



2026

UNIVERSITY
OF NEW ENGLAND

WESTBROOK COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BACCALAUREATE GRADUATION CEREMONY



WESTBROOK COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
CLASS OF 2026
BACCALAUREATE GRADUATION CEREMONY

Friday, May 15, 2026
1 p.m.

Cross Insurance Arena | Portland, Maine

ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The University of New England is Maine's largest independent university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit www.une.edu.

WESTBROOK COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The Westbrook College of Health Professions prepares graduates to practice, lead, and excel in today's complex health care environment. The college is composed of undergraduate and graduate programming, with faculty dedicated to relationship-focused, student-centered learning. The college has state-of-the-art educational facilities and has pioneered the model of interprofessional education.

THE POMP BEHIND THE CIRCUMSTANCE

Academic Regalia

THE GOWN

The history of the academic gown goes back to the 12th century. During this period, everyone — both men and women, royalty, lay folk, clerics, tradesmen, students — wore long flowing robes. The apparel varied in elegance according to the rank and wealth of the owner, from simple rough worsteds to rich gold brocades wrought with tassels and trimmed with colorful velvet and rich furs. It was in this period that the first organized bodies of learning were formed. From the gowns worn in the “universities” of the period have evolved the academic costumes of today.

The bachelor’s gown is a simple design falling straight from a rather elaborate yoke with long pointed sleeves. The gown worn by a master has long, closed, somewhat fuller sleeves, which reach nearly to the wearer’s knees. The arms go through slits at the elbow, giving the appearance of short sleeves. The doctoral gown is cut much fuller and has large bell-shaped sleeves. The gowns are usually, but not always, black, and those of bachelors and masters are generally devoid of ornamentation. The doctoral gowns are distinguished by the five-inch velvet panel around the neck and down both sides of the front as well as by three-inch velvet bars sewn on each sleeve. The color of the velvet trim may be black or may indicate the nature of the degree.

THE HOOD

The hood seems to have had a somewhat practical origin. Medieval monks used their hoods for two purposes: to protect their shaved heads in the winter and as a container in which to collect alms.

Today, the hood serves as the most symbolic part of the academic regalia by which the observer can ascertain the wearer’s level and kind of degree. At three feet long, the bachelor’s hood is the smallest. The velvet trim along the edges, indicating the nature of the degree, is two inches wide. The master’s hood is six inches longer and bears a three-inch velvet trim.

The doctoral hood is a full four feet long and exhibits a five-inch velvet trim, indicating the nature of the degree.

The colorful interior of the hood, visible from behind, indicates by hue the degree-granting institution.

The University of New England’s colors are blue and gray.

THE CORDS AND STOLES

The cord in graduation ceremonies is used to signify a special designation or membership in an honor society. The origin of the cord is from the Catholic and Anglican churches, where cords were used to distinguish between the varying levels of clergy members.

Academic Honors

Students graduating with academic honors will be recognized for their academic excellence by cords of different colors draped around their necks: summa cum laude (gold), magna cum laude (blue), cum laude (silver).

Military Service Honors

The University is proud to recognize students serving or who have served in the various military branches of the United States of America. Graduating students currently serving in the U.S. military and veterans will be recognized by red, white, and blue cords.

AWARDS

MAROON AWARD

The Maroon Award for the Portland Campus and the Biddeford Campus recognizes undergraduate students who have served as role models for other students by demonstrating high academic standards, superior leadership qualities, collaborative working relationships, and service to improve the quality of life for others.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The departmental awards honor outstanding academic achievement.

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

PROCESSIONAL

Undergraduate Class of 2026 and Platform Party

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

John E. Vitale, M.H.S., Ph.D., PA(ASCP), *Dean of the Westbrook College of Health Professions, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, and Associate Provost for Interprofessional Education*

Gwendolyn Mahon, M.Sc., Ph.D., *Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of New England*

MAROON AWARD PRESENTATION

Bernice Mills, M.S., *Associate Dean of Student and Clinical Affairs, Westbrook College of Health Professions*

INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUEST

DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD PRESENTATION

Elizabeth Crampsey, Ed.D., *Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Westbrook College of Health Professions*

OUTSTANDING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Applied Exercise Science: Heath Pierce, M.Ed., *Program Director*

Dental Hygiene: Dianne Smallidge, Ed.D., *Program Director*

Health Sciences: Heath Pierce, M.Ed., *Program Director*

Health Sciences — Athletic Training: Wayne Lamarre, M.Ed, *Program Director*

Health, Wellness, and Occupational Studies: Caryn Husman, M.S., *Program Director*

Nursing: Donna Hyde, M.S.N.Ed., *Program Director*

Nutrition: Emily Estell, M.P.H., *Assistant Clinical Professor*

Pharmacy Science: Kerry Martin, Pharm.D., *Assistant Clinical Professor*

Public Health: Bethany Fortier, M.P.H., *Associate Clinical Professor*

Social Work: Valerie Jones, LMSW, *Associate Clinical Professor*

PRESENTATION OF PINS

Departmental Faculty

CLOSING REMARKS

John E. Vitale, M.H.S., Ph.D., PA(ASCP), *Dean of the Westbrook College of Health Professions, Dean of the School of Pharmacy, and Associate Provost for Interprofessional Education*

RECESSIONAL

CANDIDATES FOR PINNING

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Applied Exercise Science

Sean Garret Allen

Gavin James Anderson

Nora Louise Barmashi

Joseph Cameron Bella

Meghan Ruth Cabral

Cheyenne Marie Cahill

Ariana Jade Cioffi

Benjamin Paul Coderre

Jaelyn Taylor Crocker

Aidan P. Curran

Elizabeth Marie Curtis

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Derek Angel Diaz-Pavon

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Jacob Daniel Suprenard

Zade Ethan Tincher

Nathaniel Tsoupas

Haley Irene Vadenais

Makena Sarah Valentine

Braeden Hugh Veno

Alberto Jerry Zepeda Jr.

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Dental Hygiene

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Tyra Beckford

Lindsey Ann Bullard

Madyson Ainsley Campano

Kylie Elizabeth Cardone

Macy Adoral Chapman

Emma Grace Chasse

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Gracie Elizabeth Stahura
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Marissa I. Wilson

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Jenna Maria Hunt
Morgan Diane Ribolini
Julia Marie Weiner

Health Sciences (Athletic Training)

Kayden Nicole Haylock
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Caleb Louis George Roby
Evan Connor Lowell Watts

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE *Health, Wellness, and Occupational Studies*

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Emily Jade Buchter
Elise Marie Connor
Elli Francis Donovan
Allison V. Hegarty
Micaela Ann Jacobs
Kaylee Elizabeth Lucas
Alyssa Marie Moughan
Elizabeth Brooke Musselman
Agnes Norman
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Philomena M. Richard
Rhea Lynne-Nordgren Robbins
Madigan Helen Saunders
Brady James Sawyer
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Mia Rose Silveira
Norah Marie Slattery
Caitlyn Alexandra Smith
Jackson Patrick Stone
Cassandra Elizabeth Summarsell
Paige Elizabeth Talbot

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Michelle Elizabeth Tremblay
Trinity Raven Tripp
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Kestrel Nora Weyant
Cailyn Kato Wheeler
Jacey Lea Wojcik
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Shiba Deyari Haddadi
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PSYCHOLOGY

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Alyssa Marie Moughan
Agnes Norman
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Allison V. Hegarty
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UNIVERSITY OF
NEW ENGLAND

INNOVATION FOR A HEALTHIER PLANET