

SPRING 2025 COMMENCEMENT

SPRING COMMENCEMENT

Nine o'clock in the morning and
two o'clock in the afternoon
Friday, May 9, 2025
Hooper Eblen Center

Welcome to the Spring Commencement ceremony of Tennessee Technological University's 2024-2025 academic year. Commencement is the most important ceremony in the life of Tennessee Tech University.

The entire Tennessee Tech community extends cordial greetings to parents, spouses, relatives and friends gathered here for this significant ceremony. We celebrate the success of our graduates, who have spent years of study to earn a Tennessee Technological University degree.

9:00 A.M. CEREMONY

College of Graduate Studies
College of Agriculture & Human Ecology
College of Business
College of Engineering
College of Fine Arts

2:00 P.M. CEREMONY

College of Graduate Studies
College of Arts & Sciences
College of Education & Human Sciences
College of Interdisciplinary Studies
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing

For our undergraduate and graduate students, today's ceremonies recognize their academic achievements at Tennessee Tech and inaugurate a new era in their careers. A single theme unites us all today — the joy of accomplishment!

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

If at any time during the program an emergency arises in which the building needs to be evacuated, guests seated on the floor should exit through the tunnel and cross the street to the parking lot. Those seated in the remainder of the arena should exit to the top of the concourse, vacate the building by the nearest door and proceed to any adjacent parking lot to allow for entrance of emergency vehicles.

In case of severe weather, everyone should move to the tunnel area and areas leading off the tunnel. Please remember that in any emergency situation, patience and orderliness are the keys to a safe evacuation.

THE COLLEGES, SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

Chartered in 1915, Tennessee Tech opened its doors to students in 1916. Its academic programs began with basic humanities and sciences as foundation courses for three major areas of study: agriculture, home economics and mechanical arts. The next year, students could enroll in business as a major course of study as well. By 1918, military training had been added to the curriculum.

In 1938, all the major fields of study, as well as the foundation classes, were reorganized into two main divisions – arts and sciences and professional and technical subjects—housing 11 departments. Divisions were quickly renamed "schools" and, in 1949, the expansion of the curriculum had blossomed into five schools consisting of 24 departments.

Most of today's academic programs have their roots in one of those five schools, which were redesignated "colleges" when Tennessee Tech achieved university status in 1965.

Relative newcomers to Tennessee Tech academics include the Department of Military Science (1950), the Graduate School (1958), the School of Nursing (1980), the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Extended Education (2001), the College of Interdisciplinary Studies (2012) which merged the freshly minted School of Professional Studies and School of Environmental Studies, and the new College of Fine Arts (2017).

Most degree programs at Tennessee Tech today are housed in eight colleges and one school; special programs include three centers of excellence, Honors, the Millard Oakley STEM Center and the Department of Military Science/Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

In 1916, agriculture and home economics were among the three disciplines considered the heart of Tennessee Tech's academic mission. Along with mechanical arts, agriculture and home economics prepared "mountain boys and girls ... for the study and solution of the problems arising out of rural community life." Today's College of Agriculture and Human Ecology reaches far beyond rural life, with coursework honing entrepreneurial, management and leadership skills in agritourism, food production and safety, dietetics, families, farming, pre-veterinary science, and design and merchandising.

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Then as now, the College of Arts and Sciences houses the foundation courses for all Tennessee Tech majors. Many of the same courses offered in 1916 – English, history, mathematics and sciences – quickly grew into entire departments, and by 1949, all of today's programs but earth sciences had reached department status. Today's College of Arts and Sciences is a thriving academic unit of more than 20 areas of study, with students and faculty in each discipline pursuing advanced study and research – and supporting the academic experience for all majors, regardless of discipline.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Students in 1916 could enroll in only one business course, which taught students bookkeeping, business methods, typewriting and shorthand; in 1917, business had become the fourth "school"—or major vocational subject—at Tennessee Tech. By 1949, it had expanded to include departments of accounting, business and industrial management, and business education. Today's students study to become leaders through programs in business management, marketing, international business and cultures, finance, economics, accounting, business information technology, the masters in business administration and the master of accountancy. They not only study business but gain experience in practice through internships, student managed investment funds and competitions.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SCIENCES

All students enrolled in undergraduate studies from 1916 on were being groomed to be teachers, but it wasn't until 1938 that teacher training was recognized as its own department. By 1949, education was named a school, encompassing general education and health and physical education. All students took "practice teaching" in their last term. Today's College of Education, the second of Tennessee Tech's units to develop doctoral studies, is a diverse unit, home to programs ranging from elementary and secondary teacher licensure to exercise science.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Called "mechanical arts" in 1916, engineering was one of three original majors at Tennessee Tech; students took courses in blacksmithing, machine assembly and drafting. The first degrees were awarded in 1937, when two civil engineering students and three general engineering students graduated. In 1968, engineering was the first academic unit on campus to develop a doctoral program. Today's College of Engineering awards more than 400 degrees annually in seven disciplines that defined Tennessee Tech as the state's only technological university.

COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS

Created in 2017, the College of Fine Arts contains nationally accredited undergraduate degree programs in art, design, fine craft, music performance and music education, which are all offered in state-of-the-art facilities, including craft studios, art education labs, concert and recital halls. The college's renowned faculty members are dedicated to hands-on, experiential learning and providing students exposure to a wide variety of fine arts professionals in the field. The college consists of the School of Art, Craft and Design and the School of Music.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

A major hurdle Tennessee Tech had to cross before reaching university status was developing a graduate studies program, which required more research facilities and more faculty with doctoral degrees. In the 1950s, the administration made a major push in that direction, establishing graduate studies in 1958. Most graduate degrees were in education; by the early 1970s, the first Ph.D.'s in engineering were awarded. Today's College of Graduate Studies administers doctoral programs in engineering, education, nursing practice, counseling and supervision and environmental sciences, as well as master's and specialist's degrees.

COLLEGE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

One of the newest academic units, interdisciplinary studies moved Tennessee Tech into the state's online degree program in 2001, opened the door to custom-degree offerings for students interested in specialized studies not already offered by another academic unit on campus, and pioneered remote learning site coursework for distant Tennessee counties. Today's College of Interdisciplinary Studies houses the School of Interdisciplinary Studies, the School of Professional Studies and the School of Environmental Studies which blends technology with the sciences, engineering and humanities.

WHITSON-HESTER SCHOOL OF NURSING

In 1916, Tennessee Tech home economics majors learned the basics of caring for the sick and elderly in the home, where the vast majority of nursing took place. In 1980, the School of Nursing opened at Tennessee Tech, offering baccalaureate-level degrees to women and men with an associate's degree who were already licensed as registered nurses, as well as to students interested in a four-year university degree. Today's School of Nursing is piloting an accelerated program for professionals in other fields who have decided to switch careers and is collaborating with another institution on a joint doctoral program in nursing.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY SCIENCE/ARMY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS (ROTC)

During World War I, a predecessor of today's Army ROTC formed at Tennessee Tech in 1917. The Department of Military Science originated at Tennessee Tech in 1950 when a senior division of Army ROTC began operation. From 1956 to 1972, all male students conducted mandatory military training in their freshman and sophomore years. In 1973, military studies opened to both men and women. Today's Army ROTC is a dynamic elective curriculum that transforms students into leaders, culminating in an Army officer commission at graduation.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In its first century, Tennessee Tech grew from a small rural school for a few hundred high school and junior college students to a doctoral-granting university with more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students, and research and teaching connections throughout the U.S. and abroad.

Chartered in 1915 as Tennessee Polytechnic Institute, "Tech" opened its doors to students in September 1916. The small campus was an outgrowth of a privately owned church school, the University of Dixie, which was chartered in 1909 by a group of local business and religious leaders. Dixie College, as it was commonly known, suffered the fate of many small schools hampered by lack of funding and closed after only a few years.

Its founders, intent on offering education beyond the eighth grade to local boys and girls, negotiated an arrangement with state and local educators to create a new public school in Cookeville that would bridge the gap between the lower grades and undergraduate studies. The land and single building of Dixie College were deeded to the state and, with the pledge of funding from Putnam County, Cookeville and the state of Tennessee, re-emerged as Tennessee Polytechnic Institute (TPI). Between March of 1915 and September of 1916, two residence halls were built and a president, faculty and staff were hired. Enrollment during the first academic year, 1916-1917, was 362; students were taught by 15 faculty members, including the president.

Growth was not quick, but it was steady. High school curricula were phased out beginning in the 1920s; by 1929, the state approved a complete college program, and the first class of four-year students graduated with baccalaureate degrees that June. Instructional programs were reorganized into the divisions of arts and sciences and professional and technical subjects in 1938. Nine years later, those divisions were renamed "Schools" and by 1949, the schools had grown to five: agriculture and home economics, arts and sciences, business administration, education and engineering. Military Science was added in 1950, and the Graduate School program began in 1958.

In 1965, on its 50th anniversary, TPI gained university status and was renamed Tennessee Technological University; its existing schools were designated "colleges." More programs began: the School of Nursing in 1980 and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and Extended Education in 2001. By 2012, interdisciplinary studies had merged with new schools of professional studies and environmental sciences to become the College of Interdisciplinary Studies. The College of Fine Arts was established in 2017.

Today's students are taught by more than 400 faculty housed in eight colleges, one school and three centers of excellence. Programs of study are accredited by national agencies. A maturing advancement division ensures that university operations are not limited by annual state funding allocations. Today's administration has charted a course with as much, if not more, resolve and determination as its forbears displayed more than 100 years ago.

THE PRESIDENTS

Thomas Alva Early.....	1916-1920
Quentin Miller Smith.....	1920-1938
Austin Wheeler Smith, Jr. (interim).....	1926-1927, Fall 1940
James Millard Smith.....	1938-1940
William Everett Derryberry.....	1940-1974
Arliss Lloyd Roaden.....	1974-1985
Wallace Samuel Prescott.....	1985-1987
Angelo Anthony Volpe.....	1987-2000
Robert R. Bell.....	2000-2012
Philip B. Oldham.....	2012-present

FORMAL ELEMENTS OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The commencement of a program of academic study in higher education is a formal recognition of this exceptional achievement. Many of the traditions date back to medieval times, evidence that higher learning has been revered in most civilizations during two millennia.

REGALIA

Academic ceremonial garments and ornaments, or regalia, have evolved from the attire of students and monks in medieval churches, the greatest centers of learning in the Western world. Caps, hoods and gowns are symbolic of scholarly devotion and the decisive role of education in the development of civilization.

In time, academicians began to adopt symbols unique to their individual universities—much like the medieval system of classic heraldry, in which chivalric orders were identified by coats of arms, ornamental trappings and colorful patterns. The design of gowns, caps and hoods symbolize the institution, field of learning and type of degree earned.

While black is the customary color of robes, caps and gowns, some universities have chosen distinctive colors for the attire. Tennessee Tech adopted its school colors for the regalia beginning with the centennial academic year, 2015-2016. Gowns and mortarboards are purple with gold insignia and tassels.



THE CEREMONIAL MACE

Modeled after royal staffs carried by messengers and soldiers, the mace was adopted as an academic symbol by universities in the Middle Ages. Usually carried by a faculty marshal at the head of the processional, the mace represents academic dignity and the authority of the university to confer degrees.

The Tennessee Tech mace was designed and made by a former director of the university's Appalachian Center for Craft, Alf Ward, an accomplished silversmith. Constructed of sterling silver and gold and purple heart, the mace is 45 inches in length. Its wooden blade-like stem is overlaid with engraved silver and embossed with gold floral decoration. The stem contains pierced and embossed golden eagles and supports an engraved silver cup. The cup has two gold discs symbolizing the heraldic devices of the university and is covered by a gold grill capped with a golden eagle.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

A medallion or seal of office, once used to mark documents as official, is now considered a mark of authority. Tennessee Tech's presidential medallion was designed by then-President Everett Derryberry and sculptor Hans Prehn.

The medallion or silver disc is inscribed with the name of the university, its charter date, 1915, a "T" representing Tennessee Tech, the book of knowledge, the lamp of learning and an outline of the state of Tennessee with a star indicating the geographical position of Cookeville and the university. On the reverse side is a golden eagle and the date 1965, the year Tennessee Tech reached university status. Small silver plates bear the names of past presidents, while the name of the current president is engraved on a larger plate over the medallion.

THE TECH HYMN

Joan Derryberry, a concert pianist and member of the music faculty, composed the Tennessee Tech Hymn in 1943, just three years into her time here as first lady.

The song illustrates the beauty of the campus and its setting and is a pledge of loyalty, love and service from students, faculty and staff. It is sung at large gatherings of the university, including commencements, convocations and ball games. The music appears on the back of this program.

THE TECH FLAG

Another first lady, Gloria Bell, designed the Tennessee Tech flag in 2003 in honor of the university's most familiar and long-standing traditions. The three main elements of the flag represent the university's historic and idyllic characteristics, as well as reputation for quality.

The magnificent golden eagle, with wings outstretched, depicts the pride, honor, strength and spirit of students, faculty and staff. The column of gold represents the pillar of knowledge, intellect and experience—all qualities of the university's prestigious academics. A base of majestic purple represents the strong foundation of character, commitment and endurance indicative of the university culture.

STUDENT VETERANS

Tennessee Tech University recognizes veterans and current military members for their service to our country and their excellence in higher education. The red, white and blue cords, worn voluntarily by a select few, represent their veteran status while pursuing their educational goals.

Tennessee Tech proudly honors these student-veterans by presenting them with these cords to signify their achievement on this day.

THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM

MAY 9, 2025

9:00 A.M. CEREMONY

Presiding..... Dr. Philip B. Oldham
President

Invocation Dr. Robert Owens
Senior Executive for Access, Belonging & Community Outreach

National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith
Performed by Tennessee Tech Chorale under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer

Address to Graduates..... President Oldham

Special Address Pumachandra Saggurti
Alumnus 1982, M.S. in Chemical Engineering

Recognition of Faculty President Oldham

Recognition of Graduates' Families..... President Oldham

Presentation of Academic Deans Dr. Lori Bruce
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees..... President Oldham

"The Tennessee Tech Hymn" Joan Derryberry
Performed by Tennessee Tech Chorale under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer

Closing Remarks..... President Oldham

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

College of Graduate Studies Interim Dean Julie Baker
College of Agriculture & Human Ecology Dean Darron Smith
College of Business..... Dean Tom Payne
College of Engineering..... Dean Joseph Slater
College of Fine Arts..... Dean Jennifer Shank

DEGREE CANDIDATES SPRING 2025

Because of circumstances which require that the list of names be furnished to the printer in final form approximately seven days prior to Commencement, it is possible that one or more of the candidates listed may have been unable to complete all requirements for the degree or may have elected voluntarily to register for additional work and to graduate at a subsequent ceremony. The change does not necessarily imply that a student has failed nor does it commit the university to grant a diploma to a person thus listed in error. Also, students listed with one or more honors distinctions are candidates for the honor(s) at the time the program is provided to the printer, and may not complete the requirements to be awarded the distinction.

Graduates are grouped by college. Individual names will be called by order seated, not in alphabetical order.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Abayomi Isaac Adeleke, Engineering #

Dissertation Title: "Exploring Nanoscale Interactions and Magnetic Field Effects in Polyacrylamide Gel Nanocomposite Structures"

Advisors: Dr. Pedro Arce & Dr. Robby Sanders

Cody Innis, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Development and Deployment of Advanced Charging Technologies and Operational Strategies for Battery Electric Vehicles"

Advisor: Dr. Pingen Chen

Maxavier Lamantia, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Electric Vehicle and Charging Technology Development and Experimental Validation for Rural Applications"

Advisor: Dr. Pingen Chen

Tanjila Mawla, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Activity-Centric Access Control for Smart and Connected Systems"

Advisor: Dr. Maanak Gupta

Ebrahim Nasr Esfahani, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Simulation and Experimental Analysis of a Double-Sided Lattice-Compensated Wireless Power Transfer System for Electric Vehicles"

Advisor: Dr. Indranil Bhattacharya

Xi Wang, Engineering

Dissertation Title: "Replication Algorithms and Optimization Techniques for Decentralized Storage Systems"

Advisor: Dr. Susmit Shannigrahi

MASTER'S DEGREES

Jonas Kennedy Alger, Business Administration

Brooke Amann, Business Administration #

Emily Grace Armstrong, Business Administration #

Reagan Baker, Community Health and Nutrition

Hannah Kathryn Beard,

Community Health and Nutrition

Nicole Blanton, Business Administration

Emily Suzanne Brackman, Accountancy #

Rebecca Paige Briley, Business Administration

Bradley Cole Clark, Business Administration

Kaley Brooke Crabtree, Accountancy #

Lily Rose Cross, Accountancy #

Bruce Wayne Cunningham, Civil Engineering #

Grace Dadzie, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Baylee Grace Dalton, Business Administration #

Jacob Dameron, Chemical Engineering #

Addison Carleen Dorris, Business Administration

Theodore Engle IV, Business Administration

Donna Baskin Enis, Business Administration

Lydia Fanning, Business Administration

Molly Fitzgerald, Community Health and Nutrition

Joshua Foster, Computer Science

Alexandra Garcia,

Community Health and Nutrition

Clay Gentry, Business Administration

Brett Harden, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Courtney Lauren Harvey, Business Administration

Leeah Henry, Business Administration #
Thomas Moneyhun Hines, Computer Science
Brantley Anne Hollingsworth,
Business Administration #
Elijah B. Hudson, Mechanical Engineering
Madolyn Isringhausen, Business Administration
Sophia Irene Jenkins, Business Administration #
Loren Jett, Community Health and Nutrition
Christopher Storm Johnson,
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Kase M. Johnson, Computer Science
Faith Elisabeth Judkins, Business Administration
Karli Jo Kercher, Business Administration
Donathan Knowles, Business Administration
D'Andria E. Knowles, Business Administration #
Trudy Bell Langford, Business Administration #
Mary Law, Accountancy #
Sahaya Jestus Lazer, Computer Science #
Macie Elaine Long,
Community Health and Nutrition
Mushfig Mahmudov, Mechanical Engineering
Tristan Michael Mangrum, Accountancy #
Maggie Mason, Accountancy #
Tyler D. McCormick, Business Administration
Ida Fanny Mittagadapa, Computer Science
Lia Nesbitt, Community Health and Nutrition
Thomas Pardue, Civil Engineering
Dev Patel, Accountancy #
John Pettway, Business Administration
Kate Phillips, Computer Science
Christopher Michael Robbins,
Business Administration

Caty Roberts, Business Administration #
Yago Romano Martinez, Computer Science #
Shelby Rose, Accountancy #
Ryan B. Salaman, Business Administration
Ansley Caroline Salem,
Community Health and Nutrition
Parker Ellis Scott, Accountancy #
Jonathan J. Seals, Computer Science
Julia Anne Sedgwick, Business Administration
Hallie E. Sevier, Computer Science
Johnathan Charles Shelton, Civil Engineering
MD Mashiur Rahman Shoummo,
Mechanical Engineering #
Piper Jade Smith, Community Health and Nutrition
Mike Soare, Computer Science
Abhijeet Solanki,
Electrical and Computer Engineering #
Mandi Cari Spangler, Business Administration
Jacob Spurlock, Business Administration
Alex Stidham, Business Administration
Noel Stojkov, Business Administration
Kainen Stoner, Community Health and Nutrition
Anna Anita Sule, Business Administration
Katie Danielle Summers, Business Administration
Justin Tayes, Business Administration
Matthew Dylan Tinker, Business Administration
Madison Treutel, Business Administration #
Samina Kamal Upama, Mechanical Engineering #
Dylan Varney, Computer Science
Malea Nicole Wilson, Business Administration
Jazmine Yamilkoski, Business Administration #

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND HUMAN ECOLOGY

SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE

Briona A. Agee
Myla J. Allen
Jaden Hope Barger**
Gabbi Grace Beck* †
Alex K. Brown
Abbi Miller L. Burgess**
Hunter McCain Burnette
Carley Marie Busby
Jenna L. Cantrell**
Wade Coons**
Jackson T. Evans
Nickolas Ryan Fuller*
Landre Grace Griggs
Tricia Eve Harrison**
Selena Lee S. Hensley*
Caroline B. Holland*
Caroline E. Jaquish*
Coy G. Johnson*** ‡
Mackenzie L. Johnson
Megan Johnae Johnson
Emily ALawrence*
Jennifer Lopez
Hannah B. Maddle**
Kimberlin Isabella Mann*
Joe M. Markland
Wyatt Montooth
Samantha E. Morrisette**
Jon Paul Mulderink**
Madison Brooke Newberry
Benjamin T. Painter
Baylie Grace Pewitt
Evan Reed Plunkett
Zachary M. Raines
Aaliyah Corrin Simpson***
Aspyn J. Terry
Karlee J. Wakefield
Taylor Brooke Ward
Austin Wattenbarger
Elisha R. Young

SCHOOL OF HUMAN ECOLOGY

Sydney P. Ashby*
Rachel Bergeman
Kelsey L. Brown**
Lilly McKenzie Cicero***
Emily C. Daniel
Kathryn H. Dye** #
Rachael Estep
Alexys K. Fallon*
Carson Fulford*
Jessica M. Grossman* #
Philip Ryan Hall#
Brandy Mae Hines***
Mariana A. Jose Gaspar#
Lydia Lawen**
Sophia Rose Longhauser
Caleb Joseph Maxwell#
Chloe B. Maynard*
Sarah Kate Miller* #
Emma Claire Minter
Jadyn Calistavani-Mauna Norman*
Eman Faith Norris#
Jacob P. Parish#
Morgan G. Phillips
Sara E. Pistole*
Sydney Gleneve Noel Robinson***
Payton E. Rouse* #
Raygan L. Sain*
Hannah Marie Schreader
Ashleigh Claire Shores*
Katrina L. Smith
Charlie Owen Thomason* #
Hunter C. Tisdale#
Taylor F. Vaughn
Kayleigh Elizabeth Vaught**
Jennifer G. Velasco-Perez
Morgan Grace Walls
Teagan Elyse Warren* #
Emily R. Worrell**

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Joy A. Abraham#
 Samuel T. Abshire#
 Cooper Evan Adkisson
 Silas C. Adkisson**
 Meshari Abdulkarim Alshammari*
 Devin D. Archibald
 Crawford L. Baker
 Gaspar B. Baltazar Ignacio
 Aubrey Barba
 Allie B. Beaty*
 Gavin Chase Beckner
 Faith Lauren Bettencourt#
 Ella S. Bodsford
 Mahalah Evon Boone***
 Nicole T. Bos
 Wes G. Bowling
 Connor L. Bright
 Chandler Ray Brock
 Emma R. Brown***
 Makayla Elaine Brown
 Reed A. Buckner
 Jackson Healy Burrus
 Alex R. Cain
 Charity Mae Campbell**
 Mia Hope Campbell***‡
 Blaine L. Carr
 Thomas Kendall Case**
 Megan L. Casey**
 Lilly Hope Chaffin#
 Mason Churchwell
 James Allen Clark
 Taylor M. Clouse
 Matthew Coffman
 Annabelle K. Cooksey
 Justin G. Cranford
 Seth B. Cron*
 Nathaniel Preston Crook**
 Trace Lanier Danley
 Bryson A. Davenport*
 Julian E. Davis#
 Matthew D. De Lorto***
 Alex Noble Delk
 Wes David Delk
 Joshua Clayton Dender*#
 Mason W. Denton
 Kyle DiCambio
 Will F. Dillehay

Nolan B. Edwards
 Holden Bryant Elmore
 Sara A. England***
 Wade D. England
 Esma C. Fidan**#
 Kimberlee M. Finch*
 Nate L. Fisher***‡
 Trey R. Fitzpatrick
 Colby Ryan Fletcher
 Emma K. Fontenot***‡
 Tommy Z. Foster
 Bella Grace France*
 Kendal Franks
 Maison F. Gargac
 Bella Grace Garrett*
 Kiley P. Garrett*
 Bryce D. Gettler***
 Dylan Paul Gibson
 Jarrett L. Glass
 Bailey M. Glenn#
 Emily Layne Green
 Ryan E. Green
 Mollie Grace Greer*
 Starr Alae' Griffin
 Andrew S. Gunter*
 Chance M. Hale***
 Taylor B. Harper***
 Marissa Anne Harriman
 Kendall P. Harrison**
 Ethan David Hatcher
 Ayanna Jordan Haywood
 Eric L. Haywood
 Megan G. Healy***
 Thomas Alan Herbert***
 Jessica L. Hileman
 Joseph Lloyd Hill
 Emilee Grace Hitchcock**
 Spencer William Hladick
 Max Neal Hodge*
 Ryan M. Hoffman
 Mariah Elizabeth Hollenkamp**
 Audrey J. Huffman
 Jackson Philip Hurley
 James Hyland
 Avery R. Irwin
 Cassidy Jackson**#
 Vahn R. Kaye#

Kaylyn Knox
Taylor R. Knox#
Dariusz Mateusz Kuczynski**
Carter L. Kulik*
Micah Kvalvik
Alexia Nicole Lamantia
Jack H. Lathrop*
Katelyn G. Lawson
Christopher P. Leach**
Joey J. Lockmiller*
Augusta Leigh Long***
Bailey J. Lowe
Katherine A. Malone
Alex Martinez#
Gryphon C. Mauldin
Alexander J. Mcdaniel*
Tyler Mcmurtry
Abhishek Nikhil Menothu
Cole Blake Meyers
Steven Michael#
Matt D. Mills
Zeke Mitchell Moore**
Briley R. Morgan
Kolby James Morgan
Elijah Taylor Morris
Bailey K. Mynatt***
Lydia G. Nabors**
Tyler Neal
Braidyn Paige Nichols
Charlotte A. Norman***
Jeremy Daniel Mago Ocampo
Mason Riley Ogle**
Dustin Hayden Palmer
Dhruva Sanjay Patel
Setu Paresb Patel
Ashley Elizabeth Payne
Alexandria Sky Perry***†
Colin J. Pointer#
Trent Reece Power#
Ian R. Prater
Lucas Lee Reeves
Maddux C. Richey

Emma C. Robbins
Nathan A. Roberts
Jordin Andrew Rosasco
Trevor S. Rowland
Josh D. Roysden
Kyle P. Ryan**
Zane H. Ryans
Luke T. Sadler
Ben M. Samoila
Madisen C. Sanders
Nicole E. Saul
Emerson Shelton Schmidt**
Riley J. Scoggins**
Autumn Olivia Scott
Zach D. Scott#
Marlee Faith Shaw**
Ian A. Shelton
Kinsleah I. Shelton
Robert G. Slatten
Jacob Danel Smith
Evan A. Sproat#
Joleen Renee Squires
Sam E. Stephens
Ethan C. Stewart
Talia Grace Story***‡
Brady J. Strange**
Kassidy Noelle Stryker*
Nate Thomas Swann
Drew A. Thacker**#
Colin Michael Thomas***
Bradley M. Thompson
Luke S. Vinson#
Payton Madison Wagner
Layla Lynn Walker**
Konata Kareem Werts
Allyson F. Williams***
Ellen Sue Williamson***‡
Jonathan Tyler Wilson
Clara J. Witt
Edward Xec-Huerta
Susana A. Xiao**
Bogdan Zimonjic

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Ethan R. Adams
 Kenny C. Adams
 Keegan Charles Adreon**†
 Taha Aktan#
 Dominic C. Alfini
 Elijah S. Allgood***
 Khalid Saad H. Alotaibi
 Abdulrahman Abdullah D. Alrudayan
 William A. Amburn**
 Elle L. Anderson***
 Robert E. Angel
 Hamza Ansari
 Alan Patrick Arvidson
 Hayden I. Avery#
 Bakhom M. Aziz
 Julianne Marie Barteck***
 Tucker J. Basham
 Ben G. Baugh
 Daniel C. Baugh
 Omar Ghazi S. Bazuhir
 JW Beasley*
 Nick S. Beattie
 Ryan N. Becht
 Braden A. Bell
 West Below
 Cody Lee Bennett
 Mary G. Bickel
 Brett M. Billingsley***
 Keegan Sean Bilodeau***†#
 Branson M. Blaylock
 Spencer Dalton Boggs**
 Logan Henry Bolton
 Aaron Richard Boone
 Erlind Boraj
 Sean A. Borchers*
 Nathan A. Bowling
 Layne Bowman**
 Sarah Rose Boyce-Howard
 Jamie J. Boyd***†
 Chris L. Bradley
 Carter L. Brady**
 Griffin C. Brake*
 Garrison F. Brandt
 Ben Branlund*
 Logan Douglass Brehm
 Jacob R. Brewer
 Nik A. Brothers***

Anna Carina Brown***†
 Isaiah D. Brown
 Jared E. Brummett
 Chase C. Bryant
 Drew Paul Bucher**†
 Caleb E. Bucher
 Gabriel Teague Buckner***†
 Ethen C. Buell
 Robert D. Bumbalough
 Alexandria D. Burchfiel*
 Drew A. Burkhalter#
 William J. Burnette
 Daniel W. Byerly
 Wyatt M. Byers
 Jackie S. Campbell
 Michael S. Cantrell*
 Bryson R. Carwile*
 Easton T. Cash*
 Kelby N. Castleberry
 Mason Alexander Chadwell*
 Ploy Chanhorm
 Jocelyn V. Cherry
 Rock E. Chester#
 Sindu Chitraju
 Caleb C. Clark
 Tyler Cline**
 Jakob William Coats
 Justin Coleman**
 Blake James Collier*
 Matthew Collins**
 Sharon Lynn Colson
 Jed Jenner Ramos Comia*
 Jarrett C. Connatser**
 Caleb Riley Cornett*
 Ezra W. Cota***†
 Kylie M. Coulson*
 Matthew D. Coulson*
 Benjamin Crago
 Ian McCade Cronin**
 Katie E. Cross***†
 Alexander A. Cruz
 Ryan Cunningham***†
 Alex G. Daniel
 James Cade Davis
 Jacob N. Dean
 Tori Meshel Denney***
 Rachel Margaret Dick*

Chase M. Disney
Bryson C. Dobbs
Ivan Dong
Jacob D. Douthit
Hunter David Dowty
Gabriel T. Dubose
Nate Dunlap**
Tyler Quoc Thai Duong
Josh Egwuatu
Noha O. Elkeelany***†
Austin David Eller
Ben Douglas Erickson
Cindy Escobar
Revel Anthony Etheridge
Blake Anthony Etter
Eli E. Everhart
Tate Alexander Finley***
Maxwell Jennings Firestine
Jakob Thomas Flecksteiner*
Luis Gerardo Flores-Moreno
Dalton Bryan Fowler*#
Jordan Lee Frerichs**
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Gabe E. Gibson
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Reese H. Gilbert
Addison Brooke Coforth
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Derik Guevara
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Kenadi S. Hall
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Ethan G. Haynes
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Kyson Shaun Herald
Noah T. Herron
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Kaleigh Mckenna Hooper**
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Josef Spradlin
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Walker Wright*
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Tadan R. Yakima*
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Lance A. Young
Kirolos M. Zanaty#

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Levi N. Anderson***†	Kent Michael Mathis
Raylan Baker	Bradie A. Mccarty***†
Gigi Evangeline Ginnia Barringer**†	Christopher L. Mills**
Chloe M. Buckner*	Gretchen Mullinix*
Merrell Grace Burroughs	Lydia Catherine Phillips
Jordan L. Cagle	Becca L. Pielsnik
Jenna M. Cameron	Riley P. Smith**
Autumn Elizabeth Carruthers*	Lauren A. Sowards***
Michael Rose Cuyler	Zeke Thane Spirko
Halle B. Ford*	Jacob T. Starker**
Joanna Huff Graham**	Janelle Z. Thomas**
Samuel P. Hood***	Hunter Thorpe
Samantha J. Hooper*	Audrey A. Wakefield
Olivia M. King	Nicholas Charles White
Hannah K. Koster	Mara Ashley Wilks
Becca Kaylyn Lilly***	Rachel Allison Young***
Kristen Michelle Lindsey	

THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM
MAY 9, 2025
2:00 P.M. CEREMONY

Presiding..... Dr. Philip B. Oldham
President

Invocation Dr. Robert Owens
Senior Executive for Access, Belonging & Community Outreach

National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner" Francis Scott Key, John Stafford Smith
Tennessee Tech Chorale under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer

Address to Graduates..... President Oldham

Special Address Pumachandra Saggurti
Alumnus 1982, M.S. in Chemical Engineering

Recognition of Faculty President Oldham

Recognition of Graduates' Families..... President Oldham

Presentation of Academic Deans Dr. Lori Bruce
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Conferring of Degrees..... President Oldham

"The Tennessee Tech Hymn" Joan Derryberry
Tennessee Tech Chorale under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer

Closing Remarks..... President Oldham

Presentation of Candidates for Degrees

College of Graduate Studies Interim Dean Julie Baker
College of Arts & Sciences..... Dean Daren Snider
College of Education and Human Sciences..... Dean Lisa Zagumny
College of Interdisciplinary Studies..... Dean Mike Gotcher
Whitson-Hester School of Nursing Dean Kimberly Hanna

DEGREE CANDIDATES SPRING 2025

Because of circumstances which require that the list of names be furnished to the printer in final form approximately seven days prior to Commencement, it is possible that one or more of the candidates listed may have been unable to complete all requirements for the degree or may have elected voluntarily to register for additional work and to graduate at a subsequent ceremony. The change does not necessarily imply that a student has failed nor does it commit the university to grant a diploma to a person thus listed in error. Also, students listed with one or more honors distinctions are candidates for the honor(s) at the time the program is provided to the printer, and may not complete the requirements to be awarded the distinction.

Graduates are grouped by college. Individual names will be called by order seated, not in alphabetical order.

COLLEGE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREES

Daniel Shane Adams, Environmental Sciences
Dissertation Title: "Machine Learning of Building Characteristics for Probabilistic and Uncertainty-Aware Population Estimates in Environmental Science"
Advisor: Dr. Peter Li

Martine Bowombe Toko, Environmental Sciences
Dissertation Title: "Determining Control Strategies for Periodical Cicadas on Commercial Ornamental Nursery Plants in Tennessee"
Advisor: Dr. Douglas Airhart

Nyasha Dzenga, Exceptional Learning
Dissertation Title: "Elementary Teachers' Perceptions of Their Preparedness to Teach Children with Autism in General Education Classrooms"
Advisor: Dr. Jane Baker

Mary Ann Simcox, Exceptional Learning
Dissertation Title: "Teacher Job Satisfaction: A Correlational Analysis of Key Predictors and Gender Moderation Using TALIS 2018 Data"
Advisors: Dr. Darek Potter & Dr. James Akenson

Lara Strate, Counseling and Supervision
Dissertation Title: "Assessing Alexithymia in College Students: Exploring the Psychometric Properties of the TAS-20, PAQ, and BVAQ"
Advisor: Dr. Tony Michael

Jamaal Lemonte Thompson, Exceptional Learning
Dissertation Title: "Black Male Student-Athlete Perspectives and Experiences with Resources at a Predominantly White Institution"
Advisor: Dr. Janet Isbell

Christopher G. Waters, Environmental Sciences
Dissertation Title: "The Reproductive Biology of *Physaria globosa* and Other Plant Species Through Time: Integrating Traditional Floral Visitor Sampling with Next-Generation Sequencing Methods"
Advisor: Dr. Shawn Krosnick

Carey Wilson, Exceptional Learning
Dissertation Title: "Got STEM Education? A Content Analysis of Four STEM Education Journals"
Advisor: Dr. Holly Anthony

SPECIALIST IN EDUCATION DEGREES

Chelsey Annette Anderson,
Curriculum and Instruction
Tara Elizabeth Babb, Curriculum and Instruction
Jonathon Baca, Curriculum and Instruction #
Jodie Denise Bennett, Curriculum and Instruction
Samuel Blanchet, Counseling and Psychology
Tenika Nichole Dye Burgess,
Counseling and Psychology
Blessing Adebusola Emilola,
Curriculum and Instruction
Nicole Golden, Counseling and Psychology #
Javier A. Gonzalez, Curriculum and Instruction
Julia Vaughan Grecol, Curriculum and Instruction
Jessica Hawks, Curriculum and Instruction
Raeanna M. Langford, Counseling and Psychology
Heather Melson, Curriculum and Instruction
Blaine Sidney Parketon, Curriculum and Instruction

Monica Pauline Powers,
Curriculum and Instruction #
Kristi Anna Shedden, Curriculum and Instruction
Heba Soliman, Curriculum and Instruction
Amber Watts, Curriculum and Instruction

MASTER'S DEGREES

Ademola Adeoye, Chemistry #
Monica Aloyo, Exercise Science
Jamie Briana Alvis, Curriculum and Instruction
Frida S. Amoretti, Counseling and Psychology #
Aaron Eli Anderson, Professional Studies
Creek B. Anderson, Professional Science #
Agness Sheilla Aneno, Curriculum and Instruction
Belguutei Ariuntugs, Mathematics
Stephen Awuku, Chemistry #
Amina Begum, English
Hope Berkley, Counseling and Psychology
Benjamin Boyd, Curriculum and Instruction
Jean Christopher Branch,
Counseling and Psychology
Brandon Michael Brown,
Counseling and Psychology #
Gabriella Bulahan, Curriculum and Instruction
Taylor LeeAnne Burton, Nursing
Kara Elizabeth Byer, Nursing
Susan E. Cadle, Professional Studies
Chloe Danielle Camp, Curriculum and Instruction
Ramya Carneiro, Curriculum and Instruction #
Jessika Dyane Chubb, Professional Studies
David Christopher Conatser, Professional Studies
Savannah Jackson Couser, Professional Studies
Lawannah A. Cumby, Nursing
Jerrica Miriah Demps, Professional Studies
Corderra Keandre Dews, Professional Studies
Matthew Thomas Duke,
Curriculum and Instruction
Asanka Rathnayaka Duwage, Mathematics #
Barbara Ebel, Curriculum and Instruction
Caleigh Jo Erwin, Professional Studies
Claire Elizabeth Estes, Curriculum and Instruction
Christopher James Fairchild, English
Megan Elaine Fike, Counseling and Psychology #
Mackenzie Faith Fitzgerald, Professional Studies
Jodi Lynn Fox-Perdue, Curriculum and Instruction
Suzanne Brooke Fultz, Curriculum and Instruction

Emily Phillips Greenlee, Curriculum and Instruction
Jessee Janine Griffith, Professional Science #
Raven Hellen Sasing Guilford, Professional Studies
Kellie Leona Gwin, Professional Studies
Emily N. Hackett, Curriculum and Instruction
Sydney Haggard, Exercise Science,
Physical Education and Wellness
Meredith Preston Hall, Mathematics
Allie Hamblen, Professional Studies
London Hamby, Curriculum and Instruction
Monroe A. Hardin, Counseling and Psychology
William M. Harding, Exercise Science,
Physical Education and Wellness
Miranda LaShawn Hickerson, Exercise Science
Tiphani Jackson, Professional Studies
Kaylee James, Counseling and Psychology #
Thusitha Jayasekara, Chemistry #
Juston Jordan, Professional Studies
Daphne Jordan, Counseling and Psychology #
Jessica Joslyn, Nursing
Randi Padikoralage, Chemistry #
Alexis Lahoda, Curriculum and Instruction
Amanda Chiemi Lehman,
Curriculum and Instruction
Lena Hildebrand Lesho,
Curriculum and Instruction #
Jaime Leigh Linder, English
Colby Lee Long, Exercise Science
Candace Marie Lovitt, Instructional Leadership
Aleshia Marie Madron,
Curriculum and Instruction #
Kellie Simone Mason, Counseling and Psychology
Mckayla G. Mason, Nursing
Lauren Alyssa Matlock,
Learning Design and Technology
Cullen Rivers McAlpin, Curriculum and Instruction
Kristen Marie McFarlin, Instructional Leadership
Brooklyn Gayle Meadows,
Counseling and Psychology #
Sandy Mihelic, Counseling and Psychology #
Donna Carol Milnar, Professional Studies
Emma Caroline Mitchell, English
Katie Rose Mixon, Curriculum and Instruction
Josephina Lynne Moore, English
Elizabeth Sloan Moose, Curriculum and Instruction
Brooke Marie Neves, Instructional Leadership

Madison Katherine North, Professional Science #
Amy Hinkel Oldham, Professional Studies
Alexis Rashae Olsen, Curriculum and Instruction
Emma Pabon, Professional Studies
Andrea Eve Patterson, Nursing
Marka Phillips, Curriculum and Instruction
Dallas Phillips, Counseling and Psychology #
Sara Phillips, Counseling and Psychology #
Laura Marie Potts, Counseling and Psychology #
Jenna Powell, Exercise Science
Lindsey Pritchett, Curriculum and Instruction
Allison Sparks Prowse, Professional Studies
Courtney Elizabeth Richardson,
Counseling and Psychology
Julie Foster Roberts,
Learning Design and Technology
Kennedy Roberts, Counseling and Psychology #
Joni Robinson, Curriculum and Instruction
Hannah Marie Ross, Nursing
Julia Schenk, Counseling and Psychology #
Heather Seyer, Counseling and Psychology #
Jennifer Rhea Shadow,
Curriculum and Instruction #
Stacy Diane Shaw, Curriculum and Instruction

Yongmei Shi, Curriculum and Instruction
Jessica L. Smith, Curriculum and Instruction
Robert Mark Smith, Curriculum and Instruction
Megan Smith, Professional Studies
Hannah Elizabeth Stowers,
Environmental Informatics #
Irene Walker Sullivan, Professional Studies
Abbigayle Taylor, Counseling and Psychology
Jon Steven Thomas, Curriculum and Instruction
Dawn Thompson, Professional Studies
Michael Caitlyn Tidwell,
Counseling and Psychology
Gabrielle F. Vanwormer, Curriculum and Instruction
Sydney A. Vick, Curriculum and Instruction
Ajunna Volious, Nursing
Ty Anthony Walker, Professional Science #
Xavier Larfelt Washington, Professional Studies
Myhaliah Watson, Nursing
Nolan White, Chemistry #
Kristin Willis, Professional Studies
Dallas Cress Woods, Curriculum and Instruction
McKenna Shea Young, Counseling and Psychology
Rachel Zajas, Nursing

COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Iroda Abdullaeva**
 Bennett L. Agee**
 Haley Olivia Alvarez
 Alejandra Sofia Amaya**
 Sydney Nicole Askins
 Eleonore Jean Atnip
 Matt M. Austin**
 Eloise J. Baalbergen***
 Juan K. Baez Trevino
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 Collin M. Barger
 Mason T. Beard
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 Emma Dawn Katherine Cantrell
 Zac Alexander Carawan
 Mary A. Clemons*†#
 Will Lance Collier***‡
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 Stephen C. Cross
 Elizabeth M. Cureton
 Kaitlyn Faith Darnell
 Joshua T. Dean***
 Chase Donovan DeJonge
 Hayden L. DeVall
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 Mary G. Dooley
 Robert E. Dougherty
 William D. Dunn
 Chance J. Dunnington
 John-Samuel H. Edmondson

Alex F. Edwards
 Jennifer Jade Elliott
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 Luis A. Espinoza
 Aiden Louis Evans**
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Kimberly Hinami Wooll
Emery R. Wright^{**}
William K. Zamboni

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 Jackson Chad Green
 Mallory Lee Griesbaum**
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 Claire Ann Herrell*
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 Suzanne Juliet Hines**
 Kevin D. Ho***
 Callie Hoschette***
 William Householder
 Abby Howell*
 Ayla N. Hoy***‡
 Abi L. Huling***
 Amelia G. Hull***‡
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 Cheyenne N. Jackson
 Nevia D. Jackson
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Austin L. Kernell
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Sydney Blake Looper**
Bethany Kaye Lyons*
Brock Maddox*
Megan Nicole Manning
Emma Grace Martin**
Noah R. Martin*
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Julia Lane Matheney***
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Spencer Moore***
Talya O. Moore

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Destiny Brooke Morrison***
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Ally N. Nickelson
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Dustin D. Pitcock
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John Parker Reagan
Madi L. Reeder
Madison Faith Reid**
Melanie Dawn Reynolds-Curtis
Brenna Ridge*
Ashlyn Grace Riggs**
Lauren B. Risdien***‡
Avery N. Risher*
MarthaAnn Stuart Roach***‡
Kassidy M. Roberts**
Isabella Starr Roden**
Ava D. Rogers
Cecilia G. Sanchez**
Conner C. Sanford
Annie Victoria Scheuerlein
Emily A. Schirle
Liv G. Shipman*
Abby F. Shoulders***
Tomi Leanne Sims
Erik Skaggs**
Kensea E. Skelton***‡
Thomas Jackson Sloan
Deidre R. Smith

Jordan M. Smith*
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COMMENCEMENT HONORS FOR BACCALAUREATE DEGREE RECIPIENTS

*cum laude	3.5 to 3.69 grade point average
**magna cum laude	3.7 to 3.89 grade point average
***summa cum laude	3.9 to 4.00 grade point average
‡ W. A. Howard Award	4.00 grade point average
† in cursu honorum	22 hours of honors courses and a 3.5 or > grade point average

Candidates are recognized in this program if their grades qualified them for honors at the time this listing was prepared for the printers. All who anticipate graduating with honors will be recognized during the ceremony and the final honor achieved will be recorded on their diploma and on their academic transcript.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

MACEBEARER

Dr. F. Stuart "Doc" Wells

Professor Emeritus of Decision Sciences and Management

NATIONAL ANTHEM, "THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER"

Performed by Tennessee Tech Chorale under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer

"THE TENNESSEE TECH HYMN"

Performed by Tennessee Tech Chorale under the direction of Dr. Craig Zamer

MUSIC

Performed by the Brass Arts Quintet

Mr. Chris McCormick, Trumpet

Mr. Thomas Ward, Trumpet

Dr. Justin Stanley, Horn

Dr. Joshua Hauser, Trombone

Dr. Preston Light, Tuba

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College of Engineering, Clay N. Hixson Student Success Center

Philip Gibbons,

Radio Personality and Broadcaster

Bob Luna,

Tennessee Tech Alumnus, 1982 Speech

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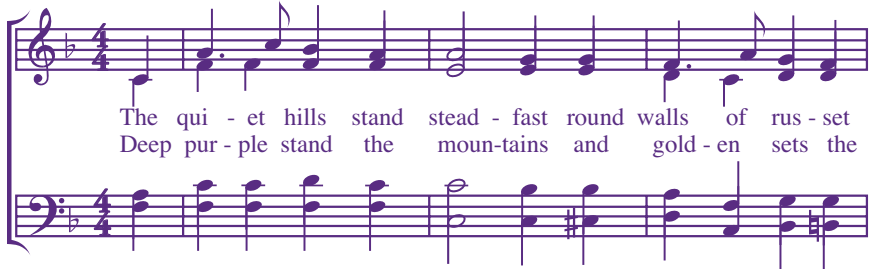
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The Tennessee Tech Hymn

words and music by
Mrs. EVERETT DERRYBERRY



The qui - et hills stand stead - fast round walls of rus - set
Deep pur - ple stand the moun-tains and gold - en sets the



brown. On halls se - rene and camp - us green the smok - y hills look
sun. We proud - ly wear these col - ors fair un - til our goal is



down; And stead - fast may I cher - ish what thou hast giv'n to
won;— We pledge thee faith - ful ser - vice, our love and loy - al -



me. Oh Al - ma Ma - ter Ten-nes-see Tech, God pros-per thee.
ty. Oh Al - ma Ma - ter Ten-nes-see Tech, God pros-per thee.



Tennessee
TECH