabriello

Rocco Anthony Geary

Donald J. Gibson

Alexander Gohl

Hannah Goodwin

Alyssa Gorman

Bryan Frederick David Grasso

Katherine Anne Gundersen

Emily Hammond

Abigail Henkel

Cameron David James

Melvin Johnson

Ryan Jeffrey Josephson

Catherine Mary Julian

Jennifer Karius

Benjamin William Kelleher

Shannan Rose Kennedy

Edie Lawlor Kramer

Sebastien Labissiere

William MacKinlay

Shannon Maglione

Jonna Janiece Elaine Martinez

Jorge Martinez

Ryan Masse

Patrick McCarter

Jaelen McCarthy

Annie McDonnell

Hana McLinden

Owen McMullen

Bryana A. Michitson

Belinda Miranda

Celeste Molle

Audrey Murphy

Haley Elizabeth Norris

Starlina Nunez

Laura Anne O’Connor

Patricia Oduah

Jennifer Ogonowski

Jonathan Arthur Peters

Stephanie Popovichenko

Joshly Ramos

Stephen Reddy

Anthony Joseph Russo

James Allen Meier Ryan

Shelby Lee Sawtelle

Amy Schram

Meghan Christine Schweizer

Michael Dimitri Senoff

Renee E. Snow, MD

Mark Stanko

Barbara Stoebel

Goldera Surles

Melinda Sweeney

Celine Tedenby

Michelle Mona Thompson

Kirstin Ann Trouville

Olivia Valdes

Damien Williams

Aaron Wolfe

David W. Woodford

Julianne Wydola

# SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS | UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES IN COURSE

Omara Jasmin Acosta Foe

Fabiana Albanese

Tatyana Aleinikau

Maria Ann Aliberti

Dawn Almas

Nicholas James Andriotakis

Emilee Allison Aswad

Nicholas Casey Barber

Kelly Aislinn Barclay

Naajaa Barnor

Kathleen Barriere

Zachary Robert Barry

Michael E. Atanda Bashorun

Julissa Bejar

Grace Bellefeuille

Jake Anthony Bencale

Julia Ann Bettencourt

Sydney Laura Blades

Nicholas Bonazoli

Zacaria Bouhalloufa

Venessa Lynn Bourgeois

Emma Marie Bouvier

Nina Rose Bramante

Shanikwa Branch

Colby Brennan

Sean M. Brenner

Sarah Broderick

Ryan E. Brooks

Allyson Foley Buckley

Emily Victoria Burke

Jamie Burns

Cole Glenn Cameron

Ali Rae Carr

Desirae Anne Carr

Danielle Castino

Cherilyn Chadwick

Lisa Chaloux

Harrison Chase

JeanFranco Cholidis

Caitlin Michelle Coleman

Isabella Towsey Collins

Kaitlyn Marie Collins

Jeffrey T. Converse

Kelly Elizabeth Corrigan

Joseph A. Cyrulik

Kassandra Daley

Pedro de Godoy Mancini

Hannah Elizabeth Delaney

Tea Dellanno

Michael Vincent DelloStritto

Mykel Joesph Derring, Jr.

Joseph John DeSario

Dante Xavier DeSousa

Kari Diamantopoulos

Dianelys Difo

Kuriaki DiFruscia

William Dinkel

Evan Dodge

Christopher Wehter Dolan

Meghan Doyle

Victoria Ann Duff

Haley Margaret Dufton

Vali Durra

Denise Marie Eaton

Emily Eaton

Gabrielle Eckard

Meagan M. Ellis

Luisa Gabriela Eslava

Ashley Elizabeth Falite

Ashley Jane Farfaras

Robert Joseph Fernandes

Zoe R. Ferrara

Antonio Pissarra Ferreira

Anthony Louis Fiato

Hannah Grace Fitzpatrick

Filip Forsmark

Margaret Frawley

Serena Frisella

Megan Sarah Frongillo

Nathaniel Philip Frontiero

Christopher Fruland

Morgan Gaffey

Matthew Brian Gagnon

Nicole Galvin

Paul Ganci

Isabel Kathryn Garcia

Hannah Juliette Gibbs

Alexandra Gioia

Camari Glasgow

Alexandra L. Glinsky

Shayla M. Goodell

Jenna Lynne Gordon

Sahana Arun Gorur

Patricia Margarita Gosselin

John Grady

Michael A. Gravante

Ashley Diana Greene

Amelia Rosalind Groothuis

Olivia Haddad

Allison Hamel

Alison Hannon

Jacob Hardy

Joshua Colin Heath

Nicole Carol Hennessey

Gabrielle A. Heroux

Nicole Claire Hersey

Andrew Higgins

Patricia Hill

Cassandra Hunt

Syandene K. Inniss

Hannah Kate Iskra

Kathleen Jeffers

Deborah Celeste Jimenez

Elaine Marie Jones

Autumn Elizabeth Kane

Samantha Karavias

Alethea Anne Keamy

Riley Keene

Brooke Kennedy

Madison Donna King

Meghan C. Knowles

Flavio Kodheli

Abigail Kraunelis

Patrick John Henry Krol

Priscilla Laine

Mary R. Landers

Stephen Landers

Brandon P. Lawrence

Katherine Lawrence

Amanda Dorothy Lee

Michael Paul LeGage, Jr.

Nicholas Michael Lenon

Margaux Marie Lestage

Andrew Leuci

Marlaina Linnane

Stacy Litzos

Gabriella P. Lombardo

Melissa S. Lora

Abigail J. Low

Drew Robert MacInnis

Brigid Murphy Madden

Randy J. Maldonado

Brianna Marie Malerba

Madelyn Eve Mallaghan

Ashley Manocchia

Nicole Violet Martin

Kali Mata

Noelle Anna Mattiace

David Maturo

Angela Mayes

Peter David McAllister

John McBain

Anna Catherine McCarthy

Jackson W. McCarty

Kyle Sean McCarty

Brooke McEachern

Lauren McElhinney

Elizabeth McFarland

Charles Warren McGarigle

Daniel McGowan

Jordan G. McKoy

Braelyn McLaughlin

Erin Elizabeth McPherson

Paige Alexandra Means

Diane G. Melo

Joshua Michael Mendonca

Nathaniel Rosario Grey Merida

Stephanie Jeanne Messina

Colin Michael

Cassandra Miller

Mandi Lynn Miller

Jordan Minor

Bryce David Miranda

Shirley Mitchell

Alexander Nicholas Moore

Luke Morgan

Travis Michael Motsis

Andrew David Mountain

Dennis Moynihan

Colin Murphy

Rebecca Sarah Needleman

Emily Neff

Samuel O’Brien

Abigail O’Keefe

Christopher James O’Neil

Bianca Barbara Orman

Johnna Frances Padvaiskas

Lila Panico

Anthony Parrazzo

Eva Lynda Pastor

Jane Caroline Pavluk

Anna Merle Pellerin

Sarah Elizabeth Pendenza

Chase Perry

Elise Anne Persicketti

Gina T. Petraglia

Gordon Hung Pham

Evan Phillips

Ollie G. Piazza

Emely Rachel Pimentel Castillo

Audrey Pomar

Raegan Porfido

Danielle Powers

Julia Ricci

Donovan James Robinson

Jessica Rodriguez

Joseph Edward Rogers

Laurel Kiki Elise Roust

Renee Ruiz

Rowan James Salhi

Nicholas Salmon

Christopher Sannella

Leanne Santerre

Megan K. Santry

Emily Barbara Sarica

Taylor Elizabeth Sawyer

Lillian R. Schaefer-Calderon

Juri Schlingmann

Gabriela Schmeiske

Lily Ryan Seremet

Ryan Charles Shannon

Jacquelyn Shaw

Margaret Silvestri

Nathan P. Silvia

Sarah Ann Simpson

Olivia Snow

Christopher John Sokol

Shawn Sousa

Carly Ann Stabile

Michelleann Imari Sterling

Harrison Stott

Dorian Elon Straker

Meghan Laura Stratton

Kathryn Grace Sullivan

Jeffrey Supple

Noah Surman

Dianna Sutera

Myles Taylor

Xander Thesz

Angelina Toribio

Gabrielle Lynn Tretton

Kimberly Turgeon

Kimberly Eiko Turner

Jared R. Ullstrom

Helen Sarahi Vasquez

Katilyn Elizabeth Walmsley

Megan A. Wigley

Grace Elizabeth Wilson

Zachary T. Wilson

Michael Bernard Wisnes

Jordan Wolfgang

Emily Anne Wood

Ehsan Yaqhubi

Lisa Yuen

Lillian Zagorites

Meghan E. Zeytoonian

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES | MASTER’S DEGREES IN COURSE

Patrick Lamont Aiken, Jr.

Joseph Dennis Amundson

William Augustus Baldwin, V

Dominique Broyard Bell

Nicholas Bettencourt

Erika Bodnar

Kathleen Borgasano

Karen Ann Boylan

Zachary Robert Brol

Kayla A. Brownhill

Taylor Brianne Carreiro

Alexander Cassell

William Celorier

Shane Joseph Collins

Joseph Connolly

Alyssa Katherine Costantino

Ashley Craig

Erica Lynne Crowley

Madeline L. Cushing

Chase James Drake

Sophia Christina Eisenhaure

Brandon David Ellsworth

Steven W. Filby

Ian Ganley

Madeline Josephine Grady

Sophia Griffin

Dylon Grzenda

Emily R. Hanna

Elijah Terrell Harris

Nadia Katrina Havens

Meghan E. Hawley

Karsen Healy

Michelle Huerzeler

Alexander Hughes

Patricia Inirio

Joshua Warren Janzen

Brianna Taylor Johnson

Karissa Kakleas

Timothy John Kamibayashiyama

Alexis Kapsambelis

Elizabeth Marie Kashian

Ashley E. Kesack

Jack Kraunelis

Arnold Lee

Sydney Jaye Leeds

Ryan Parker Leibold

Jake Leitner

Nicholas Justin Long

Joseph Z. Losack

Charles MacDowell

Elise Makowski

Thomas Morris Manning

Abigail Mansfield

Jordan Alan Manuel

Kevin McGrath

Laura Jane McNaughton

Corinne Frances McPadden

Joshua Miller

Julia Moore

Miranda Rose Morel

Sydney Morgan

Meredith Lynn Morin

Kyle James Nehiley

Catherine Grace O’Donnell

Geofred Mogere Osoro

Briana Kay Paparazzo

Hanjun Park

Kevin The Pham

Layn Kyler Phillips

Dominic Pisello

Kelly Rose Pittendreigh

Jorge Pizarro Colon

Matthew Paul Quinlan

Noêl Charles Riley

Chase John Rogers

Kyle Azevedo Rosa

Catherine Marie Rossi

Megan A. Rumenapp

Kai Joseph Samiere

Rodney Tyler Samson

Erica Ann Schafer

Tristen Schiafo

Marya Schiltz

Danielle Sheehan

Retta Ann Smith

Rachel A. St.Pierre

Paul Stone

Mike Sukaloski

Rachana Reddy Tandra

Taylor Thomas

Ashley Julia Turner

Caitlin Victor

Samuel Weeks

Casie White

Ty Wilhelmsen

Madison M. Withers

Anthony S. Witherstone, Jr.

Emmilee Ann Woodbrey

Emelia Marie Zukowski

# SCHOOL OF NURSING AND HEALTH SCIENCES | UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES IN COURSE

Joshua Addo

Emily Grace Allen

Sarah Amaral

Chloe Grace Atteridge

Madison Hannah Babine

Julianna Leigh Banda

Mariah Paige Baranowski

Cecelia Francesca Barron

Ashley Makena Bates

Alyson Marie Bauer

Jenna Grace Bednarz

Victoria Marie Belisle

Brian Gilman Belmonte

Jessica Ray Berry

Benjamin Joseph Berube

Viviana Bocanegra

Brooke Bolduc

Skyler Jaims Bomba

Kelsey Aristide-Bonheur

Faith Isabella Bono

Caroline Christina Boucher

Audrey Sarah Bourque

Laurel Breen

Emma Brushingham

Taylor Budgell

Nicholas Michael Burton

Natalie Elizabeth Calkins

Katherine Callahan

Abigail Mae Campbell

Trenton Robert Cano

Nathaniel Caron

Cristina Ann Cedrone

Ella D. Dumont Charpentier

Benjamin Chase

Sydney Lee Cochrane

Brianna Grace CoCo

Kayla Kerri Collins

Sara Comisky

John J. Comosa

Alexa Christie Connell

Megan Connelly

Jillian Corridori

Gianna Costa

Madison Cote

Maddison Elizabeth Craven

Hayleigh Patricia Crawford

Brianna D’Aloia

Grace Elizabeth DelRossi

Julianna Nicole DeLuca

Dakota May Demko

Mai Detzel

Kara Lynn Devereaux

Ami DeVito

Madison Dewinkeleer

Allison Elizabeth DiCarlo

Geena N. DiDuca

Angelina Marie DiLello

Alexandria DiPerri

Braydon John Dolbashian

Erin Marie Drew

Julie Edson

Mackinzie Anne Edwards

Rebekah Edwards

John Elie

Alexandra Cole Fischer

Kaitlyn Flammia

Madison Jean Fornwalt

Nicolas Fowler

Elizabeth Francioso

Meredith Ann Fullford

Alana Nicole Fursman

Ashley Gajdzik

Kyra Ann Galonek

Melissa G. Gâmez

Ilaisa Garcia

Abigail Louise Genev

Rebecca Gersbeck

Ava Bella Gilboard

Connor Scott Godin

Gabriela Maria Goldwasser

Emma Kylene Gorski

Molly Catherine Anne Goulart

Lydia Grant

Olivia Quin Griffin

Rachel Brooke Griffin

Katelyn Grise

Madeleine Guimont

Madison A. Hambrick

Fiona Claire Heffernan

Kylie Hern

Alexis Taylor Hutchins

Braden A. Jewett

Samantha Johnson

Evan Bardin Jones

Molly Katherine Kelly

Kara Kilroy

Abigail Laine

Sarah Lama

Kaleigh Lane

Ava Lanning

Jennifer Rose Lansing

Logan Lattime

Emma Rose Letarte

Meredith Lewis

Samantha LiPetri

Sophie Ruth Long

Christofer Lopez Bierd

Siobhian Lowman

Michael Lucey

Megan Elise Lyons

Erin Nicole MacBlane

Sophia Fiore Mace

Mikala Magner

Ava Mahoney

Hadi Mohamed Majed

Meghan Maloney

Veronica Maria Severino

Mary Maroney

Hector Martinez Pleitez

Meghan Paige McDonough

Cole B. McGhie

Lauren McKenney

Maggie Lyn McKeon

Abigail McLeavy

Kaitlyn Riley McNiff

Annabelle Mary McSweeney

Madison Stephanie Merritt

Madison Metcalf

Bridget Courtney Michel

Jordyn Montoya

Julie Moran

Alexis Moscoffian

Haley Mullen

Shane Patrick Murphy

Liam Norton

Hannah Rose O’Brien

Maura O’Connor

Patrick Robert O’Dea

Madison Lee Oelkers

Tristan O’Grady

Emma Grace O’Neill

Gisselle Ortiz

Isabella Ozga

Nathan Palanica

Holly Paolino

Georga Paquette

Amanda Lynn Bodnar Pellino

Alicys Alejandra Perez

Anna Teresa Perrotti

Julia Christina Petta

Jerry Alain Pierre

Adam Pinto

Sydney Kimberly Plemenik

Lauren Rhodes Quinn

Kelsey Elaina Rasmuson

Alison Keene Reardon

Andres Patricio Reyes

Firas Rimawi

Julia Elizabeth Ritcey

Tyler J. Roberts

Loraine Rodriguez

Vivianna Rose Rodriguez

Adriana Luisa Romano

Sophia Salviati

Kara Anne Sands

Marco E. Sannella

Madigan Saunders

Sydney Sawyer

Nicholas R. Scali

Sophie Mae Scearbo

Gianna Marie Sciarappa

Kaitlyn Seeley

Nicholas Seeto

Ana Maria Serratos Vela

Veronica Shaw

Hallie Shiers

Abigail Rose Sleeper

Michelle Sohegian

Kylie E. Soter

Chynna Staco

Kaitlyn Stephenson

Molly Stockfisch

Quintan James Stott

Yvonne Tan

Maggie E. Tardiff

Julia Eve Taylor

Emily Scott Tebbetts

Katelyn Marie Thompson

Brooke F. Toothaker

Jillian Jean Tosi

Katelyn Rose Tourigny

Erin Kathryn Tyldesley

Jordan Ava Vaillancourt

Jessica Lynn Van Heynigen

Taylor Nicole Vartanian

Vanessa Wainwright

Brooke Waitt

Jessica Wargo

Gabrielle Lyn Weilding

Cameron Wheelock

Stephen Woods

Emily Yath

Alexis Yurczyk

Ava Marie Zarella

Emily A. Zerofski

June Zhang

# DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

**The Girard School of Business and the School of Science and Engineering | 9:00 a.m.**

**John T. Boyce ’81,**

**Chair of the Board of Trustees**

John Boyce chairs the Board of Trustees of Merrimack College and has served on the Board for nine years.

An investment industry leader for 40 years, John has had responsibility for the commercial activities of Insight Investment in North America for the past five years.

Prior to Insight, John spent six years at Aberdeen Standard as Head North America Distribution where he was responsible for building the brand and the region’s institutional business development activities.

Earlier in his career, John led global investment activities at American International Group/PineBridge Investments, General Electric Asset Management as well as U.S. business development for Diversified Investment Advisors/Aegon.

He is also a past board member of the Alzheimer’s Association.

John received his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Merrimack College in 1981. He holds his FINRA Series 7, 63 and 24 licenses. He resides in Ridgefield, CT with his wife, Maryann Testa Boyce ’81. John and Maryann have two daughters, Lauren G. (Boyce) Koury and Sarah M. Boyce.

**Winston School of Education and Social Policy | 1:30 p.m.**

**Stacey Ciprich, H’22**

**Principal of Abbott Lawrence Academy**

Stacey Ciprich is the founding principal of Abbott Lawrence Academy (ALA), an accelerated honors high school within the Lawrence High School campus. Opened in 2015, it is the district’s first exam high school. In 2020, she was named Educator of the Year Award by the Massachusetts Association for Gifted Education.

Since 2017, Merrimack and ALA have partnered on an Early College Program today known as the Pioneer Scholars Program. Upon graduation from ALA, select Pioneer Scholars enroll at Merrimack with financial assistance covering tuition, room, board and books, as well as dedicated academic guidance and support from faculty and staff.

**School of Liberal Arts and the School of Nursing and Health Sciences | 5:30 p.m.**

**The Rev. Nicholas A. Sannella, J.D., M.D.**

**Pastor, Lowell Collaborative, Archdiocese of Boston**

The Rev. Nicholas A. Sannella graduated from Boston College in 1967, attended Tufts University School of Medicine and trained in vascular surgery at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Boston and Stanford University Medical Center.

Returning to Massachusetts, he chose to practice in Lowell and Lawrence, underserved areas in his specialty. He was chief of surgery at Lawrence General Hospital, president of the medical staff at Saints Medical Center in Lowell and vice president of the New England Society of Vascular Surgery. Involvement in hospital and medical staff governance, as well as patient care issues, led to a juris doctorate from Suffolk University.

In 1999 he entered Pope St. John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Massachusetts and was ordained in 2003. Today, he is pastor of the Immaculate Conception Church, Saint Anthony’s Church and Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, which make up the Lowell Collaborative of the Archdiocese of Boston.

He has served as a trustee of St. John’s Hospital and Saints Memorial Medical Center, both in Lowell, and Boston College. He has also served as a medical officer in the United States Air Force Reserve.

# DIPLOMA TRANSLATION

**The translation of the Merrimack College diploma from Latin to English is as follows:**

Merrimack College

To all reading this document

Greetings in the Lord

The President, Faculty and Trustees of Merrimack College

by virtue of properly completing required studies on the recommendation of the faculty

and by the authority vested in us

by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts confer on

name of student

the degree of

name of degree

and grant freely all rights, privileges and honors pertaining to that degree.

In witness thereof we place the seal of the College.

Given in North Andover in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

date of degree

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

John (Jack) T. Boyce ’81, Chair

Christopher E. Hopey, Ph.D., President

Karen Cambray ’88, Vice Chair

Rev. David A. Cregan O.S.A., Ph.D., Vice Chair

Kevin J. Lucey ’89, P’24, Vice Chair

Marybeth McInnis, Esq. H’17, Vice Chair

Nicholas McDonald, Esq., Secretary

Jeffrey A. Doggett, Ed.D., Officer of the Corporation

Rev. Robert P. Hagan, O.S.A., Ex Officio

Michael P. Arcidi ’85

Bruce A. Bouchard ’79

Matthew Carpenter-Dennis, Esq.

Joanne Caruso Bentley ’81

Peter J. Caulo ’83

Alvin M. Chapital, III, ’86

Lynne Ann Chase ’90, P’23

Rev. Kevin M. DePrinzio, O.S.A., Ph.D.

Francis Kenneth “Ken” Duane ’80, H’16

Michael J. Franco, Esq. ’81, P’12

Rev. Francis J. Horn, O.S.A., J.C.D.

Dennis J. Leonard ’77

Paul L. Mucci P’07

Rev. Arthur P. Purcaro, O.S.A.

Kevin R. Rhodes ’91

Kevin J. Routhier ’99

James E. Scammon ’83

Patrick J. Sullivan

Marques D. Torbert

# ABOUT MERRIMACK COLLEGE

One of only two Catholic Augustinian colleges in the U.S., Merrimack College is a coeducational institution with approximately 5,500 undergraduate, continuing education and graduate students from 34 states and 36 countries, comprising schools of liberal arts, science and engineering, health sciences, education and social policy, and business.

The College’s 220-acre campus is approximately 25 miles north of Boston in North Andover and Andover, Massachusetts. Merrimack is a Master’s Colleges & Universities/Medium Programs institution in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

# MISSION AND VISION

**Our mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts, and empower lives.**

Inspired by the Catholic faith and the Augustinian tradition of seeking truth through inquiry and dialogue, our vision is to:

* Prepare students to adapt creatively to tomorrow’s realities through excellence in the liberal arts, sciences, and the professions;
* Build a community of scholars welcoming and respecting a diversity of backgrounds, experiences, beliefs, and perspectives;
* Cultivate the intellectual, moral, spiritual, physical, and personal awareness needed to make wise choices for life, career, and service;
* Encourage and support scholarly work that contributes to the wisdom on which society bases its decisions;
* Engage other educational institutions, industry, and agencies of social change in collaborative efforts fostering a just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

# THE SEAL OF MERRIMACK COLLEGE

Drawing on our rich history, the modern shield of Merrimack College reinterprets elements from the original 1947 college seal.

The shield includes four quadrants:

* The book with the words “Tolle Lege” (“take up and read”), the famous words connected with the conversion of Saint Augustine to Catholicism, proclaiming the College’s founding by the Order of Saint Augustine.
* Wavy pallets, to represent the “swift water” of the Merrimack Valley’s original Native Americans.
* The cross fleurette, from the coat of arms of the Archdiocese of Boston, in which Merrimack College is located. The cross fleurette refers to the French ancestry of Bishop Cheverus, the first Bishop of Boston (1810–1823).
* The symbolism of our colors: blue for loyalty (and the cold, rippling waters of the Merrimack River) and gold for wisdom (also the color of the papacy).



# THE CEREMONIAL MACE

The mace carried in academic processions derives from medieval times in England when an official was taking office. At that time, the mace was a formidable weapon and was held ready by the mace bearer to protect the dignitary. From the sixteenth century in England and since colonial days in the United States, the mace has become a symbol of academic office and is carried by a distinguished member of the faculty.

The Merrimack College mace has a young history. It was fashioned for the 1986 Commencement by Cistercian Monks of the Holy Rood Guild at Saint Joseph’s Abbey in Spencer, Massachusetts. The monks are renowned craftsmen and designers of ecclesiastical vesture.

The Merrimack College mace is thirty-six inches long and is made of black walnut. The front of the mace carries the College’s hand-painted, gold-leafed seal. From the intricate coat of arms of the Order of Saint Augustine, the back of the mace is hand carved with an open book symbolizing the conversion of Augustine. On the left hand side of the book is a tongue of flame above a heart pierced with “the burning love of God.” An elegantly simple cross adorns the top of the mace.

Since 1986, the Merrimack College mace has been carried by the Chief Marshal at Commencement.

# THE CEREMONIAL CROSS

The processional cross is expressive of the Augustinian longing for unity of our minds and hearts in God. It was designed by the Augustinian Contemplative Nuns at the Monastery of Our Holy Savior in Leccetto, Tuscany, Italy. Small replicas of this cross are given to Merrimack students engaged in service to others through Service Learning and the SEND Programs as well as to those who participate in MORE, the Pellegrinaggio en Italia, and other programs that foster self-awareness and spiritual growth.

# REGALIA

The origins of academic dress lie in fourteenth century England. The buildings frequented by medieval scholars were often cold and damp; long gowns (particularly with hoods to protect tonsured heads) may have been worn more for warmth than fashion.

The distinctive gown set the student apart from their fellow citizens. As late as the Civil War, students at American universities wore caps and gowns daily while in residence. Whatever the origin, academic regalia grew in diversity and splendor, with scholars displaying distinctive costume for different occasions and achievements. The result was a bewildering variety of designs.

An intercollegiate commission met at Columbia University in 1894 to establish a standard academic costume code, and over the years it has been revised by an official committee of the American Council on Education. The committee’s prescriptions, while regulating, still allow for great pageantry at formal academic events.

From the cap, gown, and hood, it is possible to distinguish the institution from which the wearer was graduated, the field of learning in which the degree was earned, and the level of the degree— bachelor, master, or doctoral.

The distinguishing feature of the black mortarboard cap, standard at most colleges and universities in the United States, is the color of the tassel—black for the holder of a bachelor’s or master’s degree, gold for a doctor’s degree or the governing officers of educational institutions.

The gown is normally black, and the gown’s cut and trim indicate the level of the degree held. The bachelor’s has long, pointed sleeves, while the master’s has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The doctor’s sleeves are bell-shaped, with three bars of velvet, and the gown is trimmed with velvet down the front as well. The hood tells the most about its wearer. The length of the hood and width of the binding vary according to degree. The hood is lined with the official colors of the college. The color of the hood’s binding indicates the area of study in which the degree was granted. Students also wear other regalia, including cords signifying academic honors and stoles representing countries they studied in during their academic career.

At formal academic occasions, the President of Merrimack College also wears the Presidential Medal which incorporates the College seal.