



2026 SPRING
Commencement
CONVOCATION

FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2026, AT TEN O’CLOCK A.M.

OLIVER C. DAWSON STADIUM
ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

THE SEAL AND MACE

The University Seal is comprised of the following carefully sculptured symbols: a Palmetto Tree, a miniature building and a torch. The Palmetto Tree stands in the center of the Seal and represents the official tree of South Carolina. At the base of the tree, on the left, is a miniature of Morrill Hall symbolizing education and history. Morrill Hall, one of the first buildings constructed on the campus, was named in recognition of the Morrill Act which established land-grant colleges in the United States. South Carolina State University is a member of the land-grant system. On the right side of the tree is a torch which connotes a deep devotion to truth: "Scientia, Officium, Honos," meaning Knowledge, Duty, Honor. The Seal is used on all official documents of the University. The Seal was designed for the inauguration of Dr. M. Maceo Nance, Jr. as fifth president of South Carolina State University in 1968 by Dr. Leo F. Twiggs, Professor of Art at the institution.

The mace has an ancient history as a symbol of authority. During the 13th century, it was used for civil purposes and during the processions of royalty and other dignitaries.

The mace symbolizes the autonomy and authority of the University, the Board of Trustees, the administration, and the faculty to grant degrees to graduates and represents one of the oldest traditions in academia. The University Mace was designed by Dr. Clarence W. Hill, School of Engineering Technology and Sciences, during the fall semester of 2003. The Mace is carried before the president and other dignitaries of the platform party during commencement and other formal processions.

The University Mace was commissioned by Dr. Andrew Hugine, Jr. and presented during his inaugural ceremony as the ninth president of South Carolina State University. Dr. Hugine's vision for the design of the Mace included "full capture of the strength of the University, as evidenced in its history." He envisioned the Mace representing "the significant growth, prosperity, and vitality for the future of the University." The Mace's design is reflective of and captures the rich history of the University while embracing the challenge to preserve its legacy as a land-grant institution.

A brass multi-ring base supports the 42" elegantly crafted walnut fluted staff with brass rings bearing the names of former University presidents. This ornate feature presents eight bronze engraved panels. Engraved on four of the eight panels are the three historic seals of the University and the seal of the state of South Carolina. On three of the remaining panels are the names of the University from beginning to present. One panel is blank to capture future developments. Two marble plates, one garnet and one blue, serve as the base and top plate for the uppermost part of the Mace. The pinnacle of the Mace is a sphere, having two faces: one face with Morrill Hall, one of the first buildings on the campus, and the second having the President's Seal, representing the University's leadership and global presence in higher education.

THE SYMBOLS OF LEARNING

The Academic Procession

The academic procession of today's commencement exercises is made up of candidates for degrees, members of the faculty, members of the Board of Trustees, and members of the platform party marching in that order. After the ceremony, the order of march is reversed except that graduates are dismissed at their seats.

The order of march is in accordance with academic protocol which was established centuries ago when academic ceremonies were predominantly directed by the clergy. In keeping with the familiar order of the religious procession, the younger and newer groups precede the older, and the place of highest honor is at the end of the procession.

Academic Attire

The academic attire worn at American college exercises today dates back in its essential features to the Middle Ages. The oldest universities of northern Europe, such as Paris and Oxford, grew out of church schools. Students and faculty wore clerical garb, largely borrowed from the monastic dress of their day.

The head-covering of the academic costume developed out of the skull cap worn by the clergy in cold weather. In the universities, this skull cap acquired a point on top which gradually evolved into a tassel. In this country, it has been replaced by the familiar mortar-board, which still retains the medieval tassel.

The hood was originally worn over the head, and otherwise dropped onto the shoulders, like a cowl. Today, each college or university has its distinctively colored hood-lining, by which its graduates may be recognized in academic processions.

The gown worn today seems to have been borrowed from the habit of the Benedictine monks. At medieval institutions of higher learning, undergraduate and graduate degree candidates could be distinguished by the simplicity or elaborateness of their gowns. The graduate degree candidates' gowns were often furred, a feature that survives today in the ornamentation found on doctoral gowns.

In keeping with long established traditions, graduates of South Carolina State University continue to wear black robes with an Oxford mortarboard cap and a black tassel. Baccalaureate students graduating with the distinctive honors of Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, and Summa Cum Laude wear gold tassels, stoles, and honor cords, as appropriate. Candidates for the master's degrees wear color hoods designating their academic disciplines, and Doctor of Education candidates wear the light blue hood of their discipline, as well as fur-ornamented robes, which display three stripes on each sleeve.

The colors for academic disciplines, established by the American Council on Education, include white for arts, letters, and humanities; drab for business administration, commerce and accountancy; crimson for communication and journalism; copper for economics; light blue for education; orange for Engineering; brown for fine arts; purple for law; lemon for library science; green for medicine; pink for music; apricot for nursing; silver gray for oratory; dark blue for philosophy; sage green for physical education; peacock blue for public administration; golden yellow for science; citron for social science; and scarlet for theology and divinity.



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The University

Since its founding in 1896, South Carolina State University has evolved from a small teachers' college into a major university center of learning. One of the most attractive campuses in the Southeast, the University is located in Orangeburg, South Carolina, which is centrally located between the capital city of Columbia and the beautiful seaport city of Charleston. South Carolina State University is one of two land-grant institutions in the Palmetto State. The University is state-assisted and draws its students from all over the United States and various other countries.

The approximately 3,000 students enrolled at the University have a choice of more than 50 different fields of study on the undergraduate and graduate levels, which include the following degree-granting academic divisions of the University: the College of Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, the College of Business and Information Systems; the College of Education, Humanities and Social Sciences; the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Transportation; and the College of Graduate and Professional Studies. The interdisciplinary Honors College is also a part of the Division of Academic Affairs. Across certain disciplines, the degree-granting colleges offer programs at the master's, educational specialist, and doctoral levels as well as certificate programs. The University provides undergraduate and graduate courses through the Center of Online and Distance Education.

In support of its mission as a land-grant institution, South Carolina State University also administers the 1890 Research & Extension Program, which provides solutions and services to improve the quality of life of South Carolinians. The institution makes a special effort to contribute to the intellectual and cultural life of the community through numerous co-curricular offerings and special activities.

The main campus is comprised of 160 acres and more than 60 buildings, including the newest academic building, the 86,500-square-foot Engineering and Computer Science Complex, which features innovative classrooms, research centers and laboratories.

South Carolina State University supports 14 NCAA varsity sports, which have brought the institution more than 100 conference championships and 15 national titles.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Dear Class of 2026:

Today marks more than the completion of your academic journey; it represents the beginning of a new chapter defined by purpose, possibility, and promise. You have persevered through challenges, embraced change, and demonstrated the resilience that will carry you far beyond these walls.

As you step into the future, you do so in a world that is evolving faster than ever before. Yet, the values you have cultivated remain timeless—integrity, discipline, and tenacity. These are the qualities that will guide your decisions and define your legacy.

Your class has special meaning to me. Since becoming President in 2022, you are the first graduating class to have completed all four of your years during my tenure. I have had the privilege of witnessing your growth from your freshman days to this moment of accomplishment, and I could not be prouder of the individuals you have become.

Each of you carries a unique story and a distinct set of talents. Wherever your path leads you, know that your contributions matter. The world needs your ideas, your leadership, and your courage to act when it matters most. Remember that success is not measured solely by achievements, but by the lives you touch and the difference you make.

On behalf of the entire community, I extend my deepest congratulations. We are proud of what you have accomplished and even more excited about what lies ahead for you. Go forward with confidence. Your future is bright, and it belongs to you.

Sincerely,

COL (Ret.) Alexander Conyers
President

Commencement Convocation

ORDER OF CEREMONY



COL (Ret.) Alexander Conyers, President
Presiding

PRELUDE Dr. Jiyeon Lee
Piano

ACADEMIC PROCESSIONAL – “War March of the Priests,” Mendelssohn SCSU Wind Ensemble
Dr. J. William Nicholas
Band Director

(Audience is requested to remain seated)

POSTING OF COLORS Bulldog Battalion Color Guard

STAR-SPANGLED BANNER – Francis Scott Key Audience
SCSU Concert Choir & Band

SCRIPTURE AND INVOCATION Pastor Desimond Antley
Coordinator of Religious Life & Community Service Program

GREETINGS Mr. Douglas Gantt, '84
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Ms. Zaria Tucker
President, Student Government Association

SELECTION Dr. Johnnie Felder
Choir Director

Dr. Lee
Piano

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKERS President Conyers

Jayden Briggs
Senior Class President

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS Ms. Yolanda Williams, '95
President, South Carolina State University National Alumni Association

Ms. Tucker

CONFERRING OF HONORARY DEGREE

Mr. Henry “Hank” Allen
Immediate Past (29th) President
South Carolina State University National Alumni Association



PARTING REMARKS..... President Conyers

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

COL (Ret.) Alexander Conyers

Dr. Frederick M.G. Evans
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Lakeisa Tucker
Dean, College of Graduate & Professional Studies

Dr. Matthew Guah
Dean, School of Business & Information Systems

Dr. M. Evelyn Fields
Dean, College of Education, Humanities & Social Sciences

Dr. Stanley Ihekweazu
Dean, College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics & Transportation

Dr. Ralph Noble
Dean, College of Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences

INDUCTION OF GRADUATES INTO THE NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONMs. Williams

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND REMARKS..... President Conyers

ALMA MATER Audience
SCSU Concert Choir
Dr. Felder

RETIRING OF COLORSBulldog Battalion Color Guard

BENEDICTION..... Pastor Antley

RECESSIONAL - "Pomp and Circumstance," Edward ElgarSCSU Wind Ensemble
Dr. Nicholas

MACE BEARER

Dr. Jacqueline Brown
Professor of the Year

GRAND MARSHAL

Dr. Frederick M.G. Evans
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs



ZARIA TUCKER

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Tucker, a senior psychology major from Clinton, South Carolina, will serve as the student speaker, representing the voice of the Class of 2026.

A highly engaged campus leader, Tucker recently completed her term as the 2025–2026 Student Government Association president and now holds the distinction of immediate past president. During her tenure, she also served as the student representative on the university’s Board of Trustees, advocating for student interests at the highest level of institutional decision-making.

Over four years of service in student government, Tucker demonstrated strong leadership, strategic vision and a deep commitment to student advocacy at a historically Black university with a proud legacy.

She is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., where she served as first vice president and chair of membership intake for the Alpha Xi Chapter. Her campus involvement also includes the National Council of Negro Women, the NAACP and service as a student orientation leader, mentoring incoming students.

A three-time Presidential Scholar, Tucker has also represented SC State nationally as a two-time participant in the National Association of Student Affairs Professionals Student Leadership Institute. She currently serves on the National HBCU Student Government Association Presidents’ Consortium, working with peers across the country to strengthen student advocacy.

Known for her communication skills and ability to bring people together, Tucker has led initiatives that elevated student engagement and reinforced a campus culture where students feel heard and valued. Her leadership reflects a commitment to service, integrity and the continued advancement of SC State.



YOLANDA WILLIAMS

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY NATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT YOLANDA WILLIAMS

An experienced leader in the Charlotte, North Carolina-area banking community, Williams serves as a senior lead analytics consultant at Wells Fargo, bringing her expertise in data analytics and strategic consulting to the financial services industry.

Her story is one of continuity, family, education and service, and a steady belief in the value of SC State.

From growing up in Orangeburg with the campus woven into daily life to returning as a student and now leading its National Alumni Association, Williams' connection to SC State has been steady and enduring.

Both of Williams' parents earned degrees from SC State, and Williams followed in their footsteps, earning a degree in mathematics with a minor in computer science in 1995. She later completed a master's degree at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

During her studies at SC State, she completed an internship with the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington, D.C., and was offered a full-time position after graduation. She later worked as a government contractor supporting agencies including the FBI and U.S. Customs before relocating to Charlotte, where she became active with the local alumni chapter.

She has served the SCSUNAA at both the chapter and national levels, including roles as Charlotte Chapter president, chair of the Technology Committee, financial secretary and second vice president. She assumed the role of national president in August 2025.

Williams' deep love for SC State and her dedication to student success continue to guide her service, ensuring future generations of Bulldogs benefit from the same opportunities that shaped her journey.

CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATE DEGREES

Doctor of Education

Cynthia Sherese Adams
Montreal D. Bell
Joaquin Dewan Brown ^
Latonya Shanett Durant
Loretta Renee Gadson-Washington ^
Derrick Antoine Glover
Jessica Jena Green
Herk Lavar Huggins
Karla Mack
Alfred McGuire Jr.
Aunquize Le'Damon Perkins
Kamare' G. Pierce
Demier Zenobia Richardson-Sanders
Tawanna Freeman Sanders
Perry Frank Smith Sr.
Yolanda Yvette Young-Riley

Educational Specialist

Kimily Brown
Robert M. Hemby II
Hayward R. Jean
Chedric Angelo Jones Sr.
Carla Mathis
Angela McClary-Rush
Tasha A. Miller
Woodrow Nesbit Jr.
Sabrina M. Polite
Tiffany Void
Kelvin Wilson
Ardrina Wise

Master of Arts

Rehabilitation Counseling

Asia T. Grubbs
Keyona Q. Housey
Ashlee Jeane' Prince ^
Nya O. Simmons
Chukeya N. Williams

Master of Arts

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Rayven A. Brown
Jordan Simone Butler ^
Payton Newman Cooper
Shelby Letrease Daniels
A'Nya Cymone Davis
Arnia Andia Franklin
David Sinclair Givens
Leslie Hagood
Asia Monet Haskins
Enonne S. Heyward ^
Claire Huskey
Susan Chandler Hutto
Lyracis Kyla Johnson
Karrington Alexis McClurkin ^
Grace Marie Michel
Kamryn Erica Parker
Brianna Shavae Samuels
Harmonee Stample
Tayler Jaidin Tyson
Tiffany Makeia White

Master of Arts

Teaching

Victoria Anita Davis
Tianna K. Murray
Jordan Williams ^

Master of Business Administration

Business Administration/ Agribusiness

Ke'Auja Duncan
Penelope Sunithwa Fennell ^
Andrew Latimer
Marc Anthony Wardlaw ^
Thomas J. White Jr.

Master of Business Administration

Business Administration/ Entrepreneurship

Rashawn Washington

Master of Business Administration

Business Administration/General

NaTisha Adams
Jonah A. Griffin
Sade Nicole Harrell

Master of Business Administration

Business Administration/Healthcare Management

Shamya J. Fleming
Demetri Denard Tolbert

Certificate

Project Management

Diamond Sahara Boatwright
Eljuane Quantrel Ellis
Quincy Lovell Robinson Jr.
Michael Simmons
Briana Chelsea Stroman

Master of Education

Counselor Education

Caleb Jarva Brown ^
Amayya Latrice Williams

Master of Education

Education/English

Kayla Ratianna Stokes

Master of Science

Nutritional Science/Food and Nutrition

Malik T. Hailey
Whittaker Williams

Master of Science

Nutritional Science/Nutrition Health Care

Morgan Nicole Blanchard
Chyla Akire Simmons

Master of Science

Transportation

Izison Benibo
Desmond Julian Boone
Raquan A. Brown
Charlene Coppage
Chandra Carliss Gibbs
Nancy G. Kasamala
William J. Ketcherside Jr.
Katelyn Kinard
Arthur Mukwaya
Mark Gervas Ngotonie

TITLES OF DISSERTATIONS FOR MAY 2026

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Adams, Cynthia

Effectiveness of Virtual Schools on Students' EOC Academic Performance and Graduation Rate in South Carolina.

Dr. Necati Engec, Chair

Bell, Montreal

A Longitudinal Examination of Declining Elementary Public School Enrollment in Metropolitan North Georgia.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr. Chair

Brown, Joaquin

The Effectiveness of Interactive Notebooking in Elementary Mathematics: A Study of SC Ready Achievement in a Rural Title I School.

Dr. Necati Engec, Chair

Durant, LaTonya

The Impact of Teacher Incentive Programs on Student Achievement and Teacher Retention in Rural South Carolina.

Dr. Jesulon Gibbs-Brown, Chair

Gadson-Washington, Loretta

A Comparative Study of Alternative and Traditional Teacher Certification on the Academic Achievement of Middle Schools.

Dr. Jesulon Gibbs-Brown, Chair

Glover, Derrick Antoine

The Effect of an Early Intervention Program on the Transition of Children to Kindergarten in a School District in the Midlands of South Carolina.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Chair

Green, Jessica

An Examination of Teacher Perceptions and Factors Influencing African American Male Achievement in Grades 3–5.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Chair

Huggins, Herk L.

An Examination of the Impact of Teacher Characteristics and School Factors on Fourth-Grade Reading Proficiency in South Carolina.

Dr. Michael A. Boatwright, Chair

Mack, Karla T.

Examining Demographic Differences in End-of-Pathway Assessment Performance in a Suburban Georgia School District: A Causal-Comparative Analysis.

Dr. Necati Engec, Chair

McGuire, Alfred D. Jr.

The Effectiveness of Community Engagement on School Performance in Georgia.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Chair

Perkins, Aunquize L.

Investigation of Teacher Perception Towards Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports and Specialized Instruction Implementation in High- and Low-Performing Elementary Schools.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Chair

Pierce, Kamaré

A Comparative Analysis of Personnel Perceptions of School Culture and Climate in High and Low Performing Georgia Elementary Schools.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Chair

Richardson-Sanders, Demier Zenobia

The Effectiveness of Parental Involvement on Elementary School Performance in South Carolina.

Dr. Percy A. Mack, Jr., Chair

Sanders, Tawanna F.

Evaluating the Effectiveness of an Alternative Education Program for Minority High School Students: Academic and Disciplinary Outcomes.

Dr. Necati Engec, Chair

Smith, Perry

Exploring the Lived Experiences of Black Male High School Dropouts: Understanding the Social, Cultural, and Institutional Factors Behind Early School Departure.

Dr. Necati Engec, Chair

Young-Riley, Yolanda Y.

The Effect of Literacy-Arts Infused, Character Education Curriculum on Benchmark Test Scores for At-Risk 6th Graders in the Areas of Reading, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics.

Dr. Necati Engec, Chair

* Posthumous

CANDIDATES FOR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

The academic honors of Summa Cum Laude (3.75–4.00), Magna Cum Laude (3.50–3.74), and Cum Laude (3.00–3.49) are designated in the commencement program for undergraduate students with outstanding scholastic records based on their current cumulative grade point averages where A = 4, B = 3, C = 2 (See inside front cover).

Summa Cum Laude

Gold Tassels and Gold Stoles

Magna Cum Laude

Gold Tassels and Gold Honor Cords

Cum Laude

Gold Tassels

College of Graduate & Professional Studies

Bachelor of Arts

Speech Pathology and Audiology

Yesenia A. Benjamin
Amani M. Deberry
Ambria Rhiannon Edmond
Eunice Chioma Eleke
Brooke McKenzie Gloster
Mykia I. Leake
Phyllese Jaleigh Loney ^
Raynah A. Lykes
Bryce Ahmik McIntosh ^
Kennidy Mariah Peterson ^
Brianna Eleese Pressley
Imani Joi Richardson
Me'Kayla K. Tolar
Nyanza Terriale Cecial Waiters
Olivia Williams
Cherise Danielle Wilson

Bachelor of Science

Criminal Justice

Chloe Marie Anderson ^
Jamiyah Auydriana Barr-Williams
Zanah Betia Boyd
Zarya Sy'Mone Brown ^
Jaylin Zyair Burson
Christian Crosland
Jalen Maurice Alphanzo Franklin ^
Sieanna Amaya Harris ^
Ki' Ayisa Ariona Moultrie
Joshua Singleton
Semhar Solomon
Jayda Ashlee Turley
Deshondria Laasia Youmans

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education/Activity Management

Christopher R. Austin
Xavier Carter ^
Lee Christopher Alexander Davis
Tyrone Davis Jr.
Kean Garner
Kwantre' Demetrius Harry
Zaria T. Malone
Joseph A. Smalls

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education/Applied Exercise Science

Angela Adams
Madison Aniyah Boyd
Robert Carter
Symone Arianna Clayborne
Sierra Jaliya Curnell
Keondre N. Dickson
Amarie M. Gist
Tia Yvette Green
Logan Symia Hayward ^
Georgia Middleton Jackson
Isaiah M. Johnson
Laila Makke Johnson
Davonte Trevon McClary
Chanice Jamia Outing
Dymond Monae Roundtree
Kierra Schenk
Phoenix Kyeesha Smith
Brittani N. Smyre
Makayla Patrice Toussaint
Janayia Monae Townsend
Iylecia Franchesca Tucker ^
Gavyn C. Zimmerman

Bachelor of Science

Physical Education/Sports Communication

Shamontae J. Burgess

Bachelor of Social Work

Destiny Ke'Asia Allen
Jayna Nicole Armstrong
Anyla Aynn-Elizabeth Edwards
Aiyana Kenyell Ellis
Dontasia Farrow
Paris Olivia Graves
April Jade Herndon
Kylie Nelson
Kennedy T'shanah Ross
Lilliann Jordan Stevens

College of Business & Information Systems

Bachelor of Science

Accounting

Jayden Jerard Broughton ^
Cinye Jene Brown
Amarri Nyasia Duncan
Makenzie Alyssa Edwards
Simone Marie Miranda
Terryyn Mikhi Patterson-Bryant
Patrica Yvonne Irene Pettway
Tiana Renee Small
Jadyn M. Taylor
A'Quira Asjanai Williams
Corrian Dy'maz Wright

Bachelor of Science

Business Economics

Rejoice Anaele
Aaliyah Kelsey Castro
Berkley Lauren Harmon
Gabriel Victor Johnson
Devin La'Shaun Nixon
Jamar Smalls

Bachelor of Science

Management

Lethonia Dee Barnes
Destiny Ruth Blair
Ernest Lee Brice
Christina Elaine Brown
Pearson Horace Butler
Chase Tyrece Cattenhead ^
Chancellor Logan Chavous
Matthew Johnathan Corley
Clinton Thomas Faulton III
Christaan Frasier ^
Jadyn Rose Funnye
Latira B. Glaze
Asia L. Graves
Tarekio Hill
Azaria Eniya Horton
Jalen Bernard Levine ^
Destiny Omega-Enchanted
Manigault
Jataja Tyjah Martin
Colin Gregory McKenzie
Anthony Miles Jr. ^
Kenniyah J. Miller
Madison Million
Kavon Tyrick Nesmith
Shanekia Amiah Rauch
Cedrina Richardson
Jada Kelis Scarborough
Shelton Dushawn Shatteen II
Isaiah Smith Jr.
Kennedy R. Spears ^
Princess Helena Jordan Tisdale
Le'Arzonah Nichole Wiggins
Montez Cedric Wiggins
Jamonya A. Williams
Nicholas Williams

Bachelor of Science

Marketing

Francisco M. Alvarez V
Mahogany Bernethia Johnson ^
KeAvis Jay'Quan Savage
Symia M. Williamson

Disclaimer: This Commencement program booklet lists the names of students who have applied for graduation. However, the appearance of the names of these candidates for graduation in the booklet does not mean that they have completed all the requirements to earn the degree for which they applied. The official transcript indicating that the degree has been awarded is the proof that the degree has been earned.

College of Education, Humanities & Social Sciences

Bachelor of Arts Communications/Broadcasting

Tokunbo A. Ayinmide
Aaliyah Victoria Felder
Summer Rebecca Gray

Bachelor of Arts Drama

Kazarius E. Adams
Brianna Joene Armstrong

Bachelor of Arts English

Ruben Allen Jenkins
Tyron Pahn

Bachelor of Arts History

Jhaven Rachelle Meade

Bachelor of Arts Music Industry

Skyler Benjamin Green
Daeunna Jayla Marie Renee Jenkins
Taleeya S. Jones
Elisa Marie Williams

Bachelor of Arts Political Science

Aaziyah Cromartie
Arjay Kaniyas Farmer ^
Le’Katie Friday
Shadae Irene Rembert

Bachelor of Arts Studio Art

Malachi A. Jones
Jeremiah Russhad Price
Nicholas E. Walters ^

Bachelor of Science Art Education

Autumn Brianna Staggers ^

Bachelor of Science Early Childhood Education

Lashawna Ashanti Brooks
Jakelle K. Golden
Briana N. Roper
Jasmine Simmons
Ny’Asia Witter

Bachelor of Science Mathematics Education

Justin Elijah Smith ^

Bachelor of Science Middle Level Education

Olivia La’trice Ratliff ^

Bachelor of Science Physical Education

Javion Donell Smith

Bachelor of Science Psychology

Alexia Bryan
Kiara Ariel Dunham
Brandezea Myriana Mazhane Glover
Destiny Joyce Johnson
Carl Edison Jones ^
Tanashi Sherell Leonard
Samantha Leysath
Naykaia Brianna Lindsey
Blonzine Jacqueline Louis
Dezariah T. Moreland
Giovanni Lavon Simon
Shia Tobias-Wolffe
Isaiah Tyler Vertus
Makayla Monique Walker

College of Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, & Transportation

Bachelor of Science

Biology

Payton Alexandria Abney
Raven Monique Alexander
Destiney Danielle Brown
Laneshia De'Amanta Brown
Tyjia Quantanisha Brown
Sydney Olympia Cooper ^
Alicia M. Dankwa
Zyariah Malasha Dixon
Jade Elise Cara Edwards
Elijah James Farmer
Aaliyah Shanese Gadson
Sodaytra Ulesiya Green
Keylaney Rae Gutierrez
Marion Irvin Richard Harley
Eden Simone Hemphill
Hadyn Nicole Hines ^
Tamara Ariana Irving
Taylor Aaliyah Jackson
Arria Teryn Johnson
Courtney Denise Johnson
Niya C. Mack ^
Damya Mayers
Jordon Da'shaun Moorer
Barrius Redding
McKinley RYanne Roach
Sarabi Royalty Smith
Anointed Abigail Eve Steed
Reanna Rebecca Tucker
Tori Jai White
Camillie Mele Wilkins
Gianna Gisele Wright

Bachelor of Science

Chemistry

Darryl Malik Ballard
Ariana Danisea Bryant
Karissa S. Davenport
J'Niyah Shavonta Freeman
Micheal A. Hopkins Jr.
Kandace Rankin
Imani Tyaun Sibbaluca
Alissa Jordan Williams

Bachelor of Science

Civil Engineering

Zyon Niziah Addison
Lamar L. Clark
Mehki Tyrese Nesmith
Mark Aaron Parker II ^
Izaiah Jordan Payne

Bachelor of Science

Computer Science

Aissa Benchakroun
Darryl Capleton
Kevin Antonio Cohen
Zy'Aire Kayzon Frazier
Kamelia Giles
Zaria Camille Henderson
Kelvin Holman
Nowell Elizabeth Madison
Kayla A. Moses
Ivan Pauliuchenka
Megan Lucille Rabb
Janise Shaw
Alana Watts
Xavier Lionel White
Alfred Lamont Williams II
Serenity Williams

Bachelor of Science

Cybersecurity

Tyler Allen Brown
Keshawn Burns
Ciere M. Champaigne
Michael Gerald Chatman
Jackson Edwards ^
Blake C. Nichols

Bachelor of Science

Electrical Engineering Technology

Emma Fleming
Terry Windell Gladden Jr.
Ezekiel J. Robinson

Bachelor of Science

Industrial Engineering

Isaiah Abraham Thompson

Bachelor of Science

Industrial Technology

Travis Lombardia Zeigler ^

Bachelor of Science

Mathematics

Deidre Denise Gilliard

Bachelor of Science

Mechanical Engineering Technology

DeMarcus Lyvonte Bailey
Jaidan Lemetrius Briggman ^
Jarell Rotrey Broomfield
Trenton Myles Bryant
Kortez Dre'von Heath
Alaysia Monique Lemon
Jordan Miller ^
Tedric Miles Morton
Marion A. Patterson ^
Nyquan Reid ^
Malachi Smalls

Bachelor of Science

Nuclear Engineering

Jasmine Orianna Henderson
Zadok Nisiri Tahsoh
Aniya Marie Ziegler

Bachelor of Science

Physics

Cristal Carroll

College of Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences

Bachelor of Science

Agribusiness

Avery Jovan Franklin
John Gilchrist Jr.
Kevin Bernard Goodwin II
Tyler Lamont Hutchinson ^
Jaquez Marion Perry
George Corbitt Ulmer ^
Kevin M. White
De Andre Hester Williams
Tyeim Omarrion Williams

Bachelor of Science

Nutrition and Food Management

Ta'Jarion Da'Shun Glenn ^
Kameron DaMarcuz Parker ^
Brian Daniel Renwick
Tania Lynae Townsend

Bachelor of Science

Family and Consumer Sciences

Tatyana Aiken
Indya Jade Anderson
Te'Onna DeA'sia Bethea
Ja'Quira S. Brown
Jazmin Alexis Dias
Danielle N. Dickey ^
Zanjerry D. Dunham
Carla Deanne Ellis
Jabin Perez Ford
June Mone't Highsmith
Aaliyah S. Jefferson
Jordan Orman Johnson
Logan Nash Jones
Tameria McInnis
Shontell Juanisha Milford
Jayla Teona Mosley
Myah P. Pelzer
Armanii Pringle
Shaunice Reed
Yasmin Richardson
Nykierra M. Scott
Micaiah Kenneth Settles
Melissa Simmons
Trevin Malik Isaiah Singleton
Jameli Shavalo Thomas
Ariante L. Ulmer
Dayshjanae Wannamaker
Christian Washington
Tylasia Adreana Welfare

^ Legacy Student

HONOR STUDENTS

SC State salutes its honor graduates!

The academic honors of Summa Cum Laude (3.75–4.00), Magna Cum Laude (3.50–3.74), and Cum Laude (3.00–3.49) are designated in the commencement program for undergraduate students with outstanding scholastic records based on their cumulative quality point averages (A=4, B=3, C=2) available at the time of printing (final grades for the current semester may not have posted).

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Summa Cum Laude

Rejoice Anaele
Asia L. Graves
Simone Marie Miranda
Terryn Mikhi Patterson-Bryant

Magna Cum Laude

Jayden Jerard Broughton
Chancellor Logan Chavous
Avery Jovan Franklin
Deidre Denise Gilliard
Azaria Eniya Horton
Tyler Lamont Hutchinson
Destiny Omega-Enchanted
Manigault
Anthony Miles
Kennedy R. Spears
Princess Helena Jordan Tisdale
George Corbitt Ulmer

Cum Laude

Cinye Jene Brown
Aaliyah Kelsey Castro
Jadyn Rose Funnye
Latira B. Glaze
Kevin Bernard Goodwin II
Berkley Lauren Harmon
Tarekio Hill
Gabriel Victor Johnson
Jataja Tyjah Martin
Colin Gregory Mckenzie
Kenniyah J. Miller
Devin La'Shaun Nixon
Jaquez Marion Perry
KeAvis Jay'Quan Savage
Jada Kelis Scarborough
Shelton Dushawn Shatteen
Jaydn M. Taylor
Kevin M. White
CaLeshia Wiggs
A'Quira Asjanai Williams
DeAndre Hester Williams
Jamonya A. Williams
Nicholas Williams

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Summa Cum Laude

Lashawna Ashanti Brooks
Tanashi Sherell Leonard
Samantha Leysath
Olivia La'trice Ratliff
Shadae Irene Rembert
Makayla Monique Walker
Jasmine Simmons

Magna Cum Laude

Tokundo A. Ayinmide
Summer Rebecca Gray
Carl Edison Jones
Blonzine Jacqueline Louis
Briana N. Roper
Giovanni Lavon Simon
Ny'Asia Witter

Cum Laude

Kazarius E. Adams
Brianna Joene Armstrong
Arjay Kanas Farmer
Le'Katie Friday
Skyler Benjamin Green
Brandezea Myriana Mazhane
Glover
Daeunna Jayla Marie Renee Jenkins
Naykaia Brianna Lindsey
Jhaven Rachelle Meade
Tyron Pahn
Isaiah Tyler Vertus
Shia Tobias-Wolffe

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES

Summa Cum Laude

Indya Jade Anderson
Myah P. Pelzer
Melissa Simmons

Magna Cum Laude

Tatyana Aiken
Jazmin Alexis Dias
Jabin Perez Ford
June Mone't Highsmith

Cum Laude

Danielle N. Dickey
Ta'Jarion Da'Shun Glenn
Aaliyah S. Jefferson
Shontell Juanisha Milford
Kameron DaMarcuz Parker
Shaunice Reed
Brian Daniel Renwick
Nykierra M. Scott
Jameli Shavalo Thomas
Tania Lynae Townsend
Dayshjanae Wannamaker
Christian Washington
Tylasia Adreana Welfare

FOUR YEARS 4.0 GPA

Yesenia A. Benjamin
 Emma Fleming
 *Asia L. Graves

*Tia Yvette Green
 Keylaney Gutierrez
 Hadyn Nicole Hines

*Simone Marie Miranda
 *Joshua Singleton

*Completed all 4 years at South Carolina State University.

RANK OF SECOND LIEUTENANT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS FROM THE CLASS OF 2026

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>BRANCH</u>
Zyon Addison	Adjutant General Corps	North Carolina National Guard
Teonna Bethea	Adjutant General Corps	United States Army Active Duty
Jaylin Burson	Chemical Corps	United States Army Reserves
Michel Chatman	Quartermaster Corps	United States Army Active Duty
Chancellor Chavous	Adjutant General Corps	United States Army Active Duty
Ambria Edmond	Logistics	South Carolina National Guard
Shamya Fleming	Medical Service Corps	United States Army Active Duty
Isaiah Johnson	Medical Service Corps	United States Army Reserves
Destiny Manigault	Military Police Corps	United States Army Active Duty
Jorden Miller	Logistics	South Carolina National Guard
Imani Sibbaluca	Adjutant General Corps	United States Army Reserves
Jasmine Simmons	Logistics	South Carolina National Guard
Princess Tisdale	Adjutant General Corps	Georgia National Guard
Makayla Walker	Logistics	United States Army Active Duty
Xavier White	Signal Corps	United States Army Active Duty

*Distinguished Military Graduate

Disclaimer: This Commencement program booklet lists the names of students who have applied for graduation. However, the appearance of the names of these candidates for graduation in the booklet does not mean that they have completed all the requirements to earn the degree for which they applied. The official transcript indicating that the degree has been awarded is the proof that the degree has been earned.

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Dr. Musa Danjaji
Chair, Department of Engineering

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Chair, Department of Military Science
& Homeland Security

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Pathology & Audiology

Dr. Benedict Jua
Chair, Department of Social Sciences

Dr. Lakeisa Tucker
Chair, Department of Human Services

Dr. Judith Salley-Guydon
Chair, Department of Biological & Physical Sciences

Dr. George Johnson
Chair, Department of Education

Dr. Nikunja Swain
Chair, Department of Computer Science & Mathematics

Dr. Percy Mack
Chair, Department of Educational Leadership

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Registrar

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Ms. JoAnn Owens

Ms. Sheila Ford
Ms. Loretha M. Garvin

Ms. Juanita Simmons

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Professor of Drama

Mrs. Shirlain Darby
Harold Powell Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS

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Harold Powell Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

Dr. Jacqueline Brown
Harold Powell Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic

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LT Joseph Cooper

ALUMNI OATH

I hereby solemnly pledge allegiance to my Alma Mater in appreciation of the opportunities for development afforded me at South Carolina State University. I pledge active membership in the National Alumni Association wherever I may be. Through association with my fellow alumni, I shall forever do my best to uphold the ideals and traditions of my Alma Mater. I pledge to exemplify high ideals by rendering positive and dignified service to the community, state, nation, and world, thus living to bring honor and respect to my Alma Mater.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh! say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh! say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream.
'Tis the star-spangled banner. Oh! long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave,
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Oh! thus be it ever when free men shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation,
Blest with victory and peace, may the Heaven rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

--Frances Scott Key (1814)

ALMA MATER*

Sing the praise of Alma Mater
Let us rally to her calls
Lift our voices, send them ringing
Thru the groves and classic halls.

Hail! Hail! Dear Alma Mater
Hail! Hail! Dear S.C.C.
We'll defend and honor
Love and cherish thee.

We are loyal sons and daughters
Proud to own the name we bear,
For the truths that thou has taught us
Ready all to do or dare.

--Robert Shaw Wilkinson
(Second President, 1911-1932)

**Words written by Dr. Robert Shaw Wilkinson, second president of South Carolina State College. Mr. Ted D. Phillips, an alumnus, wrote the music.*

INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION



South Carolina State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to award bachelor's, master's, educational specialist, and doctoral degrees. Degree-granting institutions also may offer credentials such as certificates and diplomas at approved degree levels. Questions about the accreditation of South Carolina State University may be directed in writing to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097, by calling (404) 679-4500, or by using information available on SACSCOC's website (www.sacscoc.org).

The following academic programs are accredited by various specialized accrediting bodies.

- **Business Programs (AACSB):** AACSB provides internationally recognized, specialized accreditation for business and accounting programs at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels. It is the most recognized form of specialized/professional accreditation an institution and its business programs can earn.
- **Civil Engineering Program (ABET):** The Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), www.abet.org under the General Criteria and Program Criteria for Civil and Similar Named Engineering Programs.
- **Computer Science Programs (ABET):** The Computer Science program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the General Criteria and the Computer Science and Similarly Named Computing Programs under the Program Criteria. Contact the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET at <https://www.abet.org> for questions about the accreditation of the Computer Science Program at South Carolina State University.
- **Counselor Education Program (CACREP):** The Counselor Education Program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP Accreditation provides recognition that the content and quality of the program has been evaluated and meets standards set by the profession.
- **Electrical Engineering Technology Program (ABET):** The Electrical Engineering Technology Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the general criteria and the Electrical Engineering Technology Program Criteria.
- **Family & Consumer Science Programs (AAFCS):** The Family and Consumer Sciences programs are accredited by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (<https://www.aafcs.org/credentialing-center/accreditation/accredited-units>).
- **Industrial Engineering Program (ABET):** The Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), www.abet.org under the General Criteria and Program Criteria for Industrial and Similarly Named Engineering Programs.
- **Mechanical Engineering Technology Program (ABET):** The Mechanical Engineering Technology Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET, <https://www.abet.org>, under the general criteria and the Mechanical Engineering Technology Program Criteria.
- **Music Programs (NASM):** South Carolina State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) to award a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education, PK-12, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music Industry. Contact the NASM at 11250 Roger Bacon Drive, Suite 21, Reston, Virginia 20190-5248 or call 703-437-0700 for questions about the accreditation of the South Carolina State University Music Unit.
- **Nuclear Engineering Program (ABET):** The Bachelor of Science in Nuclear Engineering is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET), www.abet.org under the General Criteria and Program Criteria for Nuclear, Radiological, and Similarly Named Engineering Programs.
- **Nutrition & Food Management Program—Food Option (ACEND):** The Nutrition and Food Program is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (<https://www.eatrightpro.org/acend>).
- **Rehabilitation Counseling Program (CACREP):** The Rehabilitation Counseling Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). CACREP Accreditation provides recognition that the content and quality of the program has been evaluated and meets standards set by the profession.
- **Social Work Program (CSWE):** The Social Work Program at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation. Accreditation of a baccalaureate or master's social work program by the Council on Social Work Education's Commission on Accreditation indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of program quality evaluated through a peer review process. An accredited program has sufficient resources to meet its mission and goals and the Commission on Accreditation has verified that it demonstrates compliance with all sections of the Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards. Accreditation applies to all program sites and program delivery methods of an accredited program. Accreditation provides reasonable assurance about the quality of the program and the competence of students graduating from the program.
- **Speech Pathology & Audiology Program (ASHA):** The Master of Arts education program (M.A.) in Speech Pathology and Audiology at South Carolina State University is accredited by the Council on Academic Accreditation in Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, 2200 Research Boulevard, #310, Rockville, MD 20850, 800-498-2071 or 301-296-5700.
- **Studio Art Program (NASAD):** South Carolina State University is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, NASAD.
- **Teacher Education Programs (CAEP):** CAEP advances equity and excellence in educator preparation through evidence-based accreditation that assures quality and supports continuous improvement to strengthen P-12 student learning.

In addition, The Child Development Learning Center is accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (<https://www.naeyc.org/>). The Counseling and Self-Development Center has been re-accredited by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS), the accreditation association for university and college counseling centers. After being evaluated for its compliance with the IACS Standards, the highest standards available for campus counseling centers, the Counseling and Self-Development Center was found to offer outstanding professional services to its clientele.

DIVISION OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
300 COLLEGE ST. NE, ORANGEBURG, SC 29115

WWW.SCSU.EDU