2021

UNIVERSITY
OF NEW ENGLAND

WESTBROOK COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
GRADUATE GRADUATION CEREMONY
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The University of New England is Maine’s largest private university, featuring two distinctive campuses in Maine, a vibrant campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of innovative offerings online. Our hands-on, experiential approach empowers students to join the next generation of leaders in their chosen fields. We are home to Maine’s only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized degree paths in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts.

UNE. Innovation for a Healthier Planet. 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 hood 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. The bachelor’s hood is the smallest, being three feet long. 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.

Look for the following hood trim colors: navy blue (Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia), gold (Master of Occupational Therapy), yellow (Master of Science Physician Assistant), citron (Master of Social Work), olive green (Doctor of Pharmacy), and teal (Doctor of Physical Therapy).

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 grey.

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.

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.

Interprofessional Honors Distinction
An orange and blue cord is awarded to students who have demonstrated interest and competency in principles of collaborative practice on health care teams.

AWARDS

FACULTY CUP
The Faculty Cup recognizes and honors academic and community involvement and leadership of graduate students.

DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS
The departmental awards honor outstanding academic achievement.
In June 2019, Nirav Shah, M.D., J.D., was appointed as the director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Maine CDC). Dr. Shah comes to Maine CDC with broad experience in public health, most recently as director of the Illinois Department of Public Health, where he implemented key initiatives to address the state’s opioid crisis, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and reduce childhood lead poisoning.

As an attorney and public health economist, Shah previously advised professionals and governments around the nation and globe on improving the delivery of health care. Earlier in his career, he worked for the Ministry of Health in Cambodia, where his work included investigating and managing disease outbreaks as an epidemiologist. He is the current president of the national Association of State and Territorial Health Officers (ASTHO) and a liaison to the United States Centers for Disease Control Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Shah received both medical and law degrees from the University of Chicago. He also studied economics at Oxford University.

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

CEREMONIAL PRELUDE
Photos provided by the WCHP Class of 2021

PROCESSIONAL
Claddagh Mhor Pipe Band

WELCOME
James D. Herbert, Ph.D., President, University of New England

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER
Raica Mirza, Medical Biology ’21

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Dan McCormack, Board Chair

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
James D. Herbert, Ph.D., President, University of New England

HONORARY DEGREE PRESENTATION
Nirav Shah, M.D., J.D., Honorary Doctor of Science

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Nirav Shah, M.D., J.D., Honorary Doctor of Science
Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN
Sally McCormack Tutt, Ed.D., Interim Dean, Westbrook College of Health Professions
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Master of Science
Nurse Anesthesia
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Ashlie M. Ayotte
Sherry D. Bunker
Richard H. Burns
Michelle Calderini
Raymund Claudio
Denise Coleman
Benjamin Crawley
Soleil M. Gibbs
Jessica Gleba
Jenna Hodges
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Jami L. Lankin
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Emanuel Nistrian
Jarred Odor
Megan M. Taylor
Tobin A. Tollett
Courtney Troisi
Patricia Weigle
Lien Woodin

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Occupational Therapy
Avery L. Alberghini
Mausamben Amin
Samantha J. Avgerinos
Rachel A. Bossi
Meghan Bowler
Kathleen M. Broussard
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Braden C. Perry
Kaitlin Pidgeon
Anna J. Preatcher
Haley E. Ruth
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Mara E. Schifferhauer
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Alyssa Smith
Emily K. Spencer
Ashlyn Szabo
Gabriella E. Timuscuk
Caroline E. Tolstad
Matthew S. Toussaint
Emily Viands
Emily Wasina

Master of Science
Physician Assistant
Sarah N. Barbay
Brooke Benedict
Tiora R. Bianco
Cameron M. Blake
Daniel B. Brouillette
Jennifer S. Carraus

ORDER OF CEREMONIES

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARDS

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Cheryl L. Nimmo, D.N.P., Program Director, Nurse Anesthesia
Kristin Winston, Ph.D., Program Director, Occupational Therapy
Diane Visich, Ed.D., Interim Program Director, Physician Assistant
Shelley Cohen Konrad, Ph.D., Program Director, School of Social Work
Robert L. McCarthy, Ph.D., Dean, School of Pharmacy
Jennifer G. Audette, Ph.D., Program Director, Physical Therapy

CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREE
James D. Herbert, Ph.D., President, University of New England

CLOSING REMARKS
Sally McCormack Tutt, Ed.D., Interim Dean, Westbrook College of Health Professions

RECESSIONAL
Congratulatory messages from faculty and professional staff
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