

COMMENCEMENT

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY





Dear Graduates,

My heartiest congratulations on your graduation from Nova Southeastern University.

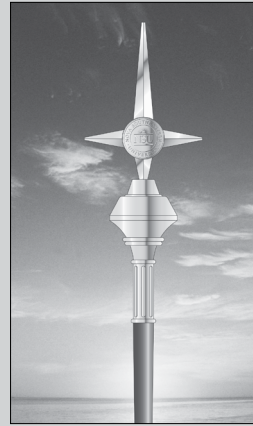
You can feel proud, as we do, that you walk this stage to receive your degree from a world-class university recognized with three Carnegie designations. NSU is an R1 research institution, a Community Engaged Institution, and an Opportunity College and University. These distinctions reflect our commitment to innovation, academic excellence, access, and meaningful impact.

Personally, I believe the pursuit and successful achievement of higher education is one of life's most transformative journeys.

Today, you stand at an important moment of transition, ready to step forward into your next chapter and toward new horizons. We celebrate you, your family, and all that you have accomplished, and we look forward to following all that you will achieve.

You are what excellence looks like.

Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nova Southeastern University



THE NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY MACE

HISTORY OF THE MACE

During the Middle Ages, the mace was an effective weapon in battle and also was displayed as a symbol to command order during royal gatherings, religious ceremonies, and university classes. As newer and more powerful military arms were created, however, the mace progressed into a symbol of authority and, today, is frequently used to lead religious and academic processions.

The mace was originally a wooden staff carried by royal messengers as a symbol to preserve order and usher royal functions. The early wooden staff of such royal messengers or lead ushers of ceremonial processions was transformed in the 14th century into an elaborate sterling silver mace. Eventually, in the 15th century, it evolved into a symbol of academic excellence and dignity.

NSU'S MACE

Before its merger in 1994 with Southeastern University of the Health Sciences, Nova University's mace bore a sterling silver "nova star" symbolizing the university's name and mission. Symbolically, Nova University's "nova star" burned brightly, providing educational enlightenment to the world. Today, a new sterling silver mace highlights the past, present, and future through the inclusion of the original "nova star" representing the university's past, surrounding the NSU seal. When not in official use, the mace is displayed in the rotunda of the William and Norma Horvitz Administration Building.

In Latin, "nova" means new or innovative. Nova Southeastern University was created to be an innovative educational institution—to take the best of traditional education from the past and mold it to fit the needs of students for today and tomorrow.

NSU'S VISION

To be recognized as a leading professional-dominant, doctoral research university providing competitive career advantages to its students and fostering alumni and partnership connections.

NSU'S MISSION

The mission of Nova Southeastern University—a selective, doctoral research university—is to deliver academic programs in a dynamic, innovative environment. We foster academic excellence, leadership, integrity, and scientific, economic, and community contributions through engaging and empowering our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and partners.

CORE VALUES

Student-Centered
Academic Excellence
Scholarship and Research
Innovation
Opportunity
Community
Diversity
Integrity

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Mike Jackson
Nell McMillan Lewis, Ed.D.
George I. Platt, Esq.

* in memoriam

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*Executive Vice President, Provost,
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*Chief Innovation Officer and Executive
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Center of Innovation*

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*Vice President for Legal Affairs and
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*Vice President for
Human Resources*

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

Graduate Degrees

May 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Shepard Broad College of Law5

ORDER OF EXERCISES

May 5, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Graduate Degrees from the Shepard Broad College of Law

THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Grand Marshal
Degree Candidates
Members of the Faculty
Members of the Board of Trustees
Distinguished Guests
University Officials

Processional:

Entry of the Guests, from *Tannhäuser*, by Richard Wagner
Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 by Edward Elgar

Presiding Officer	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd, <i>President and Chief Executive Officer</i>
Presentation of the Colors	Nova Southeastern University ARMY ROTC
<i>The Star-Spangled Banner</i>	Bill J. Adams, D.M.A., <i>Vocalist, Professor,</i> <i>Halmos College of Arts and Sciences and the</i> <i>Guy Harvey Oceanographic Research Center</i>
Convening the Commencement	
Grand Marshal	Catherine Arcabascio, J.D., <i>Professor,</i> <i>Shepard Broad College of Law</i>
Welcome and Introductions	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D., <i>Executive Vice President,</i> <i>Provost, Chief Academic Officer, and</i> <i>Interim Senior Vice President for Research</i>
Shepard Broad College of Law	Olympia Ross Duhart, J.D., <i>Dean</i>
Opening Remarks	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Conferral of Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters Degree	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Commencement Address	Daniel Coyle, <i>New York Times-Bestselling Author</i> <i>and Expert on High Performance and Culture</i>
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D.
Conferral of Degrees	Harry K. Moon, M.D., FACS, FRCSEd
Closing Remarks	Ronald J. Chenail, Ph.D.
Dismissal of the Commencement	Grand Marshal Catherine Arcabascio, J.D.

Recessional:

Triumphal March, from *Aida*, by Giuseppe Verdi

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

O! say can you see by the dawn's early light,
 What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming,
 Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,
 O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming?
 And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
 Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there;
 O! say does that star-spangled banner yet wave,
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY ANTHEM

Hail Thee, Nova Southeastern!
 Bright sun shining new;
 Radiant star of our morning,
 Ever rising, true;

May thy wisdom serve as our constant guide
 and thy love a beacon strong,
 as throughout the world we praise thy name
 joining voice in grateful song:

Nova Southeastern, Alma Mater,
 By thy light imbue,
 Service, honor, loyalty,
 'til our days are through.

Love Thee, Gray and Blue!

CANDIDATES

**SHEPARD BROAD
 COLLEGE OF LAW**

JURIS DOCTOR

Alayna M. Abu-Shawareb*
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 Safah S. Ali***
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 Leonoria N. Beasley
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 Rachel E. Bentel
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 Grace Emerson Forbes Smith
 Hailey Rose Fraidin
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 Hassan Hamade*

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 Jennie Leon
 Carter Levine
 Mireia Llado Colldeerram
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 Monea Luster
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 Nailah Jendayi Morris
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 James V. Neebling
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 Lilian Pakzad
 Vinicius Paranhos-Drumond**
 Alexandru Parus*
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 Brandon M. Pekale
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 Julissa Marie Perez*
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 Alex Fabian Quintero*
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Wavey G. Santana
Angelina Santoro
Skyler Schwartzreich*
Kyle C. Secue*
Santiago Severo
Cristian Shaver Dominguez
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Tooba Siddiqui
Mya Simms*
Menachem M. Smetana*
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Gabriel Giancarlo Tozo
Ayeah A. Trish**
Logan M. Uricola
Carolina Angelica Valdes
Alejandro Vasconez
Isabela Vasquez
Lyubov Vayner
Laura Velez*
Fo M. Vo
Michael A. Werner
Ashleigh P. Wilson*
Molly Lindsay Wolman***
Rebekah K. Wriston
Sharon Yuz**
Lilia Zribi

Maya Faraj

Law and Policy

Carl Paul Barvensky
Dominique Bolden
Karl K. Emmel
Fabiola Illus
Kayla K. Kidd***
Jessica Crowel Stokes***
Ashley Desevee Walker
Michelle Weal
Latisha S. Williams

*Cum Laude

**Magna Cum Laude

***Summa Cum Laude

†† Member of the Pan Student

Government Association (Pan SGA)

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Education Law

Sacha Thomas Challenger
Amanda Michelle Hall
Avery Grace Ingle***
Nery Ivette Jaime Gonzalez
Taylor Marie O'Brien**
Aiyanna Pontes
Suleira M. Quinones Fontanez
Nathalee Reyes
Melady Roque
Maritza Nicole Silveira
Rhonda M. Townsend-Abraham
Employment Law
LaTonia DeTrina Butts
Nadia F. Hurst
Wanda Denise Williams**
Health Law
Afsheen Alkhairy
Francesca Desvarieux

DISTINGUISHED HONOREES

Commencement Speakers

GRADUATE

MAY 5, 2026,
AFTERNOON CEREMONY

DANIEL COYLE is a leading voice on human potential whose work reveals how individuals and teams learn, grow, and flourish. A New York Times–bestselling author, he translates complex science into practical insights that shape leadership, culture, and performance across industries. For those entering healthcare or law, his work emphasizes that flourishing is not a luxury but a foundation for sound judgment, effective decision-making, and sustained success.

Coyle’s influential books include “The Culture Code”; “The Talent Code”; “The Little Book of Talent”; “The Culture Playbook,” and, most recently, “Flourish: The Art of Building Meaning, Joy, and Fulfillment.” His books have been recognized by outlets such as Bloomberg and Business Insider and have been translated into numerous languages. Through his writing, he distills neuroscience, psychology, and case studies into clear, actionable principles that help individuals and organizations build stronger, more effective habits.

Drawing on research across a wide range of demanding environments—from elite athletes to complex situations that challenge military units, crisis response teams, and corporate executives—Coyle has identified the consistent role of connection, trust, and disciplined practice in driving success. His work highlights how everyday behaviors, such as deep listening, psychological safety, and accountability, can transform both professional performance and personal well-being.

Beyond the page, Coyle serves as an adviser to such organizations as Microsoft and Google, as well as leading schools, firms, and healthcare systems. His behind-the-scenes view of what helps groups perform under pressure also helps leaders build cultures where teams can thrive and people can flourish.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Ceremonial garments worn at academic functions take their meaning from the original centers of learning of the western world in the church of the Middle Ages. Caps, hoods, and gowns of the early students and monks have been held through the centuries to be traditionally symbolic of the scholarly devotion so basic to education and to the deliberate and orderly evolution of knowledge.

The introduction of classical studies, the gradual rise of the great universities across Europe, and the ever-increasing awareness of the decisive role of education in the entire development of civilization influenced leaders among academicians in their desire for a singular identity. In the attempt to create this differentiation, educators fell upon the medieval system of classic heraldry, whereby the coat of arms, assorted ornamental trappings, and patterns of colorful design had been adopted to denote the distinctive character of designated chivalric orders. The function of a pedagogical heraldry became, then, simply identification. As such, measures were taken to signify through distinctive markings on the academicians' attire the institution that had granted the degree, the field of learning in which the degree had been earned, and the level of the degree, for example, bachelor's, master's, or doctorate.

Of the three pieces of academic attire—the cap, the gown, and the hood—it is the hood that offers the most abundant and most readily discernible information about its owner. The inner lining of the hood identifies the institution at which the individual earned the degree. Some schools have adopted two-color patterns and introduced chevrons and bars in various designs to set themselves apart from other institutions. The velvet trim bordering the hood indicates the major field of learning in which the degree has been earned. The list at the conclusion of this section will explain this relationship. A final feature of the hood concerns its length and width and distinguishes further between holders of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees. The length of the hood for the bachelor's degree is three feet, closed at the bottom, and with a velvet border of two inches. At Nova Southeastern University, however, individuals receiving a bachelor's degree do not wear a hood. A master's degree holder has a hood three and one-half feet in length with a three-inch wide border, and the hood is slit at the bottom. Those individuals with a doctoral degree wear a hood four feet in length, open at the bottom, with a five-inch border.

The cut of the gown aids in differentiating between the three levels of degrees. The bachelor's gown is relatively simple and falls in straight lines from an elaborate yoke. It may be

recognized most readily by the long, pointed sleeves. The master's gown is somewhat fuller and bears no adornment. The sleeves are oblong in shape and open at the wrist, with the rear part of the oblong square cut while the front edge has a cutaway arc. The doctor's gown is more elaborate, with velvet panels down the front and around the neck of the garment. The sleeves are bell-shaped at the end and have three bars of the same material as the front panels at the upper portion of the arm. The gown is cut rather fully and may be ornamental in color.

The mortarboard or Oxford-type cap has been adopted throughout most universities in the United States, although tams have become increasingly fashionable to denote holders of the doctoral degree. Colored tassels are usually worn by holders of the bachelor's and master's degrees. These denote the field of learning.

The color, indeed, the flamboyance, of academic dress undoubtedly adds to the sense of occasion at academic ceremonies. But as its historical roots show, it has a much deeper significance. It is an outward sign of the universality of universities, and of their responsibility for certain timeless values

essential to the freedom of inquiry: tolerance of alternative views and courage in maintaining one's own tirelessness in the pursuit of truth and the free exchange of knowledge. Its wearing marks also the responsibility of the new graduate to maintain and uphold these ideals. These fundamentals of academic freedom have not been threatened in this country for more than 200 years, but the importance attached to the donning of traditional academic dress was underlined in recent years by scholars from Central and Eastern Europe; during the Cold War, their use of academic robes became a symbol of their refusal to be dominated completely by political forces and the state, and symbolized their persistent links to the worldwide community of scholars. Thus, the wearing of academic dress should be seen not simply as a sign of achievement, but as a symbol of the responsibility that falls on all members of universities.

HONORS

Students wear cords, pins, sashes, and medallions that reflect institutional and national academic honors as well as campus leadership, service, and engagement.

COLOR OF HOODS

The colors found on the hoods worn in the academic procession represent the candidate's discipline of study.

Arts, Letters, Humanities.....	White
Accounting, Business.....	Drab
Biomedical Science.....	Gold
Clinical Vision Research.....	Aqua
Dentistry.....	Lilac
Developmental Disabilities.....	Citron
Education.....	Light Blue
Law.....	Purple
Medicine.....	Kelly Green
Music.....	Pink
Nursing.....	Apricot
Occupational Therapy.....	Rhodes Blue
Optometry.....	Mint Green
Oratory (Speech).....	Silver Gray
Pharmacy.....	Olive Green
Philosophy, Political Science.....	Dark Blue
Public Administration, Human Services, Physical Therapy, and Criminal Justice.....	Peacock
Public Health.....	Salmon
Science.....	Bright Yellow
Sports Science.....	Sage Green

NOVA SOUTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY | **NSU**
Florida