

**2026** -  
**COMMENCEMENT**

**Graduate &  
Postdoctoral Affairs  
Doctoral Hooding  
Ceremony**

7:30 p.m.  
May 16, 2026

# THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS 154<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY

## Processional

University Marshals · University Administrators · Graduate Faculty · Doctoral Candidates

## Remarks

### Ric Steele

Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs & Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

## Presentation of Awards

### Arash Mafi

Chief Academic Officer, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

## Hooding Ceremony

Presentation of graduates and hooders. Mentors invest candidates with their doctoral hoods.

## Marshals

### Lisa Wolf-Wendel

Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the School of Education & Human Sciences

### Joe Potts

Associate Vice Provost for Strategic Partnership & Innovation in International Affairs

## Music

Kansas Brass Quintet

## STAGE PARTY

### University Administration

#### Arash Mafi

Chief Academic Officer, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

#### Ric Steele

Vice Provost for Graduate and Postdoctoral Affairs & Interim Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

### Executive Council of Graduate Studies

#### Paulyn Cartwright

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

#### Bryan Mann

School of Education & Human Sciences

#### Christopher Cushing

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

#### Christopher Niileksela

School of Education & Human Sciences

#### Dilshan Ossen

School of Architecture & Design

#### Melissa Grady

School of Music

#### Adi Masli

School of Business

#### Michael Wolfe

School of Pharmacy

### College and School Administration

#### Jennifer Roberts

David B. Pittaway Executive Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

#### Scott Reinardy

Interim Dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communications

#### Mahbub Rashid

Dean of the School of Architecture & Design

#### Colin Roust

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the School of Music

#### Jide Wintoki

Dean of the School of Business

#### David Dietz

Dean of the School of Pharmacy

#### Rick Ginsberg

Dean of the School of Education & Human Sciences

#### Michelle Carney

Dean of the School of Social Welfare

#### Mary Rezac

Dean of the School of Engineering

### Honorees

#### A. Townsend Peterson

University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

#### Lilly Springer

Argersinger Dissertation Award Winner



# AWARDS

## Argersinger Dissertation Awards

The Marnie and Bill Argersinger Dissertation Awards were created in 1992 by the family and friends of former Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Studies, and Dean of the Graduate School, William J. Argersinger Jr. and his wife, Marnie. The Argersinger Dissertation Awards honor exceptional doctoral dissertations that stand out for their innovation, methodological rigor, and scholarly impact; one in the category of physical sciences, engineering and math, and one in the category of social sciences.

### 2026 Marnie and Bill Argersinger Dissertation Award in Physical Sciences, Engineering and Mathematics

**Sierra Seacat**

"First-Principles Studies of Heterostructures for Ga2O3"

### 2026 Marnie and Bill Argersinger Dissertation Award in Social Sciences

**Lilly Springer**

"Essays on the Economics of Women's Reproductive Health"

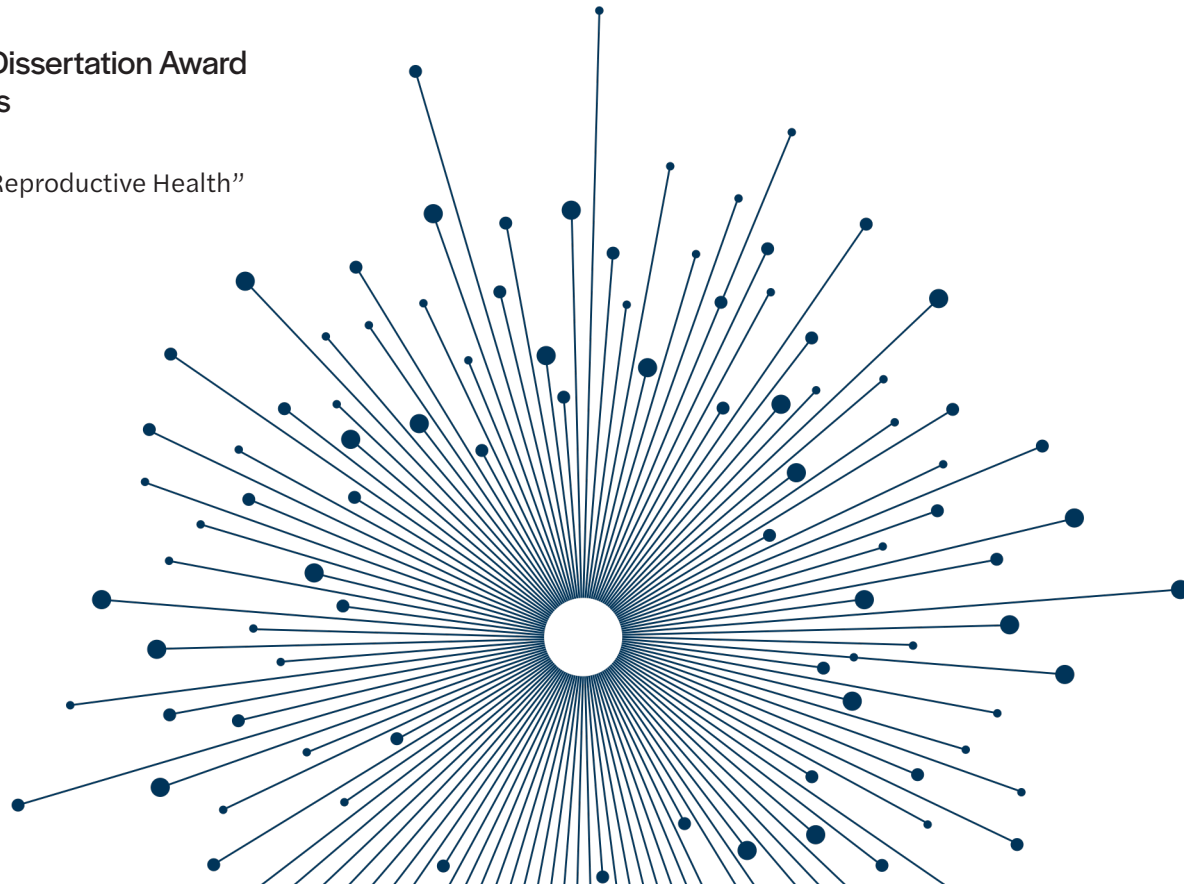
## Byrd Graduate Award

The Byrd Graduate Award is bestowed annually to recognize graduate faculty who demonstrate an exceptional level of commitment and concern for the welfare and scholarship of graduate students. The award was established in 1984 to honor the memory of Louise Byrd, long-time secretary of the graduate school, who was noted for her deep commitment to graduate students. Each year, graduate faculty are nominated for the the Byrd Graduate Mentor Award by colleagues and current and former students, and are selected by a review committee comprised of former Byrd recipients and graduate faculty.

### 2026 Byrd Graduate Mentor Award

**A. Townsend Peterson**

University Distinguished Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology



## Self Graduate Fellows

**Rebekah Bryant**  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Nicholas Ferry**  
Geology

**Kip Nielsen**  
Atmospheric Science

**Kelly Pfeiler**  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Scott Ring**  
Mechanical Engineering

**Bryan Rodríguez Colón**  
Geology

**Kathleen Rust**  
Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Mikayla Smith-Craven**  
Pharmaceutical Chemistry

**Lilly Springer**  
Economics

**Megan Wittman**  
Environmental & Water Resources Engineering

**Jeffrey Xu**  
Aerospace Engineering

## Chancellor's Doctoral Fellows

**Jessina Emmert**  
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Agnes Muyanga**  
Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Imani Wadud**  
American Studies

## About Graduate Study



Graduate study at the University of Kansas prepares students to be innovators and leaders who are ready to meet the demands of academy, industry, government and our global society. KU enrolls around 5,500 graduate and professional students annually in more than 50 fields of study and awards about 400 doctoral and 1,500 master's degrees each year. The university offers outstanding libraries, teaching museums and information technologies that are essential for graduate level education and research.

As the only AAU accredited research university in the state, KU offers a broad array of advanced degrees including the Master of Arts degree, the Master of Science degree, specific professional master's degrees, the professional degree of Specialist in Education, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree, as well as professional doctorates of Audiology, Education, Engineering, Musical Arts, Social Work and Speech-Language Pathology.

With 11 programs ranked in the top 10 among public universities, and 51 ranked among the top 50, students are sure to find a program that will prepare them to be an outstanding professional in their discipline.



The 2026 doctoral hooding program with the full list of graduates and candidates is available online at [doctoral-hooding.ku.edu](http://doctoral-hooding.ku.edu) or through the QR code.



Students named in this event program graduated in Summer or Fall 2025 or applied by March 1 to graduate in Spring or Summer 2026. A select number of students from prior terms and for Fall 2026 are also participating in the ceremony.

The following markers indicate when degrees were conferred or are expected to be conferred: \*\*\*Summer 2024, \*\*Spring 2025, \*Summer 2025, \*Fall 2025, +Summer 2026 and \*\*Fall 2026. Those without markers are expected to graduate in Spring 2026.

This program does not act as an official record and does not include an exhaustive list of graduates.



# 2026 DOCTORAL HOODING CEREMONY GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Kervens Accilien**

Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology<sup>+</sup>

**Gbenga Samuel Agunbiade**

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

**Sana Akhter**

Doctor of Philosophy in Computational Biology<sup>+++</sup>

**Cagil Albayrak**

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science<sup>\*</sup>

**Shoukat Ali**

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics<sup>+</sup>

**Colleen Armstrong**

Doctor of Philosophy in Geology

**Samuel Arnold**

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

**Daniel Bagheri Sarvestani**

Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology<sup>\*\*</sup>

**Samalee Banerjee**

Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology<sup>\*</sup>

**Joseph Bellitti**

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Shelia Bonner**

Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies<sup>\*</sup>

**Patience Bosompemaa**

Doctor of Philosophy in Geology<sup>\*</sup>

**Abby Breyer**

Doctor of Philosophy in English

**Noelle Broughton**

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration

**Rebekah Bryant**

Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology<sup>+</sup>

**Minh Cao**

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics<sup>\*</sup>

**Kelsey Carls**

Doctor of Philosophy in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Maximillian Ifeanyi Chibuike**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry

**Timothy Cichanowicz**

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

**Davis Curry**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry<sup>+</sup>

**Asaf Day**

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science<sup>+</sup>

**Ousmane Lecoq Diop**

Doctor of Philosophy in French and Francophone Studies

**Jennifer Duenas**

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

**Brendon Elliott**

Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Jessina Emmert**

Doctor of Philosophy in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Brigid Enchill**

Doctor of Philosophy in French and Francophone Studies

**Seyed Mohsen Fatemi**

Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration<sup>+</sup>

**Oluwadamilola Fateru**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry

**Tony Feldmann**

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology<sup>\*</sup>

**Nicholas Ferry**

Doctor of Philosophy in Geology

**Titus Firmin**

Doctor of Philosophy in History<sup>\*</sup>

**Zachary Flowers**

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics<sup>+</sup>

**Neno Fuller**

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

**Zijie Gao**

Doctor of Philosophy in Geology<sup>+</sup>

**Amrit Gautam**

Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

**Renee Gilbert**

Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Child Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Walter Goettlich**

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology<sup>\*</sup>



**Jonah Greene**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Theatre

**Haley Hart**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

**Ruaa Hassaballa**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Behavioral Psychology

**Kylie Helm**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Child Language<sup>+</sup>

**Daryl Hesse**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Child Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Elise Kay Farrell Higgins**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

**Derek Hilligoss**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies

**J. Hunter Howie**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

**Vedant Jain**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology

**Anika James**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology

**Bryan Jimenez Jose**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology<sup>+</sup>

**Joseph Kauffman**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies<sup>+</sup>

**Lydia Krug Benda**  
Doctor of Philosophy in English

**Vaishnavi Kulkarni**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology<sup>+</sup>

**Jaime Caleb Lazaro Moreno**  
Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies<sup>\*</sup>

**Cole Le Mahieu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

**Ryan Low**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

**Joseph Mandigo**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry<sup>+</sup>

**Juan Marquez**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics<sup>+</sup>

**Christopher Mayo**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics

**Amy W. Millet**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History<sup>\*</sup>

**Daisuke Murata**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History of Art

**Agnes Phoebe Muyanga**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies<sup>+</sup>

**Haoran Ni**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History<sup>\*</sup>

**Matthew Nickel**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics<sup>\*</sup>

**Kip Nielsen**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Atmospheric Science<sup>+</sup>

**Ayumi Nobuki**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics<sup>\*\*</sup>

**Margarita Nuñez Arroyo**  
Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies

**Syed Muhammad Omar**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Cassandra Abena Amofoa Osei**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration

**Münir Özturhan**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics<sup>+</sup>

**Suresh Shivanka**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry

**Gabrielle Perkins**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry and Biophysics<sup>+</sup>

**Kelly Pfeiler**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology<sup>+</sup>

**Nicole Price**  
Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies<sup>+</sup>

**Mariana Rincon Caicedo**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology<sup>+</sup>

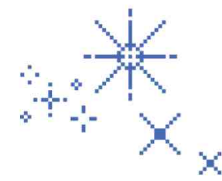
**Bryan Rodríguez Colón**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Geology<sup>+</sup>

**Anthony Ruiz**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History

**Kathleen Rust**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Karina Saechao**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Child Language<sup>+</sup>





**Kirk John Sampson**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

**Oluwaseun Sanwoolu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy

**Sreerupa Sanyal**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies

**Mohammad Ful Hossain Seikh**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Physics

**Heeyoun Shin**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

**Yayoi Shinoda**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History of Art

**Bryan Simmons**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Behavioral Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Lilly Springer**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

**Christian Supsup**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Cassandra Sutton**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Kathryn Swartz**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies

**Lydia Sykora**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology<sup>+</sup>

**Keana Tang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**Servet Tas**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology<sup>+</sup>

**Pilar Thangwaritorn**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Sarah Unkel**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Anthropology<sup>+</sup>

**Imani Wadud**  
Doctor of Philosophy in American Studies<sup>\*\*\*</sup>

**Darrion A. Walker, Esq.**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Communication Studies<sup>\*</sup>

**Robert A. Waller**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration

**Ming Wang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics

**Xuan Wang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics<sup>+</sup>

**Emily Watkins**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology

**Benjamin Wiens**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology<sup>+</sup>

**Sungmin Won**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics

**Yiwen Wu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Administration<sup>\*</sup>

**Tzu-Hsuan Yang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Linguistics<sup>+</sup>

**Jeongwon Yoon**  
Doctor of Philosophy in History of Art

**Yurong Zhang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

**Ziyu Zhu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry

**Matthew Zupan**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry<sup>\*</sup>

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## School of Architecture and Design

**Marzia Chowdhury**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture

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## School of Business

**Yijing Cui**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Viacheslav Deniskin**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Majedeh Esmizadeh**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Ella Sareum Lee**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Junchao Liao**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Matthew Peterson**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Xun Xiong**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

**Tonghui Xu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Business

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## School of Education and Human Sciences

**Anna Abernathy**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Amanda Addis**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Merve Akin-Tas**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Sarah Alrasheed**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction<sup>+</sup>

**Bryan Anderson**  
Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

**Stephanie Andrada**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Health, Sport Management, and Exercise Science

**Alyssa Avelar**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Elizabeth Beck**  
Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

**Alexander Bittel**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Meredith Bittel**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Britta J. Bletscher**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

**Christopher Carter**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

**Jacob Chamberlin**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Majesty Collins**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Health, Sport Management, and Exercise Science

**Ty Allan Collins Jr.**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Lindsey Constance**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Jostna Rani Dash**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Joseph Michael DeLeo**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Health, Sport Management, and Exercise Science

**Abigail Dugan**  
Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Jose Fabian Elizondo Gonzalez**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Paige Freeman-McMillan**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies<sup>+</sup>

**Randi Christine Gray**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Elizabeth Grzesik**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Kahee Han**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Taylor Payton Harris**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Josh Edmond Hayes**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

**Tierra Jackson**  
Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction<sup>+</sup>

**Geonhwa Kim**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education<sup>+</sup>

**Charles King**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Brian John Klinzing**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies<sup>\*\*</sup>

**Jenna Kuder**  
Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

**Brett Lackey**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies<sup>\*</sup>

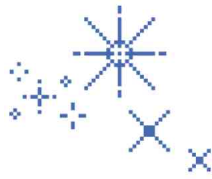
**Samantha Land**  
Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Rachel Leonard**  
Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

**Taylor Delores Main**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research<sup>+</sup>

**Jacob Majeske**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research





**Shahlo Mamedova**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Juan David Martínez Zayas**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Erin Kathleen Murray**

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Laura Nichols**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Kenya Patzer**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Zulma Perez-Estrella**

Doctor of Education in Curriculum and Instruction

**Charles Pittack**

Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

**Na'Taya Quinn**

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Edward Vance Raschen**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Kaylie Ridgway**

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Christina Schneider**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies<sup>+</sup>

**Tyler Shephard**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Chase Stockton**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies<sup>+</sup>

**Drew Thomas**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Eric Thompson**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Rebecca Townsend**

Doctor of Philosophy in Special Education<sup>+</sup>

**Kimberly VanNice**

Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Morgan Renee Vannoy**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Christian Watkins**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Angie Williams**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research<sup>+</sup>

**Michael Wray**

Doctor of Philosophy in School Psychology<sup>+</sup>

**Liyan Yang**

Doctor of Philosophy in Curriculum and Instruction

**Danqing Yin**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

**Haoyang Yu**

Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Psychology and Research

**Zhixin Zhai**

Doctor of Philosophy in Counseling Psychology<sup>+</sup>

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**School of Engineering**

**Osama Alqassag**

Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering

**Fatima Alshaikhli**

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering

**Turki Mubarriz Alsharari**

Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering

**Abdulrhman Arishi**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

**Tate Bestwick**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

**Kyley Burkey**

Doctor of Philosophy in Bioengineering

**Samir Castilla Acevedo**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

**Jaswant Israel Cobos Cobos**

Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering

**Arin Dutta**

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering<sup>\*\*</sup>

**Estephanie Escobar**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Julia Emilia Espinoza Mejia**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Brianna Farris**

Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering<sup>\*</sup>

**David Felton**

Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering

**Takeshi Ryan Fujimoto**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Engineering

**Arman Ghasemi**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering

**Mozaher Ul Kabir**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering

**Shravan Kaundinya**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering

**Diego Trevisan Melfi**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Adam Mouak**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Zaccur Nkrumah**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Bioengineering<sup>+</sup>

**Joao Victor Poli**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

**Charles Ponge**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

**Jennifer Quirk**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Scott Ring**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Shawn Robertson**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science

**Odini Kingsley Siakpebru**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering

**Richard Simeon**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical Engineering

**Alejandra Torres Velasco**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Chemical and Petroleum Engineering<sup>\*</sup>

**Hao Tu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering

**Andrea Lucia Villela Nava**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Bioengineering

**Ye Wang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science

**Zhaohui Wang**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science

**Megan Wittman**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Environmental  
& Water Resources Engineering<sup>+</sup>

**Jeffrey Xu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Engineering<sup>\*</sup>

**Youmin Xu**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering

**Lu Zhao**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Aerospace Engineering<sup>\*</sup>

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## School of Journalism and Mass Communications

**Rim Hayat Chaif**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications

**Mica Barros Coelho**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications<sup>+</sup>

**Michael W. Douglas**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications<sup>+</sup>

**Angela Hendershot**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications<sup>\*</sup>

**Nazra Izhar**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications<sup>+</sup>

**Blessing Jona**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Journalism and Mass Communications<sup>+</sup>

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## School of Music

**David William Cason**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**YanJun Chen**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Sherry Dou**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Richard Galbreath**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Xinyue Gu**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Yuru Jin**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Dylan Matheny**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Boxin Wang**  
Doctor of Musical Arts



**Wenqing Wang**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Veerle Winkelmolen**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Brenna MacKenzie Wright**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Music Education

**Fangye Wu**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Shuang Wu**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Zhengyu Xu**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Chun-Hui Yang**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Yang Yang**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Wenchang Ying**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Mingxi Zhang**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

**Xiang Zhang**  
Doctor of Musical Arts

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## School of Pharmacy

**Pei Hsuan Chen**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Medicinal Chemistry

**Maribel Espinoza Ballesteros**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry<sup>+</sup>

**Negar Jafari**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry<sup>\*</sup>

**Mengyue Li**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry

**Lina Karina Nerio Morales**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and Toxicology

**Matthew Russolillo**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Medicinal Chemistry

**Mikayla Smith-Craven**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry<sup>\*</sup>

**Marcela Solis Rodriguez**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry<sup>+</sup>

**Lun Xin**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Chemistry<sup>+</sup>

**Shuwen Yue**  
Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology and Toxicology<sup>\*\*</sup>

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## School of Social Welfare

**Jessica Brown**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Shelby Burnett**  
Doctor of Social Work

**Jesse Cook**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Christina DiMattia Brown**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Lena Dow**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Clarissa Encino**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>++</sup>

**Brittany Harris-Eaves**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Nattacha Hope**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Larkin Michelle Jaynes Fales**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Rachel Jeter**  
Doctor of Social Work

**Ashleigh Elizabeth Kuhn**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

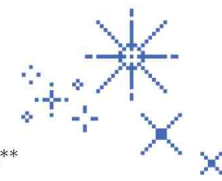
**Annette Peare**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Rachel Pieloch**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Afton Keys Salas**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Emily Sim**  
Doctor of Social Work<sup>+</sup>

**Pamela Twohill**  
Doctor of Social Work



## Academic Regalia

Graduating students wear traditional academic regalia to signify the degree-granting program and the wearer's level of achievement.

**Bachelor's candidates:** Traditional mortarboards with colored tassels, gowns with square-cut sleeves.

**Master's candidates:** Mortarboards with black tassels, gowns with pointed sleeves, draped hoods.

**Doctoral candidates:** Tams with short black tassels, gowns with bell-shaped sleeves, draped hoods with velvet edging.

The tassels for bachelor's degree candidates, the lining of the hoods for master's degree candidates, and the velvet edging on the hoods for doctoral candidates are in colors that signify the wearer's discipline:

Architecture & Design: Light purple  
Business: Light brown  
Education & Human Sciences: Light blue  
Engineering: Orange  
Journalism & Mass Communications: Crimson  
Health Professions: Mint  
Law: Purple  
Liberal Arts & Sciences: White  
Medicine: Forest green  
Music: Pink  
Nursing: Apricot  
Pharmacy: Olive green  
Professional Studies: Silver  
Social Welfare: Citron  
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.): Dark blue

## Alma Mater: Crimson and the Blue

Far above the golden valley  
Glorious to view,  
Stands our noble Alma Mater  
Towering toward the blue.

Chorus:

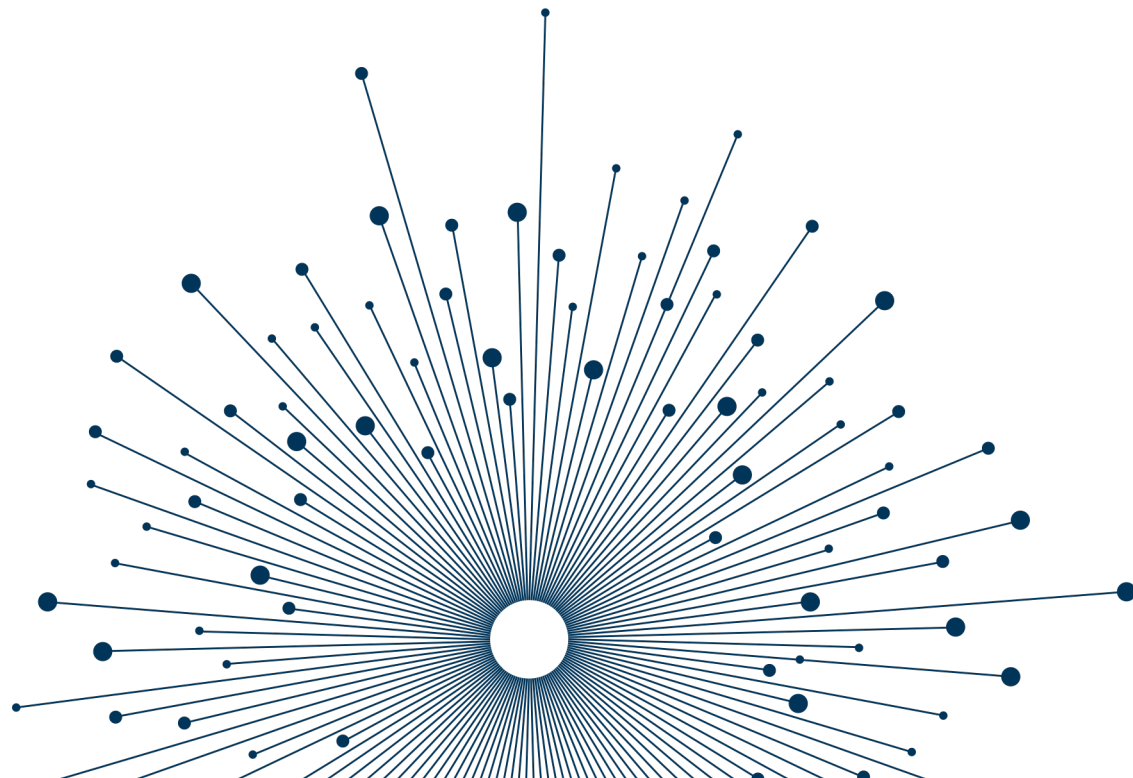
Lift the chorus ever onward,  
Crimson and the Blue.  
Hail to thee our alma Mater,  
Hail to old KU.

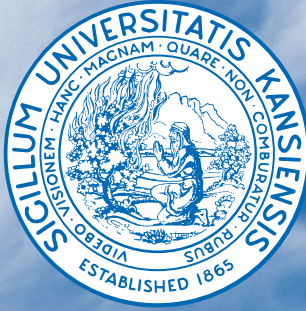
Far above the distant humming  
Of the busy town,  
Reared against the dome of heaven,  
Looks she proudly down.

(Repeat Chorus)

Greet we then our foster mother,  
Noble friend so true,  
We will ever sing her praises,  
Hail to old KU.

(Repeat Chorus)





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