



COMMENCEMENT

Class of 2025

John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

College of Business

College of Food Innovation & Technology

College of Health & Wellness

College of Hospitality Management

Charlotte, North Carolina

May 1, 2025



Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your graduation day!

This is a significant occasion that you should be proud of, and I am honored to celebrate with you. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to every one of you.

As you celebrate this achievement, take a moment to reflect on all the people who have supported you along the way. Your family, friends, professors, coaches and mentors have provided you with encouragement, guidance and love. Make the time to thank them for their unwavering support.

As you embark on the next chapter of your life, be bold, take risks and pursue your passions with purpose and determination. Your education both inside and outside of the classroom at Johnson & Wales University has prepared you well for the future. You have learned the importance of leadership, teamwork and community service. You are well-prepared for the challenges that lie ahead, and I am confident that you are ready to make your mark on the world.

As you leave Johnson & Wales, I urge you to stay connected to our alumni network. As a member of the JWU family, you will always be a Wildcat, and we will always be here for you. Our alumni network is strong, and we have a proud history of supporting one another as we pursue our goals and dreams. I encourage you to stay in touch and to share your accomplishments with the JWU community.

Once again, congratulations on your graduation. You have made us all proud, and we cannot wait to see what you will achieve in the future.

Forever JWU,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard G. Mathieu". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Richard G. Mathieu, Ph.D.
President, Charlotte Campus

ABOUT JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1914, Johnson & Wales University is a private, nonprofit, accredited institution with more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students at its campuses in Providence, Rhode Island and Charlotte, North Carolina and through JWU Online. An innovative educational leader, the university offers undergraduate and graduate degree programs in arts and sciences, business and hospitality, dietetics and nutrition, food innovation and technology, and health and wellness. It also offers undergraduate programs in culinary arts and baking and pastry arts.

JWU's unique model provides students with the personalized attention, academic expertise and industry connections that inspire professional success and personal growth. The time students spend at JWU is nothing short of transformative, as demonstrated by career outcomes, expected earnings and economic mobility rankings. The university's impact is global, with alumni in 130 countries pursuing careers worldwide.

Here is what makes JWU different:

Academics: Our practical, relevant education provides industry with agile graduates who are real-world tested and ready to enter a highly dynamic workforce. Dedicated faculty and career advisors help students set professional goals and develop an educational plan designed for them to best attain those goals. Students learn by doing, discovering industry best practices and training on career-specific tools and software in dynamic labs and career-focused classrooms.

Experiential Education: Programs provide opportunities for real-world experience, which can include internships and classroom projects with industry partners. Specialized workshops help students build their résumés, highlight their skills and develop a portfolio of work to help set them apart. Students have the opportunity to network with employers who visit campus each year, including career fairs, on-campus interviews and career events geared toward their major. In 2023–24, 98.3% of JWU Charlotte students participated in some form of experiential education and applied learning.

Outcomes: JWU graduates have the transferable analytic and expressive abilities necessary to take on new challenges and navigate ever-changing career paths that increasingly define the contemporary workplace. Our career outcomes rate for graduates who earned a bachelor's degree has historically been higher than the national average.

Culture: JWU provides student experiences that encourage participation, embrace collaboration and stimulate a healthy mind, body and spirit. Both student organizations and athletics offer opportunities for personal growth, social connection and leadership development, ultimately leading to a sense of belonging and campus pride.

Value: Competitive and accelerated program options help qualified students save time and offer a step up in their fields of choice. When factoring in costs and discounts, the benefits of a JWU education and the time it takes to graduate, Johnson & Wales is more than competitive with other private universities — and with many public universities.

To learn more, visit jwu.edu.

Order of Exercises

PROCESSION

Commencement Marshal — Michael Childers, J.D., chair, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

Commencement Marshal — James Woods, Ph.D., chair, College of Business

Commencement Marshal — Amy Felder, Ed.D., chair, baking and pastry arts, College of Food Innovation & Technology

Commencement Marshal — Jennifer Gallagher, chair, culinary arts, College of Food Innovation & Technology

Commencement Marshal — Christopher Roy, Ph.D., chair, College of Health & Wellness

Commencement Marshal — David Hudson, DNP, MSN, RN, university chief nursing officer, program director, College of Health & Wellness

Commencement Marshal — Sunil Atreya, chair, College of Hospitality Management

Candidates for Degrees

Faculty of the Colleges

Platform Party led by Mace Bearer — Manasseh Zechariah, Ph.D., chair, University Faculty Council; professor, John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

WELCOME

Richard G. Mathieu, Ph.D., president, Charlotte Campus

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Isaiah L. Boswell '25

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Richard G. Mathieu

CLASS OF 2025 STUDENT ADDRESS

Savannah Jo Riley '25

GREETINGS FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Joshua M. Gilliard '20, small & business banking analyst, Wells Fargo

PRESENTATION OF COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Mim L. Runey, LP.D., chancellor

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Chip Wade '83, '06 Hon.

PRESENTATION OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Richard Wiscott, Ph.D., provost

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

Mim L. Runey

RECESSIONAL

Student Speaker

SAVANNAH JO RILEY '25

Sports, Entertainment, Event — Management

As a first-generation college student from Kingsland, Georgia, Savannah Jo Riley entered JWU with determination and an unwavering focus on her goals. Today she celebrates completion of her bachelor's degree two years ahead of schedule. She aspires to obtain her MBA before turning 21. Balancing a vigorous course load as a full-time student, Riley is a beloved and active member of the JWU community while maintaining three jobs, including serving as a resident assistant. Her passion for hands-on learning led her to her standout role as a dispatch lead for Ridgewells Catering last summer at the U.S. Open Golf Tournament in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

Riley's family — her greatest pillar of resilience, love and support — has been instrumental in her journey. As the oldest of four children and the daughter of an active U.S. Navy serviceman, she has embraced discipline, adaptability and perseverance. With a drive to take on challenges with poise and purpose, she is eager to give back to the military community as she pursues her dream career: events director for the MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) program.



Alumni Speaker

JOSHUA M. GILLIARD '20

Small & Business Banking Analyst

Wells Fargo

Joshua Gilliard's student experience at Johnson & Wales was transformative, laying a solid foundation for a career marked by leadership, innovation and a deep understanding of professional success in dynamic real-world settings. As a student in the College of Hospitality Management, he actively engaged in collaborative projects, notably the Tiefel Project, a high-tech, high-touch initiative in hospitality, and presented to professionals on both campuses.

After graduation, Gilliard secured a position as general manager at Moe's Southwest Grill, where he honed the skills necessary for his next role as manager at the Conway Restaurant Group. In this job, he oversaw 40 employees across four functional areas to ensure smooth operations. The experience inspired him take his career in a more business-oriented direction. In 2022, Gilliard became a private equity intern at Banbury Private Capital. From there, he secured a full-time position as a senior analyst at Bank of America, where he focused on financial planning and analysis, developing comprehensive financial reports to track market trends and minimize variances. He received his MBA from The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and began working in his current position in 2024.

Gilliard embraces a variety of personal interests that enrich his life, including a passion for cooking and experimenting with new recipes and techniques. A connoisseur of fine wines, he dedicates time to learn about wine pairings and appreciation. Outdoor activities such as hiking and biking bring him joy, as does reading, which allows him to explore new ideas and perspectives.

Commencement Speaker



CHIP WADE '83, '06 HON.

As chief executive officer of Union Square Hospitality Group (USHG), Chip Wade is responsible for further enhancing and evolving the company's culture, driving an even greater experience for guests, and bolstering the excellence and growth of its businesses. He joined the USHG executive team as president in 2019, following a rich 30-year career in operational leadership in the hospitality industry. In 2022, he was named chief executive officer.

Prior to joining USHG, Wade was the executive vice president of operations for Red Lobster and an officer of the company. As the senior leader of all operating functions, he was responsible for in-restaurant execution, P&Ls, and driving strategy to maximize the guest experience and EBITDA growth for 677 U.S. restaurants, located in 45 states, and 27 restaurants in Canada with average unit

sales of \$3.3M and \$2.4B systemwide.

Previously, Wade was senior vice president of enterprise operations for Darden, the world's largest full-service restaurant operating company. Prior to that, he was senior vice president of Red Lobster's Liberty Division where he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of nearly 100 restaurants located in seven states and the District of Columbia. He initially joined Darden as the director of Revitalia for Olive Garden's existing restaurants. Revitalia was part of a systemwide repositioning of the brand.

Wade spent two years away from Darden when he served as chief operating officer for Legal Sea Foods Inc. in Boston, Massachusetts. In this role, he managed all operations for the family-owned group's 31 restaurants and oversaw the launch of the Legal Test Kitchen, a new concept. He also led as the senior vice president of development for Smokey Bones, a former Darden concept. Earlier in his career, he spent 13 years with T.G.I. Fridays where he progressed through various management positions in operations, human resources and new business development.

A Pennsylvania native, Wade received his culinary associate degree from Johnson & Wales, his B.S. degree from Widener University, and his MBA degree from The University of Texas at Dallas. He serves on the following boards: Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, Johnson & Wales University, and Share Our Strength, a national organization working to end childhood hunger and poverty in the United States. He is also a senior advisor for Junzi Kitchen, a Chinese fast-casual restaurant and concept based in New York.

The deans and faculty of the John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Business, the College of Engineering & Design, the College of Food Innovation & Technology, the College of Health & Wellness, the College of Hospitality Management and the College of Professional Studies proudly present their Classes of 2025.

John Hazen White College of Arts & Sciences

Michael Childers, J.D., chair

Master of Science Degree Recipients

Liza Minelly	Martkell Deshawn Thompson
Ja'syah Kazmine Nixon	Katrilia Shyteria Willis

Bachelor of Arts Degree Recipients

Sebastian Brice Jones <i>summa cum laude</i>	Cybile Marie-Erna Moise <i>cum laude</i>	Xolani Charles Pittman Evan Stuart Retzlaff	Lauren Denise Rose
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Bachelor of Science Degree Recipients

Kaylee McLendon Atkins <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kennedy R. Griffin <i>summa cum laude</i>	Myles Anderson Parker Jazmin Pruitt <i>magna cum laude</i>	Destiny Ivelyz Serrano Free Spirit Wilson Shanice Andrea Wright
Taylor Marie Calles	Michaela Paige Hawkins <i>cum laude</i>	Madison Paige Puckett <i>magna cum laude</i>	
Kendle Elizabeth Dieffenderfer <i>magna cum laude</i>	Na'tazeigha J. Jenkins Sha'Maiya Johnson	Harmoni Nycole Richardson <i>cum laude</i>	

College of Business

James Woods, Ph.D., chair

Master of Business Administration Degree Recipients

Jamie Ann Boulo-Adams	Megan Cierra Holmes	Nisha Khan	Shekinah Glory Je'Nee
Ngbesso Vanessa Beke	LaShanda Chenise Howard-	Kayla Latrice Oglesby	Sanders
Justine Elizabeth Juanita	Farmer	Danielle Cherish Ray	Shelbi Rosetta Williams
Boyce	Kiaundra Elizabeth Jackson	Keshia Ross	
Christina Barbara Elgin	Deviona Lavette June		

Master of Science Degree Recipients

Ashley Bowe	Gregory Anthony Johnson Jr.	Jean Marie Arnold Mvumbi	Molita Devi Sarwan
Jonathan Edwards Garrigues	Christopher Matthew Juarez	Phongo	Fonjenik Roberta Turner

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Degree Recipients

Tyaisha Avery	John Luther Hermes	Dillon R. Neeley	Morgan Alexandria Streater
A'jahlaya Carter	<i>summa cum laude</i>	<i>cum laude</i>	Tra'nasia Trenea Washington
Maleik Antonio Chalmers	Victoria Guadalupe Herrera-	Nkorereimana Ninete	Darius Chanien Witcher
Adriel De La rosa	Rubio	Alejandra Jamileth Rosales	<i>cum laude</i>
Ashonté Eiland	Julia Jamieson	Esteves	Colin John Wurst
<i>cum laude</i>	Jevonna Janelle Lamb	<i>cum laude</i>	<i>summa cum laude</i>
Katelyn Taylor Flowers	<i>magna cum laude</i>	Ida Lalia Sery	Lena Zook
Lucy Louise Gearhart	Nathan Meshida	Dylan Craig Steeves	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Jaime Green		<i>summa cum laude</i>	

Bachelor of Science Degree Recipients

Jesus Saul Alvarez Ramirez	Christian Lacey Culpepper	Chelsea Nicole Hobbs	Maggie Elizabeth Parker
<i>magna cum laude</i>	Carla Curci	<i>magna cum laude</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>
Dennis Jeremiah Aseron	<i>cum laude</i>	Caleb Wayne Hollenbaugh	Kwamesha Tiona Peterkin
Bajao	Elizabeth Ann D'Antona	Queenesther Jones	Ahvay Kiaya Powell
Teresa Latasha Barnette	Taliyah Danai Dargin	Roused Beatriz Lebron	Ian Lucca Ramirez Villamar
<i>cum laude</i>	Ryan Thomas Deel	Nia Rachelle Lewis	Hyjah Nyako Admiral Saner
John Alexander Billinis	Taylor Lynn Faticoni	Myeisha La'Nae McPherson	Emily Kaitlyn Walz
<i>magna cum laude</i>	<i>magna cum laude</i>	Ashley Amelia Mitchell	
Maya Renea Brown	Ross Allan Garrison	<i>cum laude</i>	
Marshall Brandon Cherry	Shana Lynn Gilstrap	Terrell Elias Newton	
Maria De Jesus Crespo	<i>summa cum laude</i>		

Associate in Science Degree Recipient

Ayanah Guyya McCaskill

College of Engineering & Design

Frank X. Tweedie, Ed.D., '98 M.S., dean

Nicola LaManna '97 M.Ed., assistant dean

Master of Science Degree Recipients

Beatrice Robinson

Lauren Marie Zukus

Bachelor of Science Degree Recipients

Regina Louise Bass

summa cum laude

Daniel Houston Carter

cum laude

Leah Carmella Coleman

Jayda Lanaya Cordes

cum laude

Zorah Abigail Lee

summa cum laude

Renee Letitia Lyons

College of Food Innovation & Technology

Amy Felder, Ed.D., chair, baking and pastry arts

Jennifer Gallagher, chair, culinary arts

Master of Science Degree Recipient

LaToya Morris

Bachelor of Science Degree Recipients

Arianna Alejandra Aguilar

Rangel

summa cum laude

Tiye Amachi Anthony-Elwin

Austin Michael Ballard

Ana Jordan Beall

Morgan Lea Belardo

summa cum laude

Sierra Kennedy Blair

summa cum laude

Whittany Eboni Burgess

Travis Micah Canipe

magna cum laude

Xiomara Capote-Mata

summa cum laude

Tatyana Marie Castillo

Heaven Branet Christmas

Danielle E. Diflorio

summa cum laude

Vanessa Omega Dreyer

Kyle James Duggan

magna cum laude

Arrianna Anastasia Ebert

Tyler Jacob Glen

magna cum laude

Mariah Lenae Goins

Abigail Christina Granger

Valencia Cierra Green

Jared Daniel Hansen

summa cum laude

Elijah Amin Harris

Journi Milan Harris

Ethan Huang

magna cum laude

Jerrell D. Hughes

Matteo Hui

Bryanna Paige Hutchinson

Alexcia A. Jackson

cum laude

Amari B. Jeffery

magna cum laude

Symone Juneese Langham

Aneesa Nevaeh Pressley

Larkins

Audrey Marie Linek

summa cum laude

Enijah Mackenzie Linville

Rachel Marie Littlejohn

summa cum laude

Aneelia Brianna Ma

Samantha Elle MacPherson

Zakyaa K. Maddox

Brenna Marie McKinzie

summa cum laude

Walter Lloyd Morgan Jr.

summa cum laude

Katelyn Marie Nantz

cum laude

Sarahphina Angel Patterson

Connie Inaya Pearson

cum laude

Edwin Antonio Pereira

Shaniya Nichole Quates

Ryiese Yasaan Randolph

Jamashia Dashawn Ravenell

Aniyah Julia Robinson

Eja T. Robinson
magna cum laude
Tierra Renita Robinson
Josiah Anthony Rouse

Alana Jauné Scott
magna cum laude
Hannah Siera Shine
Brian O'Neil Singleton Jr.

Logan Elizabeth Smith
summa cum laude
Hayley D. Taylor
Mali Gwynn Towe
magna cum laude

Jasmine Nicole Whitaker
Robert Bradley Whitted Jr.
cum laude

Associate in Applied Science Degree Recipients

Jonathan Jose Acevedo
Praise Victoria Achi
Mason Elijah Albohn
magna cum laude
Shaunice Makayla Allen
Saraya Denise Alston
Nevaeh Janae Anderson
Sydney Anderson
Alliyah Aja Antonio
Pearce Elizabeth Augier
Caroline James Bailey
Anthony Christian Banua
Gavin Rinehart Barbour
summa cum laude
Amalee Raine Barrett
summa cum laude
Koby Dean Bartels
magna cum laude
Jaylen Miche'l Batten-
Johnson
Brian Francis Battle III
Raffaele Daniel Bauer
Christiana Elizabeth Bell
summa cum laude
Brahim N. Benbenu
Burton Kirkland Bennett III
Joshua Devon Bernadis
Timothy Scot Berry
cum laude
Taylor Danielle Beslin
Julius S. Bhola
Mia Valeria Bidegain
Townson
Ideliz Bigio
cum laude
Antoine Shwayne Black Jr.
Adam Scot Block
summa cum laude
Sophia Claire Bogan
Amelia Kiersten Borunda
Adia Jada Bouldin-Callwood
Alissa Elizabeth Bova
cum laude

Saniyya Elease Mo'nay
Boykin
James Donald Bradley III
Jasmine Isabella Brady
magna cum laude
Tyler James Aidan Brailsford
Macie Leigh Braymiller
cum laude
Zaire Douglas Bright
Asher Martin Brinkmeyer
Lillian Belle Britt
cum laude
Caleb Sheldon Brown
Carissa Deion Brown
Jhanir S. Brown
Skyelar Delaney Brown
summa cum laude
Aryana Tashawn Bryant
magna cum laude
Thomas Alexander
Buchmann
magna cum laude
Whittany Eboni Burgess
Sophia Nicole Busser
magna cum laude
Jeremiah Ezell Butler
magna cum laude
Paul Truett Canady III
Garrett William Carter
Jaymeson Lebrone Carter
McKenzie Crystal Cason
Anne Marsh Castillo
Madison Elyse Castillo
Julianna Rose Cerulli
Jaclyn Sierra Chandler
D'Ante Kywan Robert
Charity
Christine Erin Cierpial
summa cum laude
Eryn Thai Clay Jackson
cum laude
Joshua Caleb Cline
Jaleah Coleman
magna cum laude

Earl JaKobe Collier
magna cum laude
Matthew Concannon
Emily Renae Corliss
magna cum laude
Nikolas Josiah Cotto
Kayla Rachelle Craigo
cum laude
Jalen Javaughn Cuffee
David Alan Curtis
D'Ajua Zamir Cuthbertson
JaQuan Malik Dailey
Emma Medray Daugherty
Jaden Michael Davis
Megan Alyssa Dawson
cum laude
Ella Addison Dean
Shaelin Mary Deaven
summa cum laude
Carmela Christine DeFeo
Jesus Gerardo Diaz
magna cum laude
Damiah D. Doctor
Tera DeAnn Draper
cum laude
Ashlyn B. Edwards
Rachel Rebekah English
Brendan Lee Estes
Charnisha Angelique Evans
Chloe Monroe Evans
Joaquin Kyjuan Evans
Lillian Grace Evans
Carlisa Lakevia Fallin
Isabelle Rose Felke
summa cum laude
Jasmine M. Fisher
Adrienne Nichae Forrest
Summer Rose Fouse
magna cum laude
Sage Marie Franzel
Gianna Renee Faith Fraser
Danielle Rachel Gaudet
magna cum laude

Jaylin Tavon Gerald
Mariah Lenee Goins
Michael A. Goldmann*
Jason Preston Gray
Samuel Michael Green
Travis J. Grondellannahs
Jacob Emmanuel Guyton
Sydney Anjali Hall
cum laude
Kristina Tamara Hare
Jerome Peter Hargrow II
Hayden Hawk Hatfield
Jasmine Richelle Haynes
Diamond Hazzard
Trinity M. Head
Kayla Victoria Hennagan
cum laude
Xavier Lavell Henry
Jessica Fernanda Hernandez
magna cum laude
Matthew Caleb Hernandez
magna cum laude
Valeria Hernandez
magna cum laude
Anijazmin Hernandez-
Santiago
cum laude
Eden Grace Heston
Caitlyn Marie Hogan
Samantha Ruth Holder
Ira Edward Holmes
summa cum laude
Winter Novi Holmes
Ryan J. Hottinger
Jenesha Jenise House
Jasmine Aliyah Howard
Skylar Angel Hudson
Bryce Rily Humphrey
cum laude
Nyigel J. Hunter
Mary E. Irvin
cum laude

Alexcia A. Jackson <i>cum laude</i>	Brandon Joshua Mables	Lucas Raphael Padilla	Micah Louis Smith
A'Nyah Dejanelle James-Britton	Breaunn Shyriess Mack <i>cum laude</i>	Desire Renee Parker <i>cum laude</i>	Mya Smith
Julia Ann Jarnol	Gianna Rose Mancini <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kylee Henrietta Parks	Brenda Yadhira Soriano Perez <i>cum laude</i>
Chalena Danielle Johnson	Mikayla Astasia Marshall	Levar Anthony Penn Jr. <i>summa cum laude</i>	Vincenza Lauren Spina <i>summa cum laude</i>
Hannah Isabelle Johnson <i>magna cum laude</i>	Olivia Grace Marshall	John Arthur Penoyer III <i>cum laude</i>	Jadyn Lyn Springer <i>magna cum laude</i>
Rebecca Marie Johnson <i>cum laude</i>	Katherine Virginia Martin <i>cum laude</i>	Jhauriel Rheana O'rion Perkins <i>magna cum laude</i>	Madison Rylee Stankiewicz
Claire Elizabeth Jones	Josue E. Martinez	Jordana Kaitlyn Cameron Phillips	Donovan Leroy Stephens
Jyzahn Mekhi Jones-Hardy	Maria Christina Martinez	Zharia Nech'e Pierce	Hillier Sha-Ron Stukes
Calen Robert Jordan	Kathleen Belen Mascardo <i>summa cum laude</i>	Jean Christopher Pierre	Logan Marian Sullivan
Sierra Jordan	Zora Nia Massey	Grace Elizabeth Pimpo <i>summa cum laude</i>	Chayton Evan Tala
Azalea Marina Joyner <i>cum laude</i>	William J. Maybank	Georgia Nicole Poirier <i>magna cum laude</i>	Laney Elisabeth Tarleton <i>cum laude</i>
Isabelle Bonita Kaplan <i>summa cum laude</i>	John Stephen McCauley <i>magna cum laude</i>	Eric James Puralewski	Matthew Cole Tawes
Denaje Josefina Kebreau Pierre	Aaliyah Kimberly McLaurin <i>magna cum laude</i>	Matthew Benjamin Ragland	Naomi Trinity Jewel Taylor
Gabrielle Elizabeth Kersey	Rylie Ayla McPherson <i>magna cum laude</i>	Marvelyn Ramirez	Jesus Tello-Perez
Fatima Khurshid Khan <i>magna cum laude</i>	Angie Elizabeth Mendoza-Medina <i>cum laude</i>	Jennifer Ramos Hernandez	Charnae Christine Thomas
Peyton Reece Kimbrell	Kate Elizabeth Miller	Leslie Verenice Reyes	Madison Elizabeth Thomas
Jasmine Elizabeth King <i>magna cum laude</i>	Trinity J. Mills <i>cum laude</i>	Sadijah Ariel Reynolds <i>cum laude</i>	Quimoni Chakria Thomas
Olivia Amani Kingston	Marlin Mims Jr.	Sophia Glen Robbins <i>magna cum laude</i>	Edward Robert Thompson <i>cum laude</i>
Jayden Thomas Klingaman <i>magna cum laude</i>	Lincoln J. Mitchell	Zoé Aliana Rodgers	Leila Marie Thompson <i>cum laude</i>
Christina Marie Kocina	Tucker Gregory Mitchell <i>summa cum laude</i>	Gabriella Angelina Rodondi	Nathaniel James Thompson <i>cum laude</i>
Chloe C. Kratenstein	Tyler Warren Mitchell <i>cum laude</i>	John Kaden Rogers	Amirah Zhane Torain
Brinn Caroline Krider	Andrea Marie Molina	Ramtin Rostemi <i>summa cum laude</i>	Rebecca Trujillo
Samantha E. Lai-Korosec	Jacob Immanuel Moore <i>cum laude</i>	Kadia Amelia Anya Rucker <i>magna cum laude</i>	Lisa Umemoto
Hannah C. Lambert	Mi'shaun Nijere Moore	Colyn A. Rudis <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kayden Curtis Uzzle <i>magna cum laude</i>
Kylie Eileen Lantzy <i>cum laude</i>	Abigail Lynn Moran <i>summa cum laude</i>	Katherine Marie Rumble	Ethan Michael Varga
Jaiden Delroy Laqua	Jokia Lanae Mullen	Demetria Irene Sarafis <i>magna cum laude</i>	Hannah Malia Varner
L. Mychelle Lee <i>summa cum laude</i>	Joulia Vuvu Mulongo	Makayla G. Scott	Julio Jose Velis
Dylan David Lewis	Jinaya Nevaeh Murray	My'kel Quinton Scott <i>summa cum laude</i>	Kaiya Lee Vestal
Jeremiah Malik Lewis	Elijah Natale	Zora Aslyn Rose Scott	Parker Deacon Vice <i>cum laude</i>
Audrey Marie Linek <i>summa cum laude</i>	Alexis N. Naus <i>summa cum laude</i>	Christopher Ryan Secrist <i>magna cum laude</i>	Zoie Elyce Vincent <i>summa cum laude</i>
Alexis Ayanna Livingston <i>cum laude</i>	India Renee Naylor	Danyelle Shaw	A'Najiana Zy'kee Wade <i>magna cum laude</i>
Ronald Edward Logan	MacKenzie Rose Neal	Maakyah Marie Sherman	Jordan J. Walton
Jazmyne Laschea Long	Nathaniel Ellis Nicandro	Michael Marlowe Shires	Owen Lamont Warren Jr. <i>cum laude</i>
Emily Kathleen Love	Monica Oelofsen	Bryanna Q. Simons	Sam Washington
Kelei Saraih Love	Rachel Lynn Oesting	Korbin Walker Smith <i>summa cum laude</i>	Trevaun Gamal Waterman
Rachel Beth Lowry	Tyejay Kevin Oldham		Nathan James Wells
Briean Jeiel Lyles <i>cum laude</i>	Victoria Olivera Sanchez		Paul Thompson Wendelin
			E'Mari S. West
			Katera D. West
			Nyemah Semaj Whitley

Kelsie Anniya Marie
Wickham
Dominique Marie Williams
Mikaela Inez Williams
magna cum laude

Victoria Ann Williams
magna cum laude
Zhya Moneá Williams
Albert Lee Willis III
Reagan Elizabeth Willis

Tiwana M. Winnix
Temya D. Woodard
Kiara Celeste Wright
Ryan Douglas Wright
cum laude

Kirk Anthony Wynter II
Trenise Sierra Young
Jovanny Zamudio

College of Health & Wellness

Christopher Roy, Ph.D., chair

David Hudson, DNP, MSN, RN, university chief nursing officer, program director

Master of Science Degree Recipients

Edel Yassin Ali
Jermeka E'Trela Smith

Bachelor of Science Degree Recipients

Stevenson Oneal Barnes Jr.
Destiny Joi Benson
Laila Christine Hudgins
Nailah Jinks

Luke Gunner Johnson
cum laude
Trinity Ann Knauf
summa cum laude

AAlayah MacAlpine
summa cum laude
John Alexander Moreno
cum laude

Shinae Michelle Singletary
Gabriella Lynn Tully
summa cum laude
Joyiah Keziah White

Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree Recipients

Mariana Grace Ballard
cum laude
Murphie Efird
magna cum laude

Olivia Harris
Maegan Dara Lord
summa cum laude
Jessica R. Nichols

Mckaylin Ashlee Oloff
Maggie June Marie Terry
summa cum laude

College of Hospitality Management

Sunil Atreya, chair

Master of Science Degree Recipients

Elvira J. Rivera

Austin Ryan Scoles

Bachelor of Science Degree Recipients

Liz Glammir Alvarado
Akeema Da' Shae Anderson
Andrea Nicole Anderson
Jevon Aaron Andrew
Frida Angeles Galvan
magna cum laude
Jaylen Michael Benson-
Hollinhead
Isaiah L. Boswell
Jasmine Isabella Brady
magna cum laude
Anela Ariana Brinson
Morganne Renee Browning
cum laude
Donnie Byers
Luka R. Cannon
magna cum laude
Raleigh David Carico
Kellie Cohn
magna cum laude
Krystal Adrienna Dandie
Lily Jane Daras
George Wesley Davidson
cum laude
Christian Jordan Delarosa
Kathryn Grace Douglas
magna cum laude
Jordan Gabrielle Durant
Khaleiah Janee Durant
Drennan Ruby Ellis
Alielle Shakira English
Ashley Nicole Epley
summa cum laude
Tihler Janelle Evans
Teliah Annette Faison
cum laude
Faith Reynolds Farrington
magna cum laude
Cruzmaria Michele
Fernandez

Walter O. Foster Jr.
magna cum laude
Alexis Ryan Gamez
Meghan Katherine Gervais
magna cum laude
Logan Scott Glotfelty
Ronald Eli Golub
Trinity L. Hamlor
Emmanuel Juan Harrington
Sija Brionne Headrick
magna cum laude
Ashley Summer Hendrickson
Jordan Michael Hill
Marcello Lomond Hill Jr.
Xavier Mehki Himes
Precious N. Hogue
Maria Antoinette Holliday
Asha Iman Hopson
James Glenn Howell
Wilmot Jenkins Hunter
Hannah Riley Hylton
summa cum laude
Kendra Faith Ingle
Atiana Lasha Jett
cum laude
Dion Dante Johnson Jr.
Mikayla Y. Jones
magna cum laude
Abram Joseph Kelly
Georgia Frances Kidd
cum laude
Jayden Thomas Klingaman
magna cum laude
Lilly Jolie Langevin
magna cum laude
Marian Lara
magna cum laude
Lucas Burton Lesh
cum laude
Emma Levick
Alexia Lain Liggett
magna cum laude

Tiffany Rose Luhnnow
magna cum laude
Breauann Shyriess Mack
cum laude
Shelton Magee III
Stephanie Claro Malena
magna cum laude
Amanda Nicole Marth
Huie Oliver Martin
cum laude
Briana Christine McAllister
magna cum laude
O'Brina McCoy
Maxwell Edward Meekins
Grace Cynthia Mercer
magna cum laude
Sarah Milne
summa cum laude
Valeria Montero
Jonathan Xavier Navarro
Kourtney E. Newton
Victoria Olivera Sanchez
Haley Overcash
cum laude
Mahi Patel
Elayni Gisela Perez
QueenDeifilla Ladeeanna
Perry
Hau Quoc Pham
Jayla Lynn Pugh
Jessica Susann Ralph
magna cum laude
Joe M. Ramirez Jr.
Savannah Grace Richmond
cum laude
Savannah Jo Riley
cum laude
Andre Rivera
Sienna Ivelise Rivera
cum laude
Christopher Ryan Secrist
magna cum laude

Won Seo
cum laude
Eric Serpas
magna cum laude
Bryanna Q. Simons
Keith Antonio Smith Jr.
Amani A. Staton
Donovan Leroy Stephens
Mia B. Suber
Logan Marian Sullivan
Nathan Ryan Sytsma
cum laude
Steven Paul Taylor
summa cum laude
Quimoni Chakria Thomas
Titus Washington Thomas
Brianna Andrea-Annette
Thompson
magna cum laude
Prayeus Solomon Thompson
Jamira Lashaia Tillman
Sarah Joanne Towe
Jason Omar Trochez-Reyes
Connor Bryan Troup
Mikayla Tucker
magna cum laude
Kade Jordan Wager
magna cum laude
Sarah Emily Weaver
cum laude
Daniel Hamilton White Jr.
Deshari Desaeri Williams
cum laude
Genesis Judiah Williams
N'Dia Anyajia Williams³
magna cum laude
Zhya Moneá Williams
Javion T. Zachary

Johnson & Wales University

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Danielle Santamaria '13 MBA, CPA, vice president of finance



Diplomas will be awarded upon completion of all university requirements.

The commencement program listing contains the names of students meeting eligibility criteria and submitted for publication as of April 4, 2025. Names that are printed in the commencement program should not be used as an indicator of degree completion. Students must satisfy all graduation requirements before officially graduating and receiving a diploma.

University Honors Scholar status indicates one of the highest academic honors awarded by the university: successful student participation in the JWU Honors Program and completion of an Honors Thesis. Through this four-year program, academically advanced students receive an honors-caliber education that enriches the university curriculum and builds a diverse community of scholars.

To Attendees of this Event:

Johnson & Wales University has hired professional photographers/videographers to capture images of this graduation for use in educational and promotional materials. Attendance at this event constitutes each individual's consent to Johnson & Wales University to have their image and voice recorded and retransmitted for any and all purposes at the university's discretion. If you do not agree with the foregoing, please see a university special events staff member.

For the safety of everyone in attendance and to comply with local fire department regulations, guests are requested to remain in their seats during the program. Ushers are stationed at the foot of each aisle should you need assistance.

For your convenience, the commencement ceremony is being professionally photographed by Grad Images®.

For information on ordering photos, please contact Grad Images® at 800-261-2576 or visit gradimages.com.

The ceremony is also being streamed live at <https://commencement.jwu.edu/charlotte.html>.

Symbols of Commencement

UNIVERSITY SEAL

The university seal represents Johnson & Wales University's roots. The year at the top of the shield, 1914, is the year that the university was founded by Gertrude I. Johnson and Mary T. Wales. The dragon of St. George on the upper portion of the crest honors the Wales family, while the lower portion of the crest bears the cross of St. John and honors the Johnson family.

MACE

The Johnson & Wales University mace symbolizes the ideals and values of JWU's educational philosophy. Cast of silver and bronze, it is engraved with the names of our chancellors, past and present. Our campus locations are engraved on the golden bands. On ceremonial occasions, university officials carry the mace to display the unity and continuity of Johnson & Wales University.

The mace dates to medieval times, when it was first used as a weapon. Forbidden to use swords, medieval European bishops were allowed to enter battle with a mace — typically an iron or steel club designed to split armor. By the 16th century, the mace had become a symbol of authority that colleges and universities began using ceremonially. That tradition continues today, and the mace is carried as part of formal academic occasions at colleges and universities across the globe.

ACADEMIC DRESS

The tradition of wearing distinctive dress for academic reasons dates back to the Middle Ages. Today, academic costumes are usually worn in the United States by people participating in academic ceremonies.

The faculty and platform party wear regalia representative of the degrees they possess.

The academic dress worn by graduates at today's ceremony are 100% certified recycled polyester fabric that can be recycled and made into future gown products, helping to divert from landfills. Each recycled gown saves 29 plastic bottles from landfills, reduces carbon dioxide emissions by 1.5 pounds, and saves half a gallon of gasoline.

HOODS

Originating from the cowls of monastic orders, the hoods are the most distinctive part of the academic regalia. Their shape and size indicate the level of degree attained, and the colors reflect both the academic field as well as the institution that granted the degree.

The degrees most frequently represented in JWU academic processions are as follows:

DEGREE	COLOR
Bachelor of Arts	White
Bachelor/Master of Business Admin.	Drab
Bachelor/Master of Science	Gold
Master/Doctor of Education	Light Blue
Master of Public Administration	Peacock Blue
Master of Public Health	Salmon

CAPS

There is more variety in the shape and color of academic hats than in any other area. Master's and doctoral degree recipients wear the tassel on the left throughout the ceremony, and the doctoral soft-cap often features a gold tassel.

GOLD CORD HONORS

Eligible undergraduate degree candidates receive *cum laude*, *magna cum laude* and *summa cum laude* recognition according to their cumulative academic program average. Graduating students are eligible to receive Latin honors if their GPA is within the following range: *cum laude*, 3.50–3.69; *magna cum laude*, 3.70–3.89; *summa cum laude*, 3.90–4.00.

BLUE AND WHITE CORD

Eligible undergraduate degree candidates who have participated in co-curricular activities and maintain academic integrity as designated by university parameters are distinguished by a blue and white cord.