

**2026**

Spring  
**Convocation**



**DALHOUSIE**  
UNIVERSITY





## New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging

Dalhousie's New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging is carried into the convocation ceremony by the University Beadle at the head of the graduate procession and placed onstage to signal the start of the celebration, then carried back out to mark the end. Through its mix of symbols, materials and textures, the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging reflects the rich diversity of individuals who make up the Dalhousie community today and their collective history in this place that we share together.

The New Dawn Staff was designed and created by artists Alan Syliboy of Millbrook First Nation and Mark Austin of Colchester County, with guidance from the university and in collaboration with a team of artists and craftspeople from diverse communities across Nova Scotia.

To learn more, visit [dal.ca/newdawnstaff](https://dal.ca/newdawnstaff)

# Dalhousie University

## Spring 2026 Convocation

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### ***Order of Proceedings***

Academic and Graduate Processions

Welcome

Conferring of Degrees

Conferring of Honorary Degrees

*(May 29<sup>th</sup> 10:00am; June 1<sup>st</sup> 4:00pm; June 2<sup>nd</sup> 9:00am;*

*June 8<sup>th</sup> 9:00am; and June 9<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm)*

Closing Remarks

Recessional

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Dalhousie Leadership                | 4  |
| Messages to Graduates               | 5  |
| Honorary Degree Recipients          | 6  |
| Congratulations                     | 9  |
| Convocation and Ceremonial Elements | 10 |
| Professional Oath                   | 12 |

*Dalhousie University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq. We are all Treaty people.*

# Dalhousie Leadership

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## President

*President and Vice-Chancellor*  
Dr. Kim Brooks

## Chancellor

Dr. Rustum Southwell

## Vice-Presidents

*Provost and Vice-President Academic*  
Dr. Wanda Costen

*Vice-President, Research and Innovation*  
Dr. Graham Gagnon

*Vice-President, Finance and Administration*  
Cathie O'Toole

*Vice-President, Strategic Engagement*  
Matt Hebb

*Vice-President, People and Culture*  
Grace Jeffries

## Vice-Provosts, Associate, and Assistant Vice-Presidents

*Associate Vice-President, Academic*  
Dr. Leslie Phillimore

*University Registrar and Assistant Vice-President, Enrolment Management*  
Jeff Myers

*Assistant Vice-President, Development*  
Jen Laurette

*Assistant Vice-Provost, Equity and Inclusion*  
Dr. Barb Hamilton-Hinch

*Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Vice-President, Financial Services*  
Cheryl Earle

*Assistant Vice-President, Facilities Management*  
Craig Arthur

*Chief Information Officer and Assistant Vice-President of Information Technology*  
Jody Couch

*Assistant Vice-President, Athletics and Ancillary Services*  
Tim Maloney

*Assistant Vice-President, Housing and Campus Connections*  
Linda Parker

*Chief Assurance and Risk Officer and Assistant Vice-President University Risk Management*  
Donna Birmingham

*Vice-Provost, Indigenous Relations*  
John R. Sylliboy

*General Counsel and University Secretary*  
John Hope

*Assistant Vice-President Planning and Institutional Effectiveness and Chief Data and Analytics Officer*  
Sonia Beattie

*Associate Vice-President, Planning and Strategy*  
Leanne French-Munn

*Associate Vice-President, Research*  
Dr. Jennifer Bain

*Assistant Vice-President, Research Services*  
Dr. Marlies Rise

*Assistant Vice-President, Innovation and Entrepreneurship*  
Jeff Larsen

*Associate Vice-President, Global*  
Dr. Balakrishnan Prithiviraj

*Assistant Vice-President, Nova Scotia Engagement*  
Sheila Blair-Reid

*Assistant Vice-President, Government Relations*  
Laura Hynes Jenkins

*Vice-Provost, Student Affairs*  
Dr. Rick Ezekiel

*Assistant Vice-Provost, Student Engagement and Success*  
Quenta Adams

*Assistant Vice-Provost, Campus Living and Student Wellbeing*  
Melissa MacKay

## Deans

*Dean and Campus Principal, Faculty of Agriculture*  
Dr. Heather Bruce

*Faculty of Architecture and Planning (Acting)*  
Dr. Eric Rapaport

*Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences*  
Dr. Jennifer Andrews

*Faculty of Computer Science*  
Dr. Nur Zincir-Heywood

*Faculty of Dentistry*  
Dr. Benjamin Davis

*Faculty of Engineering*  
Dr. John Newhook

*Faculty of Graduate Studies*  
Dr. Christian Blouin

*Faculty of Health*  
Dr. Brenda Merritt

*Schulich School of Law*  
Sarah Harding

*Libraries (Acting)*  
Elaine MacInnis

*Faculty of Management*  
Dr. Mike Smit

*Faculty of Medicine*  
Dr. David Anderson

*Faculty of Science*  
Dr. Charles (Chuck) Macdonald

*Faculty of Open Learning and Career Development (Acting)*  
Jennifer Hann

## Board of Governors

*Chair, Board of Governors*  
Cheryl Fraser

*Vice-Chair, Board of Governors*  
Kristan Hines

*Members*  
Dr. Rustum Southwell (ex-officio)  
Dr. Kim Brooks (ex-officio)  
Dr. Sachin Seth (ex-officio)  
Paul Beesley  
Randolph deGooyer  
Jo Galarneau  
Justin Ghosn  
Dr. Ahsan Habib  
Joyce Hoeven

Wendy Davis Johnson  
Shona Kinley  
Louis Lawen  
Steven Mata  
Jay MacIsaac  
Merle MacIsaac  
Owen Sagness  
Anjali Seshadri  
Dr. Angela Siegel  
Jason Strandberg  
Gaby Pasternack  
Caroline Zayid

## Senate Leadership

*Chair of Senate*  
Dr. Sachin Seth

*Interim Senate Vice-Chair, Academic Programs*  
Dr. Jamie Blustein

*Senate Vice-Chair, Student Affairs*  
VACANT

## Dalhousie Student Union Executive

*President*  
Anjali Seshadri

*Vice-President, Internal*  
Suha Manal

*Vice-President, Finance and Operations*  
Anton Kredt

*Vice-President, Academic and External*  
Orpy Dey

**We recognize the inspiring role of our faculty in the education of our graduates, enhanced by the tremendous support of our staff and administrators. While too numerous to list, we celebrate the impactful contributions of these individuals alongside university leadership.**

# Messages to Graduates

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## Chancellor's Message

I am pleased to extend my warmest congratulations to all graduates, and to your families, friends, and supporters. It is a privilege to share this important milestone with you.

As you cross the stage today, take a moment to reflect on the dedication, perseverance, and passion that have brought you here. This achievement represents not only years of academic effort, but also resilience, growth, and a commitment to your future.

Today marks both an ending and a beginning. As you move forward, I encourage you to carry with you a sense of confidence and possibility. You have developed the knowledge, skills, and perspective to make meaningful contributions in your communities and beyond. Use both your head and your heart; combining critical thinking with empathy, curiosity with purpose, as you shape the path ahead.

I have every confidence that the Class of 2026 will make a lasting and positive impact on the world. Enjoy this well-deserved moment of celebration. I wish you every success in the years ahead.



**Dr. Rustum Southwell, O.N.S.**  
Chancellor  
Dalhousie University

## President's Message

Convocation has the feeling of a harbour at the start of a journey: full of energy, anticipation, gratitude, farewells, and with the promise of beginnings. It is a moment when we pause to celebrate how far you have come and to imagine the directions you will travel from here.

This day marks the culmination of years of effort, curiosity, resilience, and growth. It is a moment to recognize the families, friends, teachers, mentors, classmates, and communities who helped make your achievement possible. No one arrives at Convocation alone.

At Dalhousie, our purpose is to lift people, ideas, and communities — by cultivating the ability to imagine better futures and acting to bring them within reach. My hope is that your time here has helped you do exactly that: to think deeply, to act with courage, to lead through service, and to notice the people and possibilities around you.

The world you are entering needs your talent. It needs your creativity, your judgement, your compassion, your discipline, and your willingness to build trust across difference. It needs people who understand that excellence is not only measured by what we achieve for ourselves, but by what we make possible for others.

Class of 2026, I hope you leave Dalhousie knowing that you belong to this community. Thank you for spending this part of your journey with us. We are enormously proud of you.

Congratulations.



**Dr. Kim Brooks**  
President and Vice-Chancellor  
Dalhousie University

# Honorary Degree Recipients

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## Dr. Noni MacDonald

***Trailblazer in medical research and addressing global challenges***  
**Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)**

Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am ceremony

**Dr. Noni MacDonald**, Professor Emerita of Pediatrics at Dalhousie University and IWK Health, is a pioneering force in pediatric infectious diseases, global immunization, and socially accountable medical education. After several years as a professor, teacher, clinician and researcher in Ottawa, including leading the University of Ottawa's infectious diseases program, she joined Dalhousie in 1999 as the first woman to serve as dean of a Canadian medical school and continued thereafter as a faculty member at Dalhousie and IWK Health. She has advanced care for cystic fibrosis patients, worked on the front lines of emerging infectious diseases, founded the journal *Paediatrics & Child Health*, and played a key role with the World Health Organization's immunization advisory group during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also co-founded MicroResearch in Eastern Africa, an initiative empowering more than 1,800 local health-care providers to address community health challenges using an approach she has since brought to communities in Nova Scotia. She is a member of both the Order of Nova Scotia and the Order of Canada and is a laureate of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.



## Clare Hutchinson

***International advocate for women in peace and security***  
**Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)**

Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, 4:00pm ceremony

For over 25 years, **Clare Hutchinson** has been helping international institutions, national governments, and NGOs reshape how they think about and prioritize human security and gender equality in conflict-affected settings. Her career has centred around the core beliefs that how institutions behave during conflict matters — and that lasting security is best achieved when individuals impacted by violence, particularly women, help shape outcomes. Her work at senior levels in the United Nations, NATO, and through her own consultancy has led to critical changes on the ground in some of the world's most complex and delicate security environments, including Kosovo, Lebanon, and Ukraine. Many of the innovative practices and guidelines introduced under her leadership at the UN, including mandatory gender training for peacekeepers, are still used across peacekeeping missions today. In 2022, Hutchinson was named to the Order of the Grand Golden Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria and has been a Distinguished Fellow at York University's Glendon College and an Associate Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Switzerland.



## Denise Pothier

***A community champion for representation and inclusion  
Doctor of Laws (honoris causa)***

Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00am ceremony

**Denise Pothier** is a distinguished engineer, executive leader, and community champion who has guided complex national and global initiatives while advancing excellence in professional practice, sustainability, and organizational culture. A graduate of Dalhousie's Chemical Engineering program, she has held senior leadership roles with Stantec Consulting and now serves as Chief Operating Officer of the Canadian Council for Indigenous Business, helping forge stronger relationships between Indigenous entrepreneurs and Canadian enterprises. Widely respected for her inclusive and collaborative leadership, Pothier has served on numerous local and national boards, including Engineers Canada, Efficiency One, and IWK Health, and has been a tireless advocate for women, Indigenous peoples, and historically excluded communities in STEM. She is a recipient of a Dalhousie University Aurum Award and is a Fellow of Engineers Canada. She has frequently recognized as one of the leading female business executives in Canada and is an alum of the 2022 Governor General's Leadership Conference.



## Roslyn Bern

***Committed to the cause of education for women and children  
Doctor of Laws (honoris causa)***

Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am ceremony

When **Roslyn Bern** noticed a consistent lack of female teachers, professors, and mentors in her own education and work, she dedicated her professional and volunteer careers to change it. Today, Bern is president of the Leacross Foundation, an organization whose mission is to educate women and children in society. At Dalhousie, the foundation supports key initiatives in the Faculty of Computer Science such as the WeAreAllCS Women in Technology Entrance Scholarship and the Leacross Leadership Program. The foundation has created additional programs at universities supporting women in electrical engineering technology, management development, and pursuing research in biochemistry and engineering. Bern also coordinates work opportunities, internships, as well as scientific expeditions. Outside the foundation, Bern has served on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Women's Foundation and volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, the Ottawa Food Bank and Shelter from the Storm/Move for Hope.



# Jamal Shirley

**Leader in northern research, discovery and engagement**  
**Doctor of Laws (*honoris causa*)**

Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 12:30pm ceremony

As Director of Innovation and Research at Nunavut Arctic College, based at the Nunavut Research Institute, **Jamal Shirley** is a leader in promoting northern discovery and innovation, and for Indigenous representation in research. A graduate of Dalhousie's Master of Environmental Studies program, Shirley provides leadership in applied research, training, and knowledge mobilization across Nunavut. He has been pivotal in supporting scientific studies on climate change, sustainable resource management, and wildlife protection, and he oversees the regulatory and ethics review process for any scientist looking to undertake research in the territory — more than 160 projects annually. Shirley works to ensure that research undertaken in the North is ethical, inclusive, does no harm to the natural or social environment, and that research results are returned to the people of Nunavut. He served on Canada's National Committee for International Polar Year (2007–2008) and is currently a member of the Government of Nunavut's Sustainable Development Advisory Group.



# Congratulations

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Graduate and academic honour lists can be accessed via the QR codes below, or by visiting <https://www.dal.ca/convocation/program>



# Convocation and Ceremonial Elements

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## Convocation

Convocation is a celebration where students transition to alumni, celebrating their achievements as they cross the stage.

## New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging

Dalhousie introduced the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Staff officially replaced the University Mace as the ceremonial object used to open and close Convocation ceremonies. Like the Mace before it, the New Dawn Staff is carried into the ceremony by the University Beadle at the head of the graduate procession and placed onstage to signal the start of the celebration and carried back out to mark the end.

The New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging was designed and created by artists Alan Syliboy of Millbrook First Nation and Mark Austin of Cumberland County with guidance from the university and in collaboration with a team of artists and craftspeople from diverse communities across Nova Scotia.

Dalhousie is one of the first universities in North America to replace its traditional mace with a new ceremonial object. Through its mix of symbols, materials and textures, the New Dawn Staff reflects the rich diversity of individuals who make up the Dalhousie community today and their collective history in this place that we share together.

Symbols and materials integrated along the shaft signify Dalhousie's location in Mi'kma'ki and important on-going relationships with Mi'kmaq communities. Descendants of early European and international settlers, Acadians, Peoples of African descent, persons with disabilities, all genders and the LGBTQ2S+ communities are acknowledged with Staff elements in an effort to convey inclusion, diversity, and equity. Contributions by artists from Mi'kmaq, African Nova Scotian and other communities celebrate that Dalhousie is part of a larger geographic and cultural place of diversity and inclusion.

More than thirty materials and twenty processes were used in the creation of the New Dawn Staff and its accompanying stand. Nova Scotian materials were used when possible, including the white ash that serves as the base material for the pole and driftwood that forms the top segment. Textiles from around the world,

near-field chip technology, recycled gold, and several other natural materials were incorporated throughout using processes ranging from wood turning and textile wrapping to laser cutting, wire weaving, and gilding.

At 7'4" (2.24 metres) tall, the New Dawn Staff cuts an impressive figure befitting of a symbol of achievement. But as a walking stick it also symbolizes the idea of a journey — educational and otherwise — and provides functionality as an aid for walking and as a beacon for community. Four distinct grip zones mean the staff can be carried by individuals with different walking or sitting heights.

Artists involved in the creation of the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging were Mark Austin, Alan Syliboy, Wendie Poitras, Annie Martin, Mohammed Issa, Jessie Marshall, Mark Hamilton, Matt D'Entremont, Fred Marshall, Lily Volio, Debby Finkbeiner, Arjun Lal, and many unknown makers whose pre-existing work was incorporated for its cultural significance.

With the New Dawn Staff of Place and Belonging, Dalhousie journeys proudly through its third century informed by the past and inspired for the future.

## Coat of Arms

The Dalhousie University Coat of Arms, which you see hanging at the back of the stage, is based on the heraldic achievement (commonly called "Coat of Arms") of the Ramsay family of Scotland. The Rt. Hon. George Ramsay, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, founded the University in 1818. Initially the Ramsay family coat of arms was used to identify Dalhousie. But over time, it has evolved, as have most heraldic devices through marriage or political alliances.

The seal used by the University differs from that of the Ramsay family version in three ways. First, through marriage one of the supporters on the Ramsay achievement has now changed to include a greyhound on the right. Secondly, the original Ramsay supporters were griffins (half lion, half dragon), while Dalhousie's are dragons. The third change occurred in 1950 when the Board of Governors changed the colour of the shield from white (silver) to gold, to reflect the University's colours of black and gold.

Since 1987 the university has used the eagle and shield as the basis for its logo.

## Academic Dress

Academic dress — also known as academic costume or regalia — is the distinctive gowns and hoods worn by all participants (including faculty members and university officials who sit onstage) during a Convocation ceremony. The lining of the hood identifies the field of study.

The tradition of graduates wearing gowns and hoods dates back to the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. This tradition continues today at Dalhousie University to signify a graduate's academic accomplishment.

During the ceremony, Indigenous graduates may be recognized by Elders with the gift of a traditional handmade **Medicine Pouch**. A medicine pouch is traditionally worn around the neck and carries medicines, such as sweet grass, cedar, tobacco and sage, as well as objects that provide protection to each individual person. It is a sign of strength for all those that carry one and a means of acknowledging the creator.

Indigenous graduates may also wear a symbolic graduation stole and/or are welcome to wear traditional dress in a manner that celebrates their heritage along with their ceremonial hood.

In recognition of their heritage, Black graduates of African descent may wear a **Kente Sash**; a symbolic stole, using hand woven material made in Ghana.

### Hood color references for Dalhousie degrees:

|                |   |               |   |                |   |
|----------------|---|---------------|---|----------------|---|
| <b>BA</b>      | White silk/white faux fur border                          | <b>BTech</b>  | Emerald green silk/gold & blue silk border                    | <b>MJ</b>      | Royal blue/royal blue border with white corded piping   |
| <b>BAgr</b>    | Royal blue/gold & blue silk border                        | <b>BSW</b>    | Gold silk/white silk border                                   | <b>MI/MLIS</b> | Mid-forest green silk   |
| <b>BArch</b>   | Vermilion/white corded border                             | <b>DDS</b>    | Scarlet silk/gold border                                      | <b>MMM</b>     | Navy silk/sea-green silk border   |
| <b>BASc</b>    | Gold/white corded border with blue piping                 | <b>JD/LLB</b> | White silk/gold silk border                                   | <b>MN</b>      | Apricot silk  |
| <b>BACSc</b>   | Emerald green/white border                                | <b>MD</b>     | Scarlet silk/white silk border                                | <b>MPlan</b>   | Peacock blue/green corded border  |
| <b>BCBD</b>    | Chartreuse silk/peacock blue silk border with red cording | <b>PharmD</b> | White silk/purple silk border                                 | <b>MPA</b>     | Sky blue silk   |
| <b>BCD</b>     | Green silk/peacock blue corded border                     | <b>LLM</b>    | Purple silk   | <b>MPAS</b>    | Scarlet silk/royal blue border  |
| <b>BCom</b>    | White satin/light blue border                             | <b>MA</b>     | Crimson silk  | <b>MPer</b>    | Gold silk/scarlet silk border   |
| <b>BCSc</b>    | Emerald green/gold border                                 | <b>EMEC</b>   | Emerald green/purple border with turquoise piping             | <b>MPS</b>     | Cobalt crepe satin  |
| <b>BDH</b>     | Deep purple satin/gold border                             | <b>MACSc</b>  | Emerald green/silver border with white piping                 | <b>MREM</b>    | Copper silk/white silk border   |
| <b>BEd</b>     | Dark blue satin/white border                              | <b>MAHSR</b>  | White silk/sky blue silk border with white piping             | <b>MSc</b>     | Scarlet silk  |
| <b>BEDS</b>    | White/two parallel strips of white corded border          | <b>MArch</b>  | White/two parallel stripes of red corded boarder              | <b>MSW</b>     | Citron silk   |
| <b>BEng</b>    | Gold/white corded border                                  | <b>MASc</b>   | Sky blue/gold border with white piping                        | <b>MURP</b>    | Peacock blue/green corded border  |
| <b>BHIM</b>    | Peacock satin/white border                                | <b>MASc/</b>  | Peacock blue/gold border with white piping                    | <b>JSD</b>     | Gown of black faced with Olympic blue bordered with yellow, the hood is black corded/lining of Olympic blue and bordered with yellow of the Cambridge design, birretum is black velvet with yellow cord |
| <b>BHP</b>     | Forest green silk/gold silk border                        | <b>MPlan</b>  | Peacock blue/gold border with white piping                    | <b>PhD</b>     | Black gown faced with yellow (gold), hood is black of Cambridge design with yellow, birretum is black velvet with gold cord.  |
| <b>BHSc</b>    | Silver satin/white border                                 | <b>MASc/</b>  | Peacock blue/gold border with white piping                    |                |   |
| <b>BINF</b>    | Emerald green/white border                                | <b>MURP</b>   | Peacock blue/gold border with white piping                    |                |   |
| <b>BLA</b>     | Emerald silk/royal blue and silver-white border           | <b>MAT</b>    | Crimson silk/white silk border                                |                |   |
| <b>BMgt</b>    | White silk/teal green silk border                         | <b>French</b> | Turquoise silk  |                |   |
| <b>BMus</b>    | White satin/lavender border                               | <b>MBA</b>    | Turquoise silk  |                |   |
| <b>BMusEd</b>  | Lavender satin/white border                               | <b>MCSc</b>   | Emerald green/gold border with white piping                   |                |   |
| <b>BN</b>      | White silk/royal blue silk border                         | <b>MDE</b>    | Medium blue silk/red scarlet silk border                      |                |   |
| <b>BPE</b>     | Sage green silk/white silk border                         | <b>MDI</b>    | Purple silk/emerald green border                              |                |   |
| <b>BRec</b>    | Yellow silk/forest green silk border                      | <b>MEC</b>    | Emerald green/purple border with turquoise piping             |                |   |
| <b>BSc</b>     | White silk/scarlet silk border                            | <b>MEd</b>    | Royal blue silk   |                |   |
| <b>BSc Agr</b> | White silk/gold & blue silk border                        | <b>MEDS</b>   | White/three parallel stripes of white/vermilion corded border |                |   |
| <b>BSc</b>     | Royal blue/gold & blue silk border                        | <b>MEng</b>   | Blue/gold border  |                |   |
| <b>BVSC</b>    | Forest green silk/gold silk border                        | <b>MEng/</b>  | Peacock blue/gold border                                      |                |   |
| <b>BScHE</b>   | Forest green silk/gold silk border                        | <b>MPlan</b>  | Peacock blue/gold border                                      |                |   |
| <b>BScHP</b>   | Forest green silk/gold silk border                        | <b>MEng/</b>  | Peacock blue/gold border                                      |                |   |
| <b>BScK</b>    | White silk/crimson silk border                            | <b>MURP</b>   | Peacock blue/gold border                                      |                |   |
| <b>BSc</b>     | White silk/scarlet silk border                            | <b>MES</b>    | Copper silk   |                |   |
| <b>Med Sc</b>  | White silk/royal blue silk border                         | <b>MFA</b>    | Royal blue/burgundy border with white corded piping           |                |   |
| <b>BScN</b>    | Peacock satin/crimson silk border                         | <b>MGC</b>    | Silver silk/scarlet silk border with white cord               |                |   |
| <b>BScOT</b>   | White silk/royal blue silk border                         | <b>MHI</b>    | Scarlet silk/emerald green silk border                        |                |   |
| <b>BScPh</b>   | White silk/purple silk border                             | <b>MHA</b>    | Sky blue silk/white silk border                               |                |   |
| <b>BScPT</b>   | White silk/scarlet & gold silk border                     | <b>MIM</b>    | Mint green satin/white border                                 |                |   |
| <b>BScRec</b>  | Yellow silk/forest green silk border                      | <b>MITE</b>   | Teal green silk/white silk border with gold piping            |                |   |
| <b>BSE</b>     | Gold silk/emerald silk border                             |               |   |                |   |

# Professional Oaths

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## The Hippocratic Oath

Friday, May 29, 10:00am ceremony

*To be recited by all graduating medicine students. In reciting this oath, graduates declare allegiance to an ancient, honourable, and durable tradition, the survival of which is important for the welfare of the sick and of society.*

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures [that] are required, avoiding those twin traps of overtreatment and therapeutic nihilism.

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. This awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God.

I will remember that I do not treat a fever chart, a cancerous growth, but a sick human being, whose illness may affect the person's family and economic stability. My responsibility includes these related problems, if I am to care adequately for the sick.

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath, may I enjoy life and art, respected while I live and remembered with affection thereafter. May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

## The Oral Health Professional Oath

Friday, May 29, 5:00pm ceremony

*To be recited by all graduating dentistry and dental hygiene students.*

I do hereby solemnly swear to pledge my commitment as an oral health professional. I will assist my patients in achieving optimal oral health.

Without discrimination, I will treat my patients with honour and respect and will contribute to their overall well-being.

My patients will be actively involved in their treatment decisions, and they can trust that I will compassionately place their needs before my own.

I will always conduct myself in an ethical and professional manner, and will hold myself to the highest standards. I will not undertake tasks beyond my ability and competence.

I will promote access to care and social justice for those who are most vulnerable. I will protect and preserve the oral health of the public.

I am committed to evidence-based practice and life-long learning. I will strive to contribute to the advancement of dental education for the benefit of my community, patients and colleagues.

These promises I make freely, and upon my honour.

## Congratulations!

You are officially an alum of Dalhousie, an amazing community of more than 165,000 alumni around the world.

To learn more, visit

[dal.ca/alumni](https://dal.ca/alumni)

## Alumni benefits

You have access to a variety of benefits, including:

- Preferred rates and special promotions
- Career development and other programs
- Travel and accommodation discounts
- Entertainment and retail specials

To learn more, visit

[dal.ca/alumni-benefits](https://dal.ca/alumni-benefits)



## Stay connected

You will always be a part of the Dal community. There are a variety of opportunities to stay connected:

- Keep in touch with your classmates through alumni **events and reunions.**
- Influence important university initiatives and decisions through the **Dal Insight Circle.**
- Share your personal and professional milestones with the Dal community and **submit a class note.**
- Join us for your first **Alumni Days** this Fall: October 15-18, 2026.
- Take on a leadership role as an alumni **volunteer.**

Be sure to keep us up to date on your achievements and successes, as well as your current contact information. We look forward to hearing from you at [alumni@dal.ca](mailto:alumni@dal.ca).

To update your information, visit

[dal.ca/alumni-update](https://dal.ca/alumni-update)



