



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Spring 2025 Commencement

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Thursday, May 8, 2025
Cullen Performance Hall





Commencement Ceremony
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

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Message from the President

Dear University of Houston Graduates,

Congratulations on achieving this remarkable achievement. Today's graduation marks the start of a bright new beginning. Your longtime dream becomes a reality, and I join your family and friends in celebrating this milestone with you.

As you reflect on this moment, take pride in knowing it was your hard work, intellect, perseverance and belief in yourself that got you here. Equally important was the unwavering support of those around you. These values and connections have shaped who you are today and will propel you forward in your professional journey.

As you move ahead, remember the power of paying it forward. Be a mentor to someone else who dreams of achieving what you have. Moreover, remember to express gratitude to your professors, advisors, family and friends who supported you along the way.

The Tier One education you've received at UH has provided you with the tools to thrive. This is the home of nationally top-ranked academic programs, world-renowned faculty, an NCAA Final Four basketball team, cutting-edge research and industry leaders. I have no doubt that you will join the ranks of the many successful alumni who have come before you.

Congratulations, Coogs! The world is yours.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Renu Khator'.

Renu Khator
President, University of Houston





Message from the Provost

Dear Spring Graduates,

You've traveled a long road to reach this moment, but here you are! Congratulations on earning a degree from the University of Houston.

Whether you're the first in your family to graduate from college or perhaps a second-generation Cougar, today's ceremony marks a significant moment in your lives. It's also special for the University of Houston as your success has been our priority since you first stepped foot on campus.

Now, you embark on new journeys. Some of you may be entering the workforce. Others may be headed to graduate school. No matter your destination, please remember those who helped you get to this point.

Stay in touch with peers, professors and staff members and remind them that their guidance supported your academic journeys. Also, thank your spouses, siblings, parents, grandparents and others in attendance today for their daily inspiration.

Of course, be sure to truly recognize the one person responsible for today's celebration—you! You balanced classes, work, family and other obligations. It wasn't easy, but you did it. Now, you are poised to reap the rewards of a degree from UH.

Although you are leaving this wonderful campus, you will remain a member of our University family. You now carry the proud tradition of past UH graduates and will represent our institution in your professional endeavors. Be proud of your time here, and let others know that you are now and forever a Cougar.

Once again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Diane Z. Chase

Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, University of Houston

University of Houston System

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Renu Khator

PRESIDENT’S CABINET

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THE HONORS COLLEGE

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Distinguished Chair, and Professor of Law
UH LAW CENTER

Andrew Davis
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KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Xianjun Geng
Dean
Cullen Distinguished Chair
C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Christina H. Gola
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TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

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Dean
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Patricia Belton Oliver
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F. Lamar Pritchard
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Pharmacy
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Dennis Reynolds
Dean
Barron Hilton Distinguished Chair
CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF
GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Pradeep Sharma
Dean
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen
Distinguished University Professor
CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kathryn M. Tart
Founding Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Nursing
ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER COLLEGE OF NURSING

Michael Twa
Dean
Humana Endowed Dean's Chair in Optometry
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Cynthia Warrick
Interim Dean
GRADUATE COLLEGE OF SOCIAL WORK

Dan E. Wells
Dean
Distinguished Professor of Science
COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

University of Houston History



The University of Houston was established as the Houston Junior College in 1927. As the college grew, it prospered and officially became the four-year University of Houston in 1934. Two years later, the college attained land for a permanent campus, and in 1939 it constructed its first building, the Roy G. Cullen Building. The University became a state institution in 1963.

The University includes 14 academic colleges, one school, and the multidisciplinary Honors College that teach a wide array of subjects – from math, arts and engineering to law, pharmacy and business. What started as a campus with a single building has grown into a world-class university, offering 285 undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 47,000 students annually.

UH is a Carnegie-designated Tier One public research university, and its public service and community activities, such as cultural offerings, clinical services, policy studies and small business initiatives, serve a diverse metropolitan population. Likewise, the resources of the Gulf Coast Region complement and enrich the University’s academic programs, providing students with professional expertise, practical experience and career opportunities.

In keeping with the University’s commitment to excellence, UH raised the benchmark of academic achievement when Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most prestigious academic honor society, awarded UH the approval to start a chapter. This designation welcomed UH to an elite group of the nation’s most esteemed colleges and universities.

Commencement Traditions

Academic costumes of today have a history of nearly eight centuries. In medieval Europe, all townspeople wore long flowing robes and gowns. The materials and colors were governed by royal decree. Gradually, distinctive gowns were developed for the various professions, trades and guilds. Scholars wore robes and hoods to protect their shaved heads. Later, skullcaps were worn on the head, and the hoods became a cape that could be pulled over the head during unpleasant weather.

As additional universities were founded, distinctive forms of the gown and hood were adapted by their faculties for bachelor's (apprentices of the arts), master's (teachers) and doctoral (teachers who had completed postgraduate studies). When caps and hats came into fashion in the 15th century, the hoods became ornamental, draped over the shoulders and down the back.

The academic hat was first worn as a symbol of the master's degree and existed in various forms. The mortarboard style comes to us from Oxford University. When academic costumes came to America in 1754, styles were quite varied. In Europe, they still are; however, in our country, usage has been standardized by the Intercollegiate Code of Academic Costume.

GERALD D. HINES COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Violet
Master's Degree	Hood: Violet Tassel: Black

KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Brown
Master's Degree	Hood: Brown Hood (Music): Pink Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Pink Tassel: Red

C. T. BAUER COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Dark Blue
Master's Degree	Hood: Drab Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Light Blue
Master's Degree	Hood: Light Blue Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood (Ed.D.): Light Blue Hood (Ph.D.): Dark Blue Tassel: Red

CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Orange
Master's Degree	Hood: Orange Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

CONRAD N. HILTON COLLEGE OF GLOBAL HOSPITALITY LEADERSHIP

Bachelor's Degree	Tassel: Navy
Master's Degree	Hood: Navy, Red and White Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

UH LAW CENTER

Master’s Degree	Hood: Purple Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Purple Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Citron
Master’s Degree	Hood: Citron Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

TILMAN J. FERTITTA FAMILY
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Doctor of Medicine Degree	Hood: Kelly Green Tassel: Red
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COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Golden Yellow
Master’s Degree	Hood: Golden Yellow Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Dark Blue Tassel: Red

ANDY AND BARBARA GESSNER
COLLEGE OF NURSING

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Apricot
Master’s Degree	Hood: Apricot Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Apricot Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY

Master’s Degree	Hood: Gold Tassel: Black
Doctor of Philosophy Degree	Hood: Royal Blue Tassel: Red
Doctor of Optometry Degree	Hood: Seafoam Green Tassel: Red

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Olive
Master’s Degree	Hood: Olive Tassel: Black
Doctor of Philosophy Degree	Hood: Royal Blue Tassel: Red
Doctor of Pharmacy Degree	Hood: Olive Tassel: Red

GRADUATE COLLEGE
OF SOCIAL WORK

Master’s Degree	Hood: Citron Tassel: Black
Doctoral Degree	Hood: Citron Tassel: Red

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: Peacock Blue
Master’s Degree	Hood: Peacock Blue Tassel: Black

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

Bachelor’s Degree	Tassel: White
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Ceremonial Symbols



THE SEAL

Throughout history, seals have been used to authenticate official documents. The University of Houston and UH System seals both bear the Official Seal of Arms of General Sam Houston, as handed down to him from his noble ancestors. It includes the escutcheon in the center of the seal — consisting of checkered chevrons denoting nobility — and three martlets, gentle lowland birds that symbolize peace and deliverance. A winged hourglass is placed above the shield. Surmounting this is the motto “In Tempore,” meaning “In Time.” The greyhounds indicate speed of giving aid. The UH seal was first adopted in 1938 as the present campus was established. Although the look of the seal has evolved over the years, the first version was etched into the floor of the Roy G. Cullen Building.



UNIVERSITY MACE

The University Mace, which is carried in academic processions, is a staff symbolizing the University’s authority and unity. The tradition of the academic mace began in the late 14th century when two ancient instruments, the royal scepter and the battle mace, were combined to form a university president’s symbol of authority.

THE ALMA MATER

All hail to thee,
Our Houston University.
Our hearts fill with gladness
When we think of thee.
We’ll always adore thee
Dear old varsity.
And to thy memory cherished,
True we’ll ever be.

Words and music by Harmony Class of 1942



Honorary Degree

NATHAN FOWLER, M.D.

Dr. Nathan Fowler, a distinguished alumnus, is considered one of the world’s foremost experts in drug development for blood cancers. As chief medical officer for BostonGene, Fowler provides strategic direction to the biomedical software company, empowering it to advance precision medicine therapies for cancer patients. The award-winning company uses AI-powered solutions to provide clinicians with actionable insights, support personalized therapy decisions, expedite drug development and improve patient outcomes.

Prior to joining BostonGene, Fowler was a professor of medicine and director of the clinical investigational and translational research program in the Lymphoma and Myeloma department at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. At MD Anderson, Fowler focused on developing groundbreaking new therapies for cancer patients, which led to FDA approval of several novel therapeutic agents in lymphoma. In addition, he led the development of one of the first combination immunotherapy regimens for untreated lymphomas and is the primary investigator for the ongoing international phase III study with the combination.

A profound researcher, Fowler has published over 175 articles in peer-reviewed journals, numerous textbooks on innovative approaches to cancer therapy and is a sought-after speaker for high-profile conferences. He graduated cum laude from the University of Houston with a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in Spanish in 1996, earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in 2001, where he also completed his residency, and received fellowship training in hematology/oncology at both Georgetown University Hospital and MD Anderson.

Most impressive is Fowler’s rich history of service and community engagement. As a student at UH, he volunteered to teach officers Spanish at the Houston Police Department. His fluency in Spanish — supported by his undergraduate minor — has become a vital asset in his medical practice, allowing him to communicate directly with Spanish-speaking patients, enabling more personal, effective care. Prior to his work in medicine, he served in the U.S. Army as a nuclear, biological and chemical defense specialist. Moreover, Fowler is the founder and president of the Halo House Foundation, a Houston-based nonprofit organization providing affordable housing to blood cancer patients receiving medical treatment. His nonprofit — which charges patients only \$20 per night for fully furnished apartments — has provided over 9,000 days of housing to hundreds of families.

The Doctor of Humane Letters degrees, honoris causa, given for exemplary service to the University of Houston or society at large, is the highest honor UH can bestow.

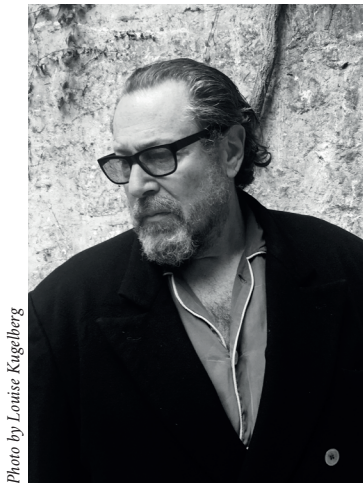


Photo by Louise Kugelberg

Honorary Degree

JULIAN SCHNABEL

A prolific and groundbreaking artist, Julian Schnabel is a world-renowned painter whose multidisciplinary work spans sculpture, architecture, furniture and film. Widely regarded as one of the most influential American artists of the last 40 years, Schnabel rose to prominence as a leading figure in the neo-Expressionist movement in the 1980s. He later became a celebrated filmmaker and continues to excel in both fields today.

An accomplished alumnus of the University of Houston, Schnabel earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1973. He later became the first UH graduate to be honored with a solo exhibition at the University’s Blaffer Art Museum.

His first major exhibition was a group of paintings at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Houston, in 1976. By the late 1970s, he was exhibiting at some of New York’s most prestigious galleries, including Mary Boone and the legendary Leo Castelli Gallery. The strength of Schnabel’s work lay in his use of preexisting materials not traditionally used in art making, varied painting surfaces and inventive modes of construction — breaking artistic norms of the time. His unorthodox approach helped revive painting in the United States and beyond during a period largely characterized by conceptual art and minimalism.

In the 1990s, Schnabel expanded into filmmaking, directing and writing “Basquiat” — a critically acclaimed film about the famed artist Jean-Michel Basquiat and New York’s 1980s art scene. To date, he has directed six major films, including the acclaimed “Before Night Falls”, which earned Javier Bardem an Academy Award nomination for his breakout role. His 2007 film “The Diving Bell and the Butterfly” was nominated for four Academy Awards, including Best Director, and earned Schnabel the Best Director Award at the Cannes Film Festival.

Schnabel’s paintings are housed in some of the most prestigious museums in the world, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Reina Sofia in Madrid; the Tate Modern in London; and the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris. A true visionary, Schnabel transformed the language of painting and paved the way for new generations of artists.

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President’s Medallion

CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION

The Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, established in 1944 by hotel magnate and philanthropist Conrad N. Hilton, has long championed initiatives that alleviate human suffering and foster global goodwill. Hilton’s profound belief in the transformative power of hospitality led to a significant milestone in 1969 when he donated \$1.5 million to the University of Houston to establish the Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management — the first hospitality school in Texas. This foundational gift laid the groundwork for what has

evolved into the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership, a premier institution in hospitality education.

Over the decades, the Hilton Foundation’s unwavering support has been instrumental in the college’s growth and success. The foundation has contributed substantially to the college by funding critical infrastructure, innovative programs, scholarships and strategic initiatives. Notably, in 2021, amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the foundation bestowed a \$10 million unrestricted endowment to aid the college in navigating the crisis and continuing its mission of cultivating future hospitality leaders.

The endowment has provided critical operational and student support, including student scholarships, research funding, professional development training, library materials, equipment acquisition, staff and clerical support, and other key areas that enrich and enhance the college.

The foundation’s commitment extends beyond financial contributions. It also provides strategic guidance to grow the world’s only hospitality program where students work and take classes in an internationally branded, full-service Hilton hotel, which is also operated by the college. In addition, the Hilton company has hired thousands of Hilton College graduates who work in Hilton hotels around the world. Their enduring support has helped students — many of whom are the first in their family to attend college — become leaders in the hospitality industry.

Today, the Conrad N. Hilton College of Global Hospitality Leadership is revered globally as one of the best in hospitality education and research thanks to the enduring support of the Hilton Foundation. Since its founding, the foundation has awarded more than \$3.6 billion in grants, bringing hope, healing and transformative change to thousands worldwide. A profoundly benevolent organization, each year the Hilton Foundation awards a multimillion-dollar prize to a nonprofit leading effort to alleviate human suffering — the world’s largest annual humanitarian award.

The President’s Medallion is awarded at the sole discretion of the President to individuals and organizations that have distinguished themselves by their support of the University of Houston and the community.



Hewlett Packard Enterprise

President’s Medallion

HEWLETT PACKARD ENTERPRISE

Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) is a global technology leader whose purpose is to advance the way people live and work.

Headquartered in the Greater Houston region, HPE develops intelligent solutions that allow organizations to capture, analyze, and act upon data seamlessly. The company’s innovative solutions across networking, hybrid cloud, and AI help customers develop new business models, engage in new ways, and increase operational performance.

Named one of the World’s Most Ethical Companies by Ethisphere, HPE is dedicated to offering IT solutions that help their customers and partners achieve their social impact commitments. In 2018, HPE made a transformative \$10 million gift to the University of Houston’s Data Science Institute as part of a game-changing collaboration to increase innovation. The gift also funded a scholarship endowment and high-performing computing equipment to enhance data science research activities across all UH colleges. In addition, funding supports education programs for K-12 students, as well as UH students, faculty and staff.

In honor of their gift and extensive contributions, the institute was renamed the Hewlett Packard Enterprise Data Science Institute, which has become a central hub for data science education and interdisciplinary research at UH. The institute has expanded educational opportunities by offering micro-credentials and certificate programs in data analytics, artificial intelligence, high-performance computing and related fields, that are critical in today’s industries. Students benefit from hands-on experiences, industry workshops and mentorship from HPE professionals who serve as lecturers and collaborators on real-world projects. This integration of academic and industry expertise ensures that graduates are well-prepared to meet the demands of a data-driven workforce.

Furthermore, the institute actively engages with the broader community by developing programs for middle and high school students, aiming to strengthen the STEM pipeline through project-based learning initiatives. These efforts help build a diverse and skilled workforce equipped to tackle future technological challenges.

Moreover, the partnership has enhanced UH’s capacity to deploy data science tools to address major societal challenges in the health care, energy and smart materials sectors, among others. The enhanced computational power has enabled researchers to conduct advanced analyses and simulations that have transformed disaster response, advanced breast cancer detection and improved the diagnosis of lupus-related kidney disease.

By fostering education, research and community engagement, the partnership has positioned UH as a leader in data science and innovation, benefiting the University, Greater Houston, Texas and beyond.

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Message from the Dean

Dear Graduates,

On behalf of the University of Houston College of Pharmacy family, I extend a sincere congratulations and best of luck to the College's Class of 2025. You have been exceptional representatives of the College and University. I have no doubt that you will continue to serve as worthy ambassadors for the college by building upon our reputation for excellence.

I believe that graduates of the College of Pharmacy are unique in that, regardless of your chosen area of practice, all of you have the opportunity to enrich the lives of those around you. As you embark upon and progress through your careers, I urge you to always remember why you chose your respective field and the sacrifices that you endured in order to make it happen: to serve our communities and improve the quality of life and health of its members with compassion, honesty and integrity.

I would also like to give special thanks to the parents, spouses, children and friends of our graduates for their patience, understanding, sacrifices and support – both moral and financial - during these challenging, but rewarding, years at the college. Although your guidance, comfort and encouragement certainly will continue to be sought and appreciated in the years to come, you can rejoice in the gradual return to “normalcy” with no more long nights of studying, get-togethers unattended and trips untaken. Yet, even more so, you can relish the shared feeling of pride in what your graduate has accomplished and the abundant opportunities ahead.

In the coming years, I would ask that you not forget your College, former professors, and fellow and future Cougars. I encourage you to not only give back to the College by supporting College activities, programs and scholarships, but also by keeping us updated on the many achievements you will experience in your careers and personal lives. We will always take great pride in your achievements.

Congratulations again to the graduates of our professional and graduate programs. The entire UH College of Pharmacy Family is very proud of you.

Take care,

F. Lamar Pritchard, Ph.D.
Dean

Commencement Ceremony
Thursday, May 8, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Cullen Performance Hall

PROCESSIONAL	Pomp and Circumstance: March 1 Sir Edward Elgar
PRESENTATION OF COLORS	Houston Battalion ROTC Color Guard
NATIONAL ANTHEM	Moore School of Music
COMMENCEMENT MARSHALS	Elizabeth Coyle <i>Associate Dean for Academic Affairs</i> Louis Williams <i>Associate Professor</i>
GOLDEN COUGARS CLASS OF 1975	
BANNER BEARER CANDIDATES	Abigail Ann Alley Chuong Pham Yongqi Xiao
WELCOME	F. Lamar Pritchard <i>Dean</i>
STUDENT RESPONSE	Whitney Chinyere Dike
PRESENTATION OF PH.D. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
CONFERRAL OF PH.D. DEGREES	Dean Pritchard
PRESENTATION OF M.S. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
CONFERRAL OF M.S. DEGREES	Dean Pritchard
RECOGNITION OF HONORS	Executive Associate Dean Pitman
PRESENTATION OF PHARM.D. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
CONFERRAL OF PHARM.D. CANDIDATES	Dean Pritchard
RECOGNITION OF GOLDEN COUGARS CLASS OF 1975	Dean Pritchard
OATH OF A PHARMACIST	Executive Associate Dean Pitman
ALMA MATER	Moore School of Music
RECESSIONAL	Moore School of Music

Oath of a Pharmacist

I promise to devote myself to a lifetime of service to others through the profession of pharmacy.

In fulfilling this vow:

I will consider the welfare of humanity and relief of suffering my primary concerns.

I will treat all patients with dignity and respect and will not discriminate against any patient.

I will apply my knowledge, experience, and skills to the best of my ability to assure optimal outcomes for all patients.

I will respect and protect all personal and health information entrusted to me.

I will accept the responsibility to improve my professional knowledge, expertise, and self-awareness.

I will hold myself and my colleagues to the highest principles of our profession's moral, ethical and legal conduct.

I will embrace and advocate changes that improve patient care.

I will utilize my knowledge, skills, experiences, and values to prepare the next generation of pharmacists.

I take these vows voluntarily with the full realization of the responsibility with which I am entrusted by the public.

The revised Oath was adopted by the AACP Board of Directors and the APhA Board of Trustees in April 2025.

Summer 2024 – Graduates

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACEUTICAL
HEALTH OUTCOMES
AND POLICY

Vaishnavi Tata
Comorbidity Burden of Depression
Among Patients with Opioid Use
Disorder Undergoing Buprenorphine
Therapy
ADVISOR: Dr. Douglas Thornton

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACOLOGY

Renzhong Lu
The “BioLink” and Design, Synthesis
and Characterization of Lead
Compounds as Anti-Inflammatory
Drugs Targeting mPGES-1
ADVISOR: Dr. Ke-He Ruan

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
PHARMACY LEADERSHIP
AND ADMINISTRATION

Amrita Kanwar
Evaluation of Glucometrics and
Interventions on Hypoglycemia
Incidence in Non-critical Care
Patients at a Quaternary Medical
Center
ADVISOR: Dr. Kevin Garey

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Nancy Theresa Ly
Suvin Ajith Nair
Alexander Anh Minh Nguyen
Chukwudi Sydney Nliam

Fall 2024 – Graduates

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACEUTICAL
HEALTH OUTCOMES
AND POLICY

Marjan Zakeri
Racial and Ethnic Disparity In Access
To Care, Health Behavior And Health
Outcomes Among Adults With
Cardiovascular Disease
ADVISOR: Dr. Sujit Sangsiry

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACEUTICS

Lu Dai
Polymeric Delivery with Dual
Drug Payloads for Hepatocellular
Carcinoma (HCC) Therapy
ADVISOR: Dr. Diana S-L. Chow

Guoyi Jiang
A Novel Interleukin-15 Receptor
Antagonist for the Treatment of
Rheumatoid Arthritis
ADVISOR: Dr. Bin Guo

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACOLOGY,
MEDICINAL CHEMISTRY
CONCENTRATION

Wissarut Wijitrmekong
Novel Design Strategy for Potent
and Selective CDPK1 Inhibitors for
Cryptosporidiosis
ADVISOR: Dr. Gregory Cuny

DOCTOR OF PHARMACY

Phuong-Linh Hoang Nguyen

Spring 2025 – Candidates for Graduation

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACEUTICS

Junghwa Park
Model-Informed Drug Development
of Riluzole for Neuroprotection
in Acute Spinal Cord Injury:
Integrating Pharmacokinetics,
Pharmacodynamics, and Clinical
Outcomes for Precision Medicine
ADVISORS:
Diana S-L. Chow, Ph.D.
James D. Guest, M.D., Ph.D.
(University of Miami)

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY
IN PHARMACOLOGY

Aniket Sunil Joshi
The IRE1α/XBP1 Signaling in
Regenerative Myogenesis and
Cachexia
ADVISOR: Dr. Ashok Kumar

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN
PHARMACY LEADERSHIP
AND ADMINISTRATION

Michael Tyler England
Factors Most Impactful in the
Ranking of Health System Pharmacy
Administration and Leadership
Residency Programs
ADVISOR: Dr. Divya Varkey

Alexis Hyman
Evaluating the Impact of a Pharmacy
Oncology Stewardship Program in an
Academic Medical Center
ADVISOR: Dr. Onye Ononogbu

Commencement Ceremony

Kalina Qiu Ju Korzec
Identification of Essential OPAT
Bundle Elements to Optimize Patient
Outcomes in an Academic Health-
System
ADVISOR: Dr. Taryn Eubank

Reena Maheshwari
Impact of Enterprise Inventory
Software Optimization on Inpatient
Pharmacy Operational Metrics
ADVISOR: Dr. David A. Wallace

Michael A. Toraño ^{4, 5}
Evaluation of Patterns in Pharmacy
Labor Modeling and Hospital Revenue
and Volume Indicators
ADVISOR: Dr. Kevin Garey

Dianalyn Ulep
Addressing the Pharmacy Technician
Workforce Shortage through
Health-System Employer Sponsored
Certification Training Program
ADVISOR: Dr. Divya Varkey

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Rachael Wong
Yongqi Xiao ^{1, 4, 6}
Emine Guldem Yalcin ³
Sydney Yu ^{1, 4}
Genesis Zavala ⁵

1 Summa Cum Laude Honors – 2 Magna Cum Laude Honors – 3 Cum Laude Honors
4 Rho Chi Academic Honor Society – 5 Phi Lambda Sigma Leadership Society – 6 College Banner Bearer

College Administration

F. Lamar Pritchard
Dean

Paige Pitman
Executive Associate Dean

Tahir Hussain
Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Programs

Elizabeth A. Coyle
Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Brian R. Dzwonek
Assistant Dean for Assessment and Accreditation

Nancy D. Ordoñez
Assistant Dean of Experiential Programs

Jason Eriksen
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Kimberly A. Nguyen
Assistant Dean of Student and Professional Affairs

Ronnie Ozuna
Assistant Dean for Rio Grande Valley PharmD Satellite Programs

Miranda McMorris
Executive Director of Business Operations

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Rajender R. Aparasu
Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy

Gregory Cuny
Pharmacological and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Kevin W. Garey
Pharmacy Practice and Translational Research

Pharmacy Honor and Leadership Societies

Rho Chi



The Rho Chi Society, Pharmacy’s academic honor society, was established in 1922 to encourage and recognize excellence in intellectual achievement, foster fellowship among its members, encourage high standards of conduct and character, and advocate critical inquiry in all aspects of pharmacy. The fundamental objective of Rho Chi is to promote the advancement of the pharmaceutical sciences through the encouragement and recognition of sound scholarship by bringing professional students, graduate students, and faculty members together in fraternal and helpful association. High standards of intellectual and scholarly attainment have been demanded for election to membership.

The Society’s insignia, the Greek letters, “Rho” and “Chi,” were originally selected because, when placed in the relative position in which they are found on the Rho Chi Key, they are emblematic of the prescription sign. The colors attached to the seal of membership were chosen to indicate the royalty of purple and the loyalty of white. The eight sides of the Key represent chemistry, biology, physiology, pharmaceuticals, pharmacology, and the biomedical, social/administrative, and clinical sciences.

RHO CHI GRADUATING MEMBERS

Hunter B. Adam	Sally Nyrobee Pena	Adeline Danielle Torres
Kotoko Ai	Allison Tian Pettijohn	Casey Chau Vu
Abigail Ann Alley	Chuong Pham	Jessica Wang
Kathryn Michelle Guzman	Karina Sanchez	Kiran F. Wazir
Emmanuel Iruru	Paige Nicole Smith	Yongqi Xiao
Connie Lau	Fehmida Tahir	Sydney Yu
Valerie Nguyen	Michael A. Toraño	

Phi Lambda Sigma



Phi Lambda Sigma, Pharmacy’s leadership society, was established in 1965 to honor and promote the development of leadership qualities, especially among pharmacy students. Members are selected by peer recognition. No greater honor can be bestowed upon an individual than to be recognized as a leader by one’s peers. Such recognition instills and enhances self-confidence, encourages the less active student to a more active role and promotes greater effort toward the advancement of pharmacy.

The insignia of the Society is the key pin, which bears a mortar and pestle and the Greek letters “Phi”, “Lambda” and “Sigma”. A wreath of laurel surrounds the mortar and pestle. The colors of the Society are green and gold.

PHI LAMBDA SIGMA GRADUATING MEMBERS

Hunter B. Adam	Alyssa Ramiro Kahiwat	Van Kha Thien Vo
Abigail Ann Alley	Tammie P. Lam	Kiran F. Wazir
Bethany Denise Bluitt	Connie Lau	Julia Cristina Wheat
Teyana Lane Grooms	Jazmyne Samuels	Genesis Zavala
Anahita Haghparast	Abhishek Singh	
Emmanuel Iruru	Michael A. Toraño	

College of Pharmacy Class of 1975 – Golden Cougars



The University of Houston College of Pharmacy’s faculty, staff, and students salute the Class of 1975 on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary of their Commencement.





Message from the UH Alumni Foundation Board President

Let me be the first to welcome you to the UH Alumni Association. You are joining a global network of over 305,000 Cougars. With your participation, we can only grow stronger. As you embark on this next chapter, know that your Alumni Association is here to help you stay connected with your beloved alma mater. From volunteering at an event, joining an Association or Network, signing on to UH Link, to becoming a

Life Member, the opportunities to engage are endless.

Please scan the QR code below to enjoy all the activities that soon await you. In the meantime, savor this moment and continue to soar.

True we'll ever be and Go Coogs!

Shazia Khan

Shazia Khan ('84)

UH Alumni Association Foundation Board President

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