Dear UTRGV Alumni,

On behalf of everyone at the university, congratulations on your graduation! You have truly accomplished something remarkable: You have gotten through the most disruptive year ever in the history of American higher education. Along the way, you learned about resiliency and perseverance — important life lessons that will only help you, as you embark on your professional career.

Chances are, you can probably name a few people who helped shape you into the person you’ve become. Your graduation milestone is also for them.

UTRGV stands alongside your family and friends with a great sense of pride in your achievement. All the hard work and sacrifices you made have paid off. Though the homework and late-night study sessions are over, the friendships you made at UTRGV along the way will always remain with you.

You are now a UTRGV graduate, and you join a family of over 100,000 prideful and successful alumni across the world. Like those who came before you, you have paved the way for students who will follow in your footsteps. As you begin the next chapter of your life, remember that the stature of UTRGV and the success of future students will be significantly enhanced by your success.

The Office of Alumni Relations invites you to stay connected with your alma mater and share your accomplishments. Follow the Office of Alumni Relations on Facebook at UTRGV Alumni and Legacy or email them at alumni@utrgv.edu.

Again, congratulations on your graduation. We wish you continued success, and we remind you that UTRGV will always be your home. You will forever be part of our Vaqueros family. Your friends, family, and everyone at UTRGV salute you — V’s Up!

Sincerely,

Guy Bailey, President
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Dean's Concluding Remarks

Graduate How-to Guide to Watching Your Ceremony
Jennifer Brouwen, Class of 2020

Kelly Scrivner, Ed.D.  ..................................................................................... Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Magdalena Hinojosa, Ed.D.  ...................................................Senior Vice President for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs
Veronica Gonzales, J.D.  ...................................................................... Vice President for Governmental and Community Relations
Chasse Conque, M.B.A.  .............................................................................................................. Vice President and Director of Athletics
Janna Arney, Ph.D.  .......................................................................................................................... Deputy President, and Interim Provost

ORDER OF EXERCISES
Dean's Welcome Remarks
National Anthem
Dean's Remarks Continued
Conferral of Degrees
Presentation of Graduates
UTRGV Traditions
• The Ringing of the Bell
• Move Tassel
• Ring Turnaround

BELLRINGERS
College of Education and P-16 Integration
Cassandra Longoria
College of Engineering and Computer Science
Valeria Palacios
College of Fine Arts
Jasmine-Lea Luna
College of Health Professions
Olga Campos
College of Liberal Arts
Jessica Escamilla
College of Sciences
Natalia De La Garza
Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Kathryn Mandigoza
School of Social Work
Edna Anales Cano

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Academic Deans
Mark C. Andersen, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, Honors College
Steven D. Block, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, College of Fine Arts
Walter Diaz, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, College of Liberal Arts
Parwinder S. Grewal, Ph.D. ................................................................ Dean, Graduate College
Lawrence B. Harkless, D.P.M. ........................................................................... Interim Dean, School of Podiatry
Vivian Incera, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, College of Sciences
John H. Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. ........................................................................ Dean, School of Medicine
Michael Lefkow, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, College of Health Professions
Lance Nall, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship
Ala Qubbaj, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, College of Engineering and Computer Science
Sharon Radzynski, Ph.D., J.D., C.N.S., R.N. ........................................................................ Dean, School of Nursing
Alma D. Rodriguez, Ed.D. ........................................................................ Dean, College of Education and P-16 Integration
Luis Torres-Hostos, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, School of Social Work
Hieu T. Tran, Pharm.D. ........................................................................ Dean, School of Pharmacy

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John M. Zerwas, M.D. ........................................................................ Executive Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
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Amy Shaw Thomas, J.D. ........................................................................ Senior Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs
David L. Lakey, M.D. ........................................................................ Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Chief Medical Officer
Stacey Napier, J.D. ........................................................................ Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations
Randa S. Safady, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Vice Chancellor for External Relations, Communications and Advancement Services
Daniel H. Sharpnack, J.D. ........................................................................ Vice Chancellor and General Counsel

University Congratulations
Presidential Remarks ................................................................. Guy Bailey, Ph.D.
Deputy President and Interim Provost Remarks ................................................. Janna Arney, Ph.D.
UT System Board of Regents Message and Introduction of Keynote Speaker ......................... Nolan Perez, M.D., Regent
Keynote Speaker ................................................................. Patrick O. Ojega, II, UT System Board of Regents, Student Regent and UTRGV School of Medicine Student
Announcing the Candidates
Carlo Tamayo, M.A. ........................................................................ Associate Director of Outreach

The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Executive Leadership
Guy Bailey, Ph.D. ........................................................................ President
Janna Arney, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Deputy President, and Interim Provost
Rick Anderson, M.B.A. ........................................................................ Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration
Chasse Conque, M.B.A. ........................................................................ Vice President and Director of Athletics
Veronica Gonzales, J.D. ........................................................................ Vice President for Governmental and Community Relations
Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D. ................................................................... Executive Vice President for Research, Graduate Studies and New Program Development
Magdalena Hinojosa, Ed.D. ........................................................................ Senior Vice President for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs
John Krouse, M.D., Ph.D., M.B.A. ................................................................... Executive Vice President for Health Affairs and Dean, School of Medicine
Kelly Scrivner, Ed.D. ........................................................................ Executive Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Utrgv Congratulatory V’s Up! ............................................................... Parwinder Grewal, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate College
Mark Anderson, Ph.D., Dean, Honors College
Victoria Lozano, Student Government Association President
Cynthia Pascacerequa, Ph.D., Faculty Senate President
Michelle Alvarado, Women’s Faculty Network Chair
Rebekah Sepulveda, Staff Senate President
Executive Leadership
Esteemed Alumni

The University of Texas System Executive Officers
Luis Torres-Hostos, Ph.D. ........................................................................ Dean, School of Pharmacy
Doctor of Philosophy
Ruben Cabados
Kelvin K. King

M.D. Narmus Selik
James W. Gwurm

Master of Accountancy
Martha A. Flores
Lorena T. Hernandez
Valeria Hernandez
Carlos Guzman
Anh H. Joseph
Rachael McKeel
Kevin Keating
Rosa Klein

Rudolf D. Virgilo
Raul R. Hernandez
Maria P. Martinez
Josue A. Martinez
Victor M. Vil
Josh A. Quinones
Josue A. Sanchi
Evan C. Nieves

Christina M. Barbosa
Jesus Arzate Cejudo
Mariana M. Sena
Carla J. Alphonse
Yuri R. Walker

Jesus T. Barrera
David Barrera

Euan Gill
SCL
Maximilliano A. Johnson

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Master of Business Administration

Ester O. Armendariz
Gloria A. Garza
Sandra Z. Bengeh
Kristian H. Barskisz
Ariel Cento
Marina F. Bandera
Veronica A. Coronado
Lois Cruz
Ansel Di La Garza
Brenda D. Ramirez
Ricardo R. Esquivel

Bachelor of Science

Texas A. Franklin
Ricardo G. Garcia
Dania I. Garza
Alyssa M. Gonzales
Jacqueline M. Gonzalez
Alfhurse A. Gonzalez
Stephanie Halderr
 Cody H. Hughes
Yanel J. Ameztegui

SCL
Maximilliano A. Johnson

Summa Cum Laude (SCL) – 3.9-4.0 grade point average • Magna Cum Laude (MCL) – 3.7-3.89 grade point average • Cum Laude (CL) – 3.5-3.69 grade point average
Doctor of Philosophy

Sulma Parales

Master of Physician Assistant Studies

Dan W. Reagan

Nancy D. Riddick

Bachelor of Science

Chia Vang

Lisa Iyomo

Diana K. Castillo

Ivette M. Kular

Gponeli E. Lada

Melissa E. Garcia

Lalicia P. Bernal

Kathleen M. Bernal

Summa Cum Laude (SCL) – 3.9-4.0 grade point average • Magna Cum Laude (MCL) – 3.7-3.89 grade point average • Cum Laude (CL) – 3.5-3.69 grade point average

Adrian J. Galvez

Cynthia Garza

Jennifer M. Prater

Leise J. Garcia

María H. Garza

Melissa N. Garza

Nicholas R. Garcia

Rodolfo Garza, Jr.

Valeria E. Garza

Zayliyz Garza

Neddy A. Garcia-Jimenez

Sandra M. Garcia-Velasco

Mia Isabel A. Garcia-Longoria

Delmar T. Gómez

Hector B. Gomez

Stephen G. Gomez

Yazmin Garza

MCL

Daisy A. González

Francisco C. González

Michael A. González

Esmeralda González Ortega

Sabinna M. Griesbach

Alyssa N. Guadarrama

Benoito Guadarrama, II

Joseph J. Guzman

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Juan C. Guzmán

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Alicia S. Gutierrez

Samuel Y. Gutierrez

Cory J. Gutierrez

Nayeli M. Herrera

Annarose M. Hinojosa

Nicholas M. Hinojosa

Angelita A. Hinojosa

Jason T. Hinojosa

S уника

Marcus J. Hinojosa

Zariel A. Hinojosa

María Cruz Hinojosa

Tania Hinojosa

Erika Hinojosa

Alyssa N. Hinojosa

Olga Hinojosa

Nathaly Hinojosa

Kathleen M. Hinojosa

Kathleen M. Hinojosa

Weidong Hinojosa

Summa Cum Laude (SCL) – 3.9-4.0 grade point average • Magna Cum Laude (MCL) – 3.7-3.89 grade point average • Cum Laude (CL) – 3.5-3.69 grade point average

Cesar J. Hinojosa

Erika J. Hinojosa

Edna J. Hinojosa

Hilary J. Hinojosa

Julie J. Hinojosa

Cindy J. Hinojosa

Vicente J. Hinojosa

Elisa Hinojosa

Neddy J. Hinojosa

Evelyn J. Hinojosa

Diana J. Hinojosa

Alejandra J. Hinojosa

María J. Hinojosa

Alma J. Hinojosa

Myra J. Hinojosa

Alyssa N. Hinojosa

Julietta J. Hinojosa

Kathleen M. Hinojosa

Weidong Hinojosa

13

Yuri J. Hinojosa

Tania J. Hinojosa

Erika J. Hinojosa

Cathy J. Hinojosa

Natalie J. Hinojosa

Natalia J. Hinojosa

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Julietta J. Hinojosa

Kathleen M. Hinojosa

Weidong Hinojosa

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Tania J. Hinojosa

Erika J. Hinojosa

Cathy J. Hinojosa

Natalie J. Hinojosa

Natalia J. Hinojosa

Evelyn J. Hinojosa

Diana J. J.
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Alessia Di Bella
Abraham Aldrete, Jr.
Alfredo A. Alarcon
Alicia A. Alvarez
Angela A. Arriaga
Ashley A. Arredondo
Audrey A. Arnold
Brandon A. Arredondo
J. Beatrice Arredondo
Christian A. Arredondo
James A. Arredondo
Jessica A. Arredondo
Jovany Gonzalez
Adriana L. Gonzalez
Mia A. Gonzalez
Jessica M. Gonzalez
Angelica A. Gonzalez
Barbara A. Gonzalez
Becky A. Gonzalez
Brittany M. Gonzalez
Carly A. Gonzalez
Cynthia A. Gonzalez
Diana A. Gonzalez
Elizabeth A. Gonzalez
Evelyn A. Gonzalez
Gema A. Gonzalez
Hannah A. Gonzalez
Hector A. Gonzalez
Jocelyn A. Gonzalez
Julie A. Gonzalez
Katherine A. Gonzalez
Katie M. Gonzalez
Liliana A. Gonzalez
Madison A. Gonzalez
Maria M. Gonzalez
Mariana A. Gonzalez
Maurice A. Gonzalez
Melissa A. Gonzalez
Nancy A. Gonzalez
Nathan A. Gonzalez
Nicole A. Gonzalez
Olivia A. Gonzalez
Patricia A. Gonzalez
Rachael A. Gonzalez
Rebecca A. Gonzalez
Renee A. Gonzalez
Rosa A. Gonzalez
Samantha A. Gonzalez
Stephanie A. Gonzalez
Sarah A. Gonzalez
Shelby A. Gonzalez
Sonia A. Gonzalez
Susan A. Gonzalez
Tanya A. Gonzalez
Travis A. Gonzalez
Tyler A. Gonzalez
Zeaida A. Gonzalez

Bachelor of Science Interdisciplinary Studies

Christopher J. Carranza

Master of Science

Maximiano Cruz

Marisa Cepeda
SCL
Tanya T. Arredondo
Carissa L. Atwood
Christina A. Arrambide
Karen D. Atkins
Emelia F. Atwood
Samantha A. Austin
Evelyn A. Austin
Sarah A. Austin
Taylor A. Austin
Jordan A. Austin
Rosalyn A. Austin
Rebecca A. Austin
Billy Austin
Michael Austin
Nathan A. Austin
Nicole Austin
Spencer Austin
Yuri Austin

Amber A. Garcia
Angel G. Garcia
Carissa A. Garcia
David P. Garcia
Eduardo E. Garcia
Evelyn A. Garcia
Estefania A. Garcia
Gayle A. Garcia
Kassandra A. Garcia
Liseana A. Garcia
Margaret A. Garcia
Nancy A. Garcia
Pamela A. Garcia
Samantha A. Garcia
Sarah A. Garcia
Taylor A. Garcia
Tracy A. Garcia
Yuri Garcia

Angelica A. de la Garza
Morgan A. de la Garza
Nicole A. de la Garza
Stephanie A. de la Garza
Teresa A. de la Garza
Travis A. de la Garza
Yuri de la Garza

Angelica E. del Razo
Kathryn A. del Razo

Angelica M. Mendoza
Angelina M. Mendoza
Bianca M. Mendoza
Kourtney A. Mendoza

Alondra V. De Hoyos
Vanessa A. De Hoyos

Allyson A. de la Peña
Jenesse A. de la Peña

Andres A. de la Peña

Antonio E. de la Peña

Barbara A. de la Peña

Becky A. de la Peña

Bianca A. de la Peña

Brandon A. de la Peña

Brittany A. de la Peña

Caly M. de la Peña

Carissa A. de la Peña

Cynthia A. de la Peña

Diana A. de la Peña

Evelyn A. de la Peña

Gina A. de la Peña

Haylie A. de la Peña

Jessie A. de la Peña

Jovanny A. de la Peña

Kelly A. de la Peña

Katherine A. de la Peña

Lily A. de la Peña

Noelle A. de la Peña

Olivia A. de la Peña

Rachel A. de la Peña

Renee A. de la Peña

Riley A. de la Peña

Roxi A. de la Peña

Sarah A. de la Peña

Taylor A. de la Peña

Tristan A. de la Peña

Uriah A. de la Peña

Yuri A. de la Peña

Yuri A. de la Peña

Zoe A. de la Peña

Zoey A. de la Peña

Angelica A. Espinosa
Angelina A. Espinosa
Angelina M. Espinosa
Angelina N. Espinosa
Angelina P. Espinosa
Angelica A. Espinosa
Angelica M. Espinosa
Angelica N. Espinosa
Angelina A. Espinosa
Angelina M. Espinosa
Angelina N. Espinosa
Angelina P. Espinosa
Angelica A. Espinosa
Angelica M. Espinosa
Angelica N. Espinosa
Angelina A. Espinosa
Angelina M. Espinosa
Angelina N. Espinosa
Angelina P. Espinosa

Angelina E. Guerra
Katherine A. Guerra
Lily A. Guerra

Angelina M. Guerra
Katherine M. Guerra
Lily M. Guerra

Angelina N. Guerra
Katherine N. Guerra
Lily N. Guerra

Angelina P. Guerra
Katherine P. Guerra
Lily P. Guerra

Anna A. Guerra

Anneliese A. Guerra

Angela A. Guerra

Angelica A. Guerra

Angelina A. Guerra

Angelina M. Guerra

Angelina N. Guerra

Angelina P. Guerra

Angelina E. Guerra

Angelina M. Guerra

Angelina N. Guerra

Angelina P. Guerra

Anna A. Guerra
Bachelor of Science continued

Sandra A. Salazar  SCL
Janette I. Saldana
Jessica Salinas  CL
Vanessa Salinas  MCL
Oforiwaa Sam
Emma A. Sanchez
Houston R. Sanchez
Jacob X. Sanchez
Kage C. Sanchez
Luisdaniel Sanchez
Mariah E. Sanchez  CL
Michael R. Sanchez
Priscilla Sanchez  CL
Cesar A. Sanchez Celaya
Jacquelin S. Sanchez Sienes
Abeline Sandoval
Devi G. Santamaria
Odaliz Sauceda
Alison J. Schofield  SCL
Summer Segovia
Nicholas L. Segura
Cezar L. Serrano  MCL
Estefania A. Sierra  SCL
Gabrielle Silva
Brenda S. Valdez  MCL
Robert E. Sois  MCL
Julia L. Sina
Matthew A. Soto, Sr.
Brandon A. Tapia
Brenda T. Tamez
Esteban S. Torres
Jesse S. Torres
Vanessa H. Torres
Viviana T. Trejo  CL
Ariana Y. Trevino  CL
Cassandra H. Trevino  CL
Kimberly Trejo  CL
Alexa Trejo Villalpando
Ana Karen J. Urbano  MCL
Gerardo Vaca, Jr.
Monique L. Villanueva
Selina H. Villanueva  MCL
Nikki H. Villarreal
Sydney V. Villareal
Jordyn J. Villareal
Kristy Villarreal
Sondra Villarreal, Jr.
Jasmine E. Wright  CL
Mary H. Zarate
Jesus R. Zavala
Dalia Zuniga  CL

Master of Science in Nursing

Andres Alvarado
Amanda Angel
Rage H. Bravo
Selenia Del La Rosa
Ayan Fili

Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Erna Arce  MCL
Marisa S. Ayala
Gabrielle A. Ayala
Monique L. Ayala
Selina H. Ayala
Nikki H. Ayala
Sydney V. Ayala
Jordyn J. Ayala
Kamira White
Katherine E. Wright  CL
Kusy H. Zarzosa
Jesus R. Zavala
Dalia Zuniga  CL

FALL COMMENCEMENT

Summa Cum Laude (SCL) – 3.9-4.0 grade point average • Magna Cum Laude (MCL) – 3.7-3.89 grade point average • Cum Laude (CL) – 3.5-3.69 grade point average
Master of Science in Social Work

Kaylee D. Archey
Jessica Arellano
Jamie E. Banks
Madison S. Bell
Esmeralda C. Belmares
Yoenia S. Bestard
Jennifer Blundell
Daniela Botello
Lori Bright
Jessica M. Camarillo
Rebecca J. Cantu
Vicky Castellano
Sharonda T. Copeland
Shananda D. Crockett
Sancho M. Davila
Jasmin E. De La Fuente
Daqueshia A. Duckworth

Bachelor of Social Work

Cynthia M. Dupax
Jennifer M. Elizabet
Viviana Dary
Crystal A. Garcia
Cynthia Garcia
Alyssa M. Garcia
Claudia Gmez
Priscila Gomez
Sara Guillen
Evelyn Hernandez
Jessa Hernandez
Alyssa Hernandez
Elizabeth M. Juez
Emily P. Lamaki
Yemeko Lugt
Karla Matias
Riba M. Manzo

Rafael Martinez
Rocio P. Mata
Melisa Martinez-Garcia
Bebakab Mendez
Martha L. Mercado
Jennifer M. Minusk
Kassandra Molina
Juan J. Montesino
Diana E. Mota
Eric Moore
Sonia Najera
Sara Najera
Alexandra Ouna
Molly Perri
Hugo A. Pizcet
Maranda Pizcet
Virginia O. Pina

Juan C.Quijano
Gabriela A. Ramirez
Janeth Ramirez
Sara H. Ramirez
Victoria Ramirez
Linda A. Reyes
Marta K. Reyna
Christy Rivera
Rosario Rodriguez
Nancy Rosso
Liliseth Ruiz
Alicia Ruz
Evelisa Ruz
Carla M. Salazar
Manuela Sanchez
Natalia Silva
Beatriz A. Torres
Vicky N. Torres

Amber L. Trevino
Joanna Trevino
Evolin R. Valdez
Rhianda L. Valdez
Leslie C. Vasquez
Victoria Villanueva
Aneila H. Wilkes
Lora E. Wood
Rodrilla Wright
Angelia V. Zarate
Veronica Zarate
Anna Zarate
San Juana De La Cruz
San J. Davila
Kenza Perez
Melissa Salazar
Jeremy San Miguel

Marisol Acuna
Genesis D. Alvarado
Laura D. Balz
Andres Banda
Alberto B. Bianchi
Edna A. Carlo
Jessica Carlo
Allysa P. Castellanos
Kamila A. Conradi
Maria M. Cuelar

Alexandra Concar
Ashley Garcia
Mario Garcia
Eva P. Garcia
Evelin Garcia
Rebecca Garcia
Cinthia Garcia
Stephanie H. Gonzalez
Angelson R. Hernandez
Jacquelyn Herrera

Angelica Lopez
Jamel Lopez
Julia A. Lopez
Lorena Lopez
Thais Lopez
Sahel Lucero
Elias Lumbreras
Ilia Matias
Marine
Nina Medina
Destiny L. Monroe

Jessica M. Moreno
Beatriz P. Narvaez
Krisha L. Oliver
Jonathan J. Pena
Beatriz H. Reyes
Ramon Robledo
Angelica M. Rodriguez
Malinda Rodriguez
Claudia Sanchez
Janet Silva

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Summa Cum Laude (SCL) – 3.9-4.0 grade point average • Magna Cum Laude (MCL) – 3.7-3.89 grade point average • Cum Laude (CL) – 3.5-3.69 grade point average
Costumes and Customs of Commencement

The colorful costumes and traditional customs of college commencements trace their beginnings back to the origins of the contemporary university in medieval Europe. Modern American colleges and universities carry on many traditions that began at Oxford and Cambridge to demonstrate the continuity of learning over the centuries and to emphasize the importance of the academic degree attached to commencement exercises. Academic gowns, hoods, and other items were originally worn by students, faculty, and other university officials at commencement. The origins of academic dress date back to the 12th and 13th centuries, when universities were taking form. The ordinary dress of the scholar, whether student or teacher, was the dress of a cleric. Though the custom of wearing academic dress was brought to America in colonial times, it was not until 1815 that a standardized code of academic dress was established and followed by most colleges and universities. The gown, hood, cap, and additional ornaments are the main categories of academic regalia and are distinctive for each degree.

GOWNS

The gown is the most basic of academic regalia. The Costume Code calls for three types of gowns: doctoral, master's, and bachelor's. Most doctoral and bachelor's gowns are black, but some universities have their own distinctive colors. The bachelor's gown is the simplest of the three, a plain gown with long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown is distinctive for its extremely long, closed sleeves (originally used as a place to carry small books or other materials), the arms protruding through a slit at the elbow. The doctoral gown is the most elaborate, with front-facing velvet and three velvet bars on each of the full, billowing sleeves. The velvet can be black, Ph.D. blue, or the academic color to which the degree corresponds.

HOODS

The hood is derived from the cowls worn by clerics in the Middle Ages for warmth. Today, they are worn symbolically, hanging down the back. Master's hoods are 3 1/2 feet in length and have a velvet trim along the edge. Doctoral hoods are 4 feet in length and have a wider velvet trim. The satin linings of the hood, upon which a doctorate is conferred, reflect the colors of the degree-granting institution. The color of the velvet trim signifies the academic discipline of the wearer's degree. As codified by the American Council on Education, some of the official colors associated with the various degrees and disciplines are:

- White: Arts and Letters
- Drab: Business/Accounting
- Light Blue: Education
- Orange: Engineering
- Purple: Law
- Lemon: Library Science
- Green: Medicine
- Pink: Music
- Brown: Fine Arts
- Apricot: Nursing
- Olive Green: Pharmacy
- Dark Blue: Philosophy
- Sage Green: Physical Education
- Salmond Pink: Public Health
- Golden Yellow: Science
- Citron: Social Work
- Peacock Blue: Public Administration

In the case of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree, the black color represents the mastery of learning and scholarship in any field, not just the field of philosophy.

ADDITIONAL ORNAMENTS

Some participants in the commencement ceremony will wear additional ornaments such as colored cords, medallions, stoles, or sashes. These ornaments signify the wearer's membership in an honor society or special group.

CEREMONIAL MACE

In medieval times, the mace was a symbol of authority and carried before or set near a high official when ceremonies or sessions were being conducted. Today, the mace symbolizes the university's governing authority and signifies the proceedings are officially sanctioned. Traditionally, the chair of the Faculty Senate acting as the Grand Marshal carries the mace to lead the academic procession at commencement and other special ceremonies.

The UTRGV mace is 47” in length, made of polished stainless steel. The mace is intricately imbued with historical, cultural, and architectural meaning.

The handles of the mace are made of mosquite wood locally sourced in the Rio Grande Valley and engraved with a decorative pattern of the state’s official turtle, the Ridley, and wind turbines.

The helix, between the handles, represents the coming together of the legacy institutions. The helix is made of patinated metal, the official plant of Texas.

The base is crafted from mosquite and inlaid with blue selenite, thought to be associated with mental clarity, truth and honesty, and to represent the Rio Grande River.

The tope of the mace is made of El Sauz chert excavated and donated by Dr. Juan L. Gonzalez.

CHAIN OF OFFICE AND PRESIDENTIAL MEDALLION

The presidential medallion is the official insignia of the university president and is worn at commencement and other ceremonial occasions. The display of a heavy “chain of office” comes from medieval regalia and represents the weight of responsibility for the wearer.

The UTRGV medallion and chain were designed in 2015 and executed by the jewelry students, jewelry faculty, and craftsmen Lino Guiza in the UTRGV College of Fine Arts. The medallion is made up of two parts: the seal of The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley surrounded by an abstract sunburst created with a brick and mortar design. The cactus flowers on the outer edges of the seal are placed at the four cardinal points with the largest flower pointing south. The counter weight to the medallion is a representation of the native sabal palm. The Chain of Office is a circle of art deco-inspired links representing the past, while revealing an infrastructure of bridges, aqueducts, and gears that speak to the importance of our solid foundation, water, and movement into the future. The chain features many aspects of the Rio Grande Valley that aid our growth and commitment to higher education:

- Arches
- Water Turbine
- Neuron Tree Circuit Board
- Abacus
- Bone
- Binary Code Leaves/Quills
- Butterfly
- Tortoise
- Finger Print
- Road Junction
- Satellite

MEMORY STOLE

When students graduate from UTRGV they know they did not make the journey alone. The Memory Stole, a symbol of appreciation, is worn by graduates during the commencement ceremony. Following the ceremony they are encouraged to present the stole to a special family member, professor, or friend as a symbol of gratitude and appreciation for their support, inspiration, or mentorship.

CAPS

Headwear is an important component of the cap and gown, and the academic costume is not complete without it. The standard commencement headwear is the Oxford cap, a skullcap topped by a square cloth-covered board - the reason for its “mortarboard” nickname. Some doctoral faculty members wear a softer Cambridge version of the cap that is a velvet tam with four, six, or eight corners. Usually, the color of the cap matches the color of the gown. Caps are worn throughout academic processions and during the ceremony of conferring degrees.

TASSEL

The tassel is attached to a button on the top of the cap and hangs down to the right for bachelor’s candidates until their degree is conferred. Many universities ceremonially have graduates move their tassel from the right to the left. Both master’s and doctoral candidates’ tassels often begin and remain on the left.

BELL

Our stately bronze bell, circa 1850 is rung during commencement to symbolize a rite of passage and proclaims that a worthy and well-qualified individual has passed from one station in their life to a loftier one. Our bell is also the icon for the Bell Scholarship Endowment. Two outstanding students are selected to ring the bell at each commencement.
The college gonfalon—or banner—with roots in the Middle Ages, was a symbol of units or family groups.

At UTRGV, each college has a custom-designed banner signifying its academic unit. Each flag is rich in unique symbolism while also showing unity through size, shape, and color. The swoop at the bottom of each gonfalon represents the border of Texas, and the field of blue with gold stars of Texas represents the distributed nature of UTRGV—from Rio Grande City to South Padre Island.
FREE TUITION FOR QUALIFYING STUDENTS
The all new UTRGV Tuition Advantage program fully covers the cost of tuition and mandatory fees for qualifying students with a family adjusted gross income of $95,000 or less.

Learn more about how to qualify for FREE tuition at: UTRGV.edu/TuitionAdvantage
Alma Mater

Gather as one in voice ascending raising the song and anthem to thee.
Orange and grey, your reign’s unending;
Hail to the mighty UTRGV!

Chorus:
Strength and devotion, we shall sustain.
True to your colors we shall remain.
Ever our song shall be raised on high.
UT Vaqueros til’ we die!

Joyful our days in halls eternal knowledge and skill forever endured.
Let it be said “your love’s maternal”.
Nurturing wisdom which all are ensured.
(Repeat Chorus)