

CLASS OF 2021

*Hooding
Ceremony*

Saturday, May 1, 2021

3 p.m.

www.uaa.alaska.edu/commencement



UNIVERSITY *of* ALASKA
ANCHORAGE

Order of Events

Welcome and message to the graduates Mary Jo Finney, Dean, Graduate School

Chancellor’s message to the graduates Bruce Schultz

Provost’s message to the graduates Denise Runge

Graduate student speaker. Jennifer O’Neal

Hooding of master’s candidates John Petraitis, Interim Dean,
College of Arts and Sciences
John Nofsinger, Interim Dean,
College of Business and Public Policy
Kenrick Mock, Interim Dean,
College of Engineering
Jeff Jessee, Dean,
College of Health

Closing remarks Mary Jo Finney, Dean, Graduate School

Graduate Student Speaker

JENNIFER O'NEAL

As a teenager, Jennifer O'Neal wasn't sure if she would or even could pursue higher education. Due to personal struggles, she found herself uninvested and underperforming when she began high school. During her junior year, O'Neal enrolled in a credit recovery program to get back on track. Behind the scenes, her counselor applied on her behalf to the UA Scholars Program. O'Neal's hard work — and her counselor's confidence — paid off.

Thanks to the opportunities granted by the scholarship, O'Neal was able to enroll at UAA, first as a journalism major, but soon switching to human services after taking a particularly revelatory psychology class.

“Because I come from a family that struggled, pursuing human services and social work helped me gain a better understanding of myself and validate those experiences,” said O'Neal. “As I was healing myself, I was also developing the skills to help other people in a similar position.”

After earning her associate degree in human services in 2004, O'Neal jumped right into the field while continuing to work toward her bachelor's degree, joining AK Child and Family as an activity therapist and eventually becoming a case manager. Ultimately, O'Neal's goal is to inform decisions involving housing transition-age youth between the ages of 14 and 24, many of whom experience homelessness after aging out of foster care, child welfare, juvenile justice and youth behavioral health programs.

A few short years after O'Neal completed her bachelor's degree in human services in 2006, an opportunity at Denali Family Services became available, one that allowed her to work directly with the youth she was so passionate about helping. Through her position as transition-to-independence process supervisor, O'Neal witnessed how some of the factors contributing to the housing issues faced among transition-age youth were part of systemic issues, necessitating her return to UAA in 2019 in pursuit of a Master of Social Work.

As spring 2021 hooding ceremony student speaker, O'Neal hopes to spread a message of cultivating curiosity and continuing education, which she plans to do by pursuing her doctorate.

“If everyone held a little more space for curiosity, we might be able to have the kind of conversations to solve world problems,” said O'Neal. “That's a really big idea, but it's a simple ask to just be curious.”

Class of 2021

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Dr. John Petraitis, Interim Dean

MASTER OF ARTS

Anthropology

Oliver G. Smith

MASTER OF FINE ARTS

Creative Writing and Literary Arts

Eric G. Johnson

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Applied Geological Sciences

Charlene E. Detelich

Alison S. Rowan

Biological Sciences

Sarah M. Gering

Hunter A. Gravley

Laura A. McDuffie

Rachel E. McKenna

Clinical Psychology

Hannah A. Ferguson

Emilie M. Loran

Christopher D. Reintsma

Interdisciplinary Studies

Tristan A. Goers

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

MASTER OF EDUCATION

Educational Leadership

Tyler A. Glaser

Lindsay R. Jack

Margaret J. Jones

Benjamin Lavalier

David A. Wilson

Special Education

Melissa A. Boyd

Christina M. Sitz

Teaching and Learning

Callie H. Conerton

Jacob L. Groll

Anna Soma

Laura L. Stoddard

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND PUBLIC POLICY

Dr. John R. Nofsinger, Interim Dean

MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

General Management

Nicole E. Deren

Maxim R. Dolchok Jr.

Erwin T. Domingo

Jared R. Edgar

Lucas J. Everett

Rebecca Fiegl

Christopher Fives

Liudmila Halvorson

Vanessa M. Hershberger

Peter O. Ikewun

Mitchell R. Kitter

Eric A. Lacher

Lauren M. Mason

Nolan R. McBryde

Viviana Mina

Viet H. Nguyen

Christopher S. Schneider

Timothy W. Triplett

Chelsey J. Wallace

Yuqing Wang

Amanda R. Watt

MASTER OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Joseph R. Selmont

Stephen J. G. Sweet

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Global Supply Chain Management

Anna K. Givens

Erickson Lee

Amelia C. Motz

Paul W. Prior

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Dr. Kenrick Mock, Interim Dean

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Civil Engineering

Eric T. Fox

Erich M. Ramirez

Natalie Wagner

Yue Zhao

Mechanical Engineering

Benjamin T. Simonson

Project Management

Ardrienna L. Everett
Madeline M. Hogarth
Colton T. Jessup
Micah J. Smith
Daron L. Underwood

COLLEGE OF HEALTH

Jeff Jessee, Dean

MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Public Health Practice

Jeremy A. Ayers
Douglas Y. Bowen
Christina L. Broderman
Jessica L. Brown
Sara A. Clark
Kelsey L. Cusack
Shannon L. Deike
Gale A. Disler
Mykell P. Grover
Ellen M. Hackenmueller
Katrina L. McCandless
Arika R. Paquette
Jenifer L. Rogers
Amaris C. Rosario
Julia L. Sargent
Mariah A. Seater
Zara Shah
Jennifer L. Skarada
Sharon E. Steelfox
Vanessa A. Verigin
Sarah C. Wallner

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Dietetics and Nutrition

Cayenne D. Sirois

Interdisciplinary Studies

Maria Gemzicka

SCHOOL OF NURSING

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Nursing Science
Mackenzie E. Callis
Sharon J. Geraghty
Olivia R. Harris
Jimin H. Hwang
Leah Kaufman
Joanna L. Oudal
Sarah Points
Christi J. Schmitz
Brandi C. Secary
Hilary A. Walters
Derek Weiss

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK

Alicia Adair
Joshua R. Adams
Emily M. Cohen
Holly C. Cook
Dacia A. Davis
Nyangath K. Diew
Jessica J. Greene
Lindsay Hibbert
Brittany L. Higgins
Sarah M. Holland
Cedric P. Houston
Ashley R. Hunt
Jordan D. Juliussen
Kirsten M. Knight
Erin Kusek
Charity A. Lee
Jennifer R. Lichter
Julia K. Miner
Daniel P. Neramo-Brendible
Jennifer R. O'Neal
Bradford G. Parfitt
Serene M. Pecha
Jordan M. Randolph
Lauren E. Risby
Albert M. Toves II
Adam N. Ward

History and Significance of the Graduate Hood

THE ORIGINS of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. With few exceptions, the medieval scholar had taken at least minor orders, made certain vows and perhaps been tonsured. Long gowns were worn and may have been necessary for warmth in unheated buildings. Hoods seem to have served to cover the tonsured head until superseded for that purpose by the skull cap.

Today, hoods are the most expressive component of the academic costume. They serve to communicate the owner's school, degree and field of study through their length and the colors of the lining and binding. Today's hoods have evolved from a serviceable article of clothing to a type of elongated scarf draped over the shoulders and displayed down the back with the lining turned inside out.

University of Alaska Anchorage doctoral and master's degree graduate candidates receive their hoods to recognize the level of education they have pursued beyond the baccalaureate degree. UAA colors are green and gold, hence these colors within the hood. The velvet trim on the hood signifies the scholar's field.

Academic Regalia Colors by College

<i>College of Arts and Sciences</i>	<i>Anthropology</i>	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
	<i>Biological Sciences</i>	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
	<i>Clinical Psychology</i>	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
	<i>Creative Writing and Literary Arts</i>	<i>Brown</i>
	<i>Education</i>	<i>Light Blue</i>
	<i>English</i>	<i>White</i>
	<i>Interdisciplinary Studies (M.A.)</i>	<i>White</i>
	<i>Interdisciplinary Studies (M.S.)</i>	<i>Golden Yellow</i>
	<i>Clinical-Community Psychology (Ph.D.)</i>	<i>Dark Blue</i>
	<i>College of Business and Public Policy</i>	<i>Business Administration</i>
<i>Global Supply Chain Management</i>		<i>Golden Yellow</i>
<i>Public Administration</i>		<i>Peacock Blue</i>
<i>All Disciplines</i>		<i>Orange</i>
<i>College of Engineering</i>		
<i>College of Health</i>	<i>Nursing</i>	<i>Apricot</i>
	<i>Public Health</i>	<i>Salmon Pink</i>
	<i>Social Work</i>	<i>Citron</i>



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