



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

COMMENCEMENT

School of Education
May 21, 2026 ♦ 6:00 P.M.

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

MISSION

Since 1855, the University of San Francisco has dedicated itself to offering a daring and dynamic liberal arts education in the Jesuit, Catholic tradition. As a community, we empower and hold accountable our students, faculty, librarians, staff, administrators, alumni, and community partners to be persons for and with others, to care for our common home, including the native lands on which our campuses reside, and to promote the common good by critically, thoughtfully, and innovatively addressing inequities to create a more humane and just world.

We seek to live USF's Mission by nurturing a diverse, ever-expanding community where persons of all races and ethnicities, religions, sexual orientations, genders, generations, abilities, nationalities, occupations, and socioeconomic backgrounds are honored and accompanied. We are committed to educating hearts and minds to cultivate the full, integral development of each person and all persons; pursuing learning as a lifelong humanizing and liberating social activity; and advancing excellence as the standard for teaching, scholarship, creative expression, and service. Inspired by a faith that does justice, we strive to humbly and responsibly engage with, and contribute to, the cultural, intellectual, economic and spiritual gifts and talents of the San Francisco Bay Area and the global communities to which we belong.

Approved by the Board of Trustees, September 24, 2021.

167th Annual Commencement Exercises

UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

MAY 21, 2026, 6:00 PM

Today, the University welcomes you — the graduates and candidates of the class of 2026 — into the ranks of the proud alumni of the University of San Francisco.

We also welcome your families and friends to the celebration, mindful and appreciative of their contribution to your achievement, through their support, sacrifice, and encouragement.

The University of San Francisco has made every attempt to include in this program all persons deserving of recognition. If there have been any errors or omissions, please accept our sincerest apologies.

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Vice President, Strategic Enrollment Management

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*Vice Provost, Global Education, Immersions and
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Dean, University Library

Otgontsetseg Erhemjamts, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Management

Eileen K. Fry-Bowers, Ph.D., JD, RN, CPNP-PC, FAAN
Dean, School of Nursing and Health Professions

Johanna Kalb, M.A., JD
Dean, School of Law

Shabnam Koirala Azad, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Education

Jeffrey Paris, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

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*Associate Vice President, Tax Compliance,
Internal Audit, and Payroll Services*

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Associate Vice President, Accounting and Business Services

Lester Deanes, M.A.
Associate Vice President, Student Life and Dean of Students

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Associate Vice President, Admissions

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Associate Vice President and Director, Digital Transformation

JJ Thorp, Ed.D.
Associate Vice President, Facilities Management

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*Associate Vice President and Director,
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Associate Vice President, Human Resources

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*Associate Vice President, Labor and Employee Relations
and Compensation*

Patrick J. Lee, S.J., Ed.D.
Rector, Loyola House Jesuit Community

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Director, Financial Aid

Angélica Nohemi Quiñónez, Ed.D.
Director, University Ministry

Stephanie Shrieve-Hawkins, Ed.D.
Interim Director, Athletics

Program

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Procession

The University Mace
The Flags of the University
The University Commencement Marshals
The Class of 2026
The Faculty of the Schools
The Academic Directors of the Schools
The Alumni Board of Governors
The Student Speaker
The Deans of the Schools
The University Leadership Team
The Members of the University Board
of Trustees
The Commencement Speaker
The President of the University

Prelude Processional

Baroque Ceremonial Music
"Pomp and Circumstance" by Sir Edward Elgar

Master of Ceremonies

Eileen Chia-Ching Fung
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

National Anthem

ASUSF Voices

Invocation

Dónal Godfrey, S.J.
University Chaplain

Official Opening of the Ceremony

Member, Board of Trustees

Student Address

Andrew Barham
*Graduate, Doctor of Education in
Learning and Instruction*

Presentation of the Commencement Speaker

Eileen Chia-Ching Fung
Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Commencement Address

Shabnam Koirala Azad
*Dean of the School of Education and
Professor of International and Multicultural
Education, University of San Francisco*

**Presentation of Candidates
for Graduate Degrees**

Shabnam Koirala Azad

Dean of the School

and

Helen Maniates

*Associate Professor and Department Chair,
Teacher Education*

and

Leyla Pérez-Gualdrón

*Associate Professor and Department Chair,
Counseling Psychology*

**Formal Conferral of
Graduate Degrees**

Salvador D. Aceves

President of the University

**Presentation of Candidates
for Doctoral Degrees**

Shabnam Koirala Azad

Dean of the School

and

Colette N. Cann

Professor and Associate Dean

**Formal Conferral of
Doctoral Degrees**

Salvador D. Aceves

President of the University

Salutation to the Graduates

Salvador D. Aceves

President of the University

Benediction

Michael Duffy

*Director, McGrath Institute for
Jesuit Catholic Education*

Recessional

"Crown Imperial" by Sir William Walton

GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

Counseling Psychology

Amber Fuad Abugharbieh
Lisandra Achaibar
Muskan Agrawal
Marisela Socorro Aguilar
Adera Cecilia Alvarado Ahern
Shastl Andre
Johanna Lizbeth Arango Mendoza
Samantha Gene Arbuckle
Kathryn Arcilla
Stephanie Arias
Emma Kate Augustine
Courtney Ariele Balonek
Noor Rashad Barghouti
Jeremy Maurice Baril
Claudia Marina Barquero Ruiz
Talyah Basit
Patricia Ellen Bauer
Myra Bautista
Elizabeth Behrens
Tyler Bolton
Brandi Foronda Bongolan
Auriol Rose Bonney
Max Alvin Bramer
Daniel Brooks
DayJah Burton
Diyana Macalalad Cadwising
Giulia Elise Campana
Mutiara Kay Carney
Iris Daniela Castaneda Valencia
Mario Antonio Castro-Santana
Nataly Cervantes
Jimmy Chan
Olivia Frances Chen
Janee Chung
Amy Elizabeth Conway
Jacqueline Corona
Shelby Marie Coyne
Madison Curry
Isabella Anne Cusano
Megan D'Andrea

Howard Hugh Davis III
Kiara Fayette Day
Keely Jade De Jong
Anne Lise N. Delgado
Zerahmae Detablan
Brenda Guadalupe Diaz Ortega
Cicladly Dominguez
Sergio Alexander Duarte
Ginger Eachus
Alexis Michel Early
Turner Adair Edwards
Eva Paulina Escobar Tellez
Vanessa Paola Espino
Daniela Estrada
Hailee Madison Everest-Myers
Ryan A. Fisher
Dorothy Flake
Sophia Abigail Flores
Matthew Foran
Alan Chi Fung
Peyton Nicole Gillen
Symone Renay Gilliam
Danielle Simone Glenn
Thomas Scott Goldberg
Susana Gomez Camacho
Jazmin Alexandra Gomez Prado
Luis Andres Gonzalez
Yuliana Govea Delgadillo
Haojun June Guan
Kynnedi Marie Hartzfield
Lua Elizabeth Haven
Fiona Clare Lorraine Heal
Jasper Carson Henry
Rocio Gutierrez Ordaz
Sanjeet Kaur Heyer
Catherine Anne Hoffman
Kayla Holdren
Kimberly Hong
Juliana Hoyos Miller
Mark Anthony Ibrahim

GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

Counseling Psychology (*continued*)

Gregory David Ingram	Chloe Elizabeth Morrison
Kevin Isuiza	Marina Movellan
Blanca Adriana Jaime Nava	Julie Anne Murphy
Ivy Noelle Janes	Ashleigh Nay
Juliette Dominique Jayme	Nicolas Harry Ng
Brianna R Johnson	Victoria Alicia Nuñez
Javon N. Johnson	Kelsey Theresa O'Brien
Satina Marie Jones	Icyss Mireya Olivas
Alexis Kimberly Kato	Ana Elena Ornelas
Ravjot Khakh	Joanna Jacqueline Pablo
Bo Kun Susan Kim	Kyle John Palmer
Melanie D. Kimes	Alex Partida
Alexander Jon Kirk	Joanie Paulsen
Shayna Kirk	Matthew Aoatoa Polamalu
Shanse Kizungu	Jessica Ponce
Katherine Grace Klender	Hermin Pourtahmasbi
Grace Julia Kruljac	Divesh Sooraj Prasad
Maureen Elizabeth L'Eplattenier	Mariya Qadir
Lucanus Issiah Francis Lawson	Desiree Rose Rakela
Gina Lee	Riley Reck
Jennifer Ann Lemmon	Darren James Rego
Nicole Christine Lenkeit	Adriana Reyes Ramirez
Dusk Mattie Thomas Libertine	Doris Reyes
Jenna Claire Long	Lauren Nabers Riddle
Medea Long	Anthony Rimac
Jonathan Bladimir Lopez Cruz	Wyatt Mark Robertson
Van Bich Ly	Natalia Robles Bates
Electra Mills Lyman	Karina Giselle Rodriguez
Jennifer Lynn Magaña	Katya Margarita Rodriguez
Olivia Marie-France Martin	Siobhan Currie Rodriguez
Semaj Aujene Martin	Whitney Marie Roeder
Brenda Sophia Martinez Burgos	Julia Laurel Rogers
Luis Alberto Martinez	Maria Victoria Rojas
Wid Zuhair Massoud	Brianda Rea Romero
Cameron Anthony Matthews	Karen Amy Romo
Karina Destiny Medina	David Rubin
Alexis Francisco Mendoza Ochoa	Madia Sadat
Valerie Jackelyn Mendoza	Koy Feuy Saelor
Ella Che Moniz	Lorran Santos
Nellie Morales	Ayelet Worton Schrek

GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

Counseling Psychology (continued)

Stephania Kara Serena
Rameen Shafiee
Juliet Elisabeth Shelton
Michael Shore
Sabita Shrestha
Julia Elizabeth Sikora
Naomi Celia Solomon
Aaron Solorio
Divya A. Soneji
Nicole Song
Evalin S. Sosa
Rocio Echeverria Soto
Jamie Elizabeth Stamps
Kyra Stemplinger
Lilian Raquel Suarez
Danielle Minji Suhr
Riva Grace Szostkowski
Jimmy Lee Patricia Taft
Megan Elaine Tassano
Allison Renee Thigpen
Jonah Manjankal Thomas
Alexis Mae Ordonez Tirona
Lauryn Nicole Torres
Kimberly Truong
Erica Tune
Briana Gloria Valle
Francisco I. Valverde
Kelly Kathleen Van Raden
Jocelyn Vasquez
Veronica Vazquez-Sosa
Silvia Velarde Hoyos
Elizabeth Verduzco
Jennifer Wagner
Lauren Borella Walker
Jillian Marie Warner
James Mark Welte
Erica Rene Houston West
Conteia Wheeler
Jessica White
Madeline Janet Wills

Counseling Psychology (continued)

Johnny Yang
Isabela Vieira Yates
Danielle Mina Yau
Layla Asunción Ybarra-Harvey
Benjamin Zalaznick
Sophie Zener
Yun Judy Zhou

Educational Technology

Zi Jin
Ellen Kwarteng
Yingshi Liang

Higher Education and Student Affairs

Lajjivard Asadullah
Olga Diaz
Lane Olivia Lyons Dounias
Andrés García Chaidez
Evelin Guzman
Amara Halia
Jeremiah Hunter-Gamero
Victoria Alejandrez Jacobo
Denzale Stephon Johnson
Kojo Ofori Ocran
Krystle Percival Pale
Logan Rhoades
Alvin Q. Tang

Human Rights Education

Elizabeth Amanda Garcia
Trista Lynne Himmelman
Jazmin Michelle Richardson
Valentina Sacchi Beccarini-Yuzak

Human Rights and Educational Justice

Salomé Rebeca Câmara Portugal

GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS

International and Multicultural Education

Natalie Lynn Hansen
Annalise Louise King
Marielle Song Lyons

Organization and Leadership

Alina Suzette Flores
Ryann Makenna Hirt
Diego Alejandro Holguin
Benedetta Liccardo
Roulon Johnathan Mcclennon
Valeria Miranda
Arnoldo Valdivieso Martinez
Victoria Rose Thompson

Special Education

Tristan Blanco
Claire Branson
Carlos Alberto Ramírez Farías
Rebecca Marie Gillum
Tyler Elizabeth Heaslet
Alika Mari Lew-Koga
Beth Ann Lilly-Toshikian
Jennifer Edith Melendez
Veronica Tayo
Zahra Vatankhah

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages

Or Barzilay
Naghmeh Dadashnejad
Beini Ding
Dayane Dziekaniak
Breana Marnell George
Shivam Jaynarayanbhai Gohel
Gabriela Margarita Gómez
Ahreum Kim
Katya Davida Landau
Kellen Marques Valentim Gess
Nimfa Calara Matson
Leidy Nattaly Sanchez Segura
Brian Tura
Jue Xia

Teaching Reading

Arielle Gordon-Rowe
Katherine Isabella Mottola
Sarah Neal Murphy
Alondra Ramirez Rios
Vivian Tuong Tiet
Natalie Patricia Whooley
Connie Zhao

GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Education

Azucena Aguilar Botello
Gavin Davies Alsop
Sienna Natalie Altamirano
Carson Elizabeth Anderson
Amy Barron Martinez
Mia Nicole Bernardo
Amanda Clare Blanton
Robert Stephen Bottome
Peter James Burbach
Zachary Christan Cacoyannis
Mirabel Canty-Hilchey
Cassidy Daizy Carrera-Ruiz
Brian Chavez
Cheryl Chu
Shari Cohen
Sarah Dase
Elizabeth Ann Davis
Gabriel Francisco Del Castillo
Patrik Donahue
Ciara Dinorah Dorado
Nikhil Dutta
Sofia Mia Novo Emerson
Alba Melissa Garcia
Manita Gautam
Liv Emma Gieselman
Melyzza Gomez Sanchez
Victoria Anna Gonzales
Laura Julia Goslee
Abigayle Moira Garcia Haguian
Emma Sutphen Hall
Nicholas Haste
Erandi Carolina Hernandez Zepeda
Monique Natalia Hernandez
Liam Riley Hutchinson
Kaylee Danielle Irsjad
Dylan R. Jagielski
Nora Janowski
Andrew Kaison

Benjamin J. Kellgren
Ayana Kelly
Cienna Kaliegha LeGrande
Danny Jose Lopez Ortega
Aliza Renee Louis
Jenna Miranda Martinez
Jillian Ellyce Martinson
Donna Nicole McLennan
Austin Ward Menard
Josephine Allison Zuluaga Mendoza
Marissa Michele Mitchell
Hana Ahmed Mohamed
Marian Montes Díaz
Casandra Michelle Mora Perez
Evelyn Patricia Morehead
Ally Riedel Moreno
Michiko Ng Kain
Ruby Giselle Olivares
Kathia Orellana Quijas
Samuel Moises Pedroza
Rebeca Yadira Ramirez
Alexis Angelina Rossel
Olivia Helen Rudstrom
Edson Felipe Sanchez-Rojas
Jordan Gregory Saunders
Sonya Andrea Shumate
Patrick Camille Smejkal
Oskar Ludvig Soderberg
Der Vivian Song
Marc Spångner
Grainne Tinnelly
Erika Paulina Toriz Madera
Daniela Valdez Ponce
Lynette Ariana Valencia
Zuri Gabriela Vera Nunez
Olivia Rose Wahler
Matthew David Whitwam
Kevin Andrew Young

GRADUATE DEGREES MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING

Urban Education and Social Justice

Destin Mark Dela Cruz Abad
Jared Leandro Bisbikis
Michaela Hartini Brataatmadja
Mia Chesbrough
Ethan Albert Christo
Ivy Claire Denham-Conroy
Ollie Breuer Feldman
Alice Mei Li Garner

Kendall Anna Goldschmidt
Rojae LeeAnna Miller
Elvira Andrea Morales Molina
Andrea Maria Ríos
Myriam Serrano
Kathleen Lin Siu
Darrion Montay Willis
Sophia Marie Wolff

DOCTORAL DEGREES DOCTOR OF EDUCATION

Catholic Educational Leadership

Maria Rita Jacinto Atienza
Sijo George Chirayath

International and Multicultural Education

Cristian Omar Aguilar Valverde
Georgina Joy Justice Aubin
Carmen Eugenia Barba Barcena
Abdelkader Berrahmoun
Rashi Hitesh Bhatt
Mounia Boukhalifa
Jessica Linares Boyle
Kate P. Cabot
Dylan Renée Francisco
Yolanda Elizabeth Harris
Rebecca Sarah Jacquez
Daniel Mango
Edwin Mauricio Martinez Callejas
Rebecca Caroline McGee
Yichong Ren
Paul David Terry
Marna Lee Wolak

Learning and Instruction

Sean Aval
Andrew Barham
Caroline Christine Cuenca
Francis S. Estabillo
Zheng Yuan George
Johanna Rose Hall
Farideh Ferdowsi
Erin MacNabb
Gennadi Mikhailik
Kevin Sy
Emily Proctor van Sebille
Yulin Xu

Organization and Leadership

Edith Arias
Ashley Lynnette Bonton
Rachel Marie Brunson
Stephanie Hope Carlos
Ana Graciela De Castro Maquiz
Kathryn Carole Delaney
Lisa Cynthia Furlong
Emerald Sensaii Green
Erin Alicia Gutiérrez
David Michael Kloker
Chong Lor
Robert G. McGee
Amelia Janine Neal
Francisco Jesus Ortiz
Kara Marie Piastrelli
Shaneel Royneesh Pratap
Claudio Isaac Rodriguez Medina
Elisa Romero-Heaps
Abdon Rwandekwe
Freddie Seba
Emmanuel Selvin Stewart
Iyad Uakoub

CANDIDACY

Candidacy for degrees is based on a preliminary review of the academic records of students petitioning for graduation in the respective term. Degrees are considered official when all grades are received and all requirements for degree fulfillment are met. Some students listed as candidates may already have been notified that they have met all requirements, but, because of printing deadlines, are listed here as candidates.

SHABNAM KOIRALA AZAD
DEAN OF THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND
PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL AND MULTICULTURAL
EDUCATION, UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Shabnam Koirala Azad, PhD is a passionate and dedicated social justice scholar and practitioner championing the causes of children and youth through education and mental health. As a fourth-generation educator, her passion for education stems from multigenerational experience.

Prior to serving as dean, Koirala Azad spent over three years as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Strategic Initiatives and nine years as full-time faculty in the School of Education, where she served as department chair and co-founded USF's master's program and doctoral concentration in Human Rights Education- the first in the country.

In 2017, following a national search, Koirala Azad was appointed dean of the School of Education which marked two historic moments: she became the first female and female of color dean of the USF School of Education, and the first dean of Nepali origin in the United States.

As dean, Koirala Azad led the School of Education through an extensive strategic planning process, setting the foundation for a unified vision aimed at bolstering the school's institutional capacity to impact the field of education and social change more broadly.

Koirala Azad's leadership marked an unparalleled enhancement of support for the School of Education; over the course of her deanship, Koirala Azad helped secure the largest gift in the history of the school for student scholarships, transformational gifts for the McGrath Institute for Jesuit Catholic Education and the Center for Humanizing Education and Research (C-HER), major gifts supporting the Center for Community Counseling and Wellness (CCCW), several foundation grants, and an increase in contributions and engagement from alumni.

During Koirala Azad's tenure as dean, the School of Education leveraged strategic partnerships, partnering with community colleges to offer programs and continue USF's longstanding commitment to serve graduate students throughout the Bay Area. The School of Education also established key partnerships with Kaiser Permanente's Mental Health Scholars Academy, and the Healthcare Foundation of Northern Sonoma County. Under Koirala Azad's leadership, the School of Education created the Center for Humanizing Education and Research (C-HER), the Center for Community Counseling and Wellness (CCCW), and expanded College Access Programs such as Education Talent Search and Upward Bound, serving hundreds of high school and middle school youth in the Bay Area.

Through all her impactful work to bolster the school's academic, financial and institutional capacity, Koirala Azad has always kept the wellbeing and advancement of faculty, staff and students at the center of her work.

In 2018, Koirala Azad was recognized with the "Most Influential Women in the Bay Area" award by the *San Francisco Business Times*. She is a highly sought-after speaker, and an active community leader, serving in leadership roles for the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), member of the American Education Research Association (AERA) and Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Executive Committee for the Association of Baha'i Studies and serves on the Board of Trustees of local schools.

Koirala Azad earned a Bachelor of Arts from Mount Holyoke College and a PhD from University of California, Berkeley.

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2025-2026 academic year.
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

Catholic Educational Leadership

The Influence of Catholic Education on Personal Catholic Identity Formation in an Uncertain World: Perceptions of Filipino Catholic Secondary School Students

Maria Rita Jacinto Atienza
DR. URSULA ALDANA

The Push-Pull Factors in Indian Catholic Priests' Academic Mobility to the United States and the Implications for their Ministry and Leadership

Sijo George Chirayath
DR. DARRICK SMITH

International and Multicultural Education

Encuentros de Resistencia: Cultivating and Sustaining Transformational Spaces of Resistance with Undocumented Youth and DACAmented Educators

Cristian Omar Aguilar Valverde
DR. GENEVIEVE NEGRÓN-GONZALES

Immigrants Homeschooling: A Mixed-Methods Study About Foreign-Born Parents Choosing Home Education

Georgina Joy Justice Aubin
DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Opportunities and Challenges in Representing Colonial and Revolutionary Histories: A Comparative Content Analysis of Human Rights Education in Imperial and Post-Colonial Nations

Carmen Eugenia Barba Barcena
DR. ROSA M. JIMENEZ

Amplifying the Voices of Algerian Women: Reframing Historical Narratives, Navigating a Changing Algeria, and Shaping an Equitable Future

Abdelkader Berrahmoun
DR. SUSAN KATZ

Negotiating Transnational Identities: Experiences of Indian International Graduate Women in U.S. Higher Education

Rashi Hitesh Bhatt
DR. SUSAN KATZ

Resilience in Crisis: The COVID-19 Experiences of Families Raising Neurodivergent Children and Children with Disabilities

Mounia Boukhalfa
DR. SUSAN KATZ

How Farmworker Families Navigate and Support Educational Trajectories Toward Higher Education: Learning Through Pláticas

Jessica Linares Boyle
DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Conservation, Cultural Survival and Land Rights: Collaborative Research in Maasai Decolonizing Research Methodology

Kate P. Cabot
DR. MONISHA BAJAJ

Dissertations

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2025-2026 academic year.
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

International and Multicultural Education (*continued*)

Cultivating Healing: Understanding Pinay
Adolescent Social and Emotional Well-Being

Dylan Renée Francisco

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Centering the Experiences of African American
Women Over 40 in Higher Education

Yolanda Elizabeth Harris

DR. RICHARD GREGGORY JOHNSON III

Freedom Dreamers in Oakland, California: A
Portraiture of Creating Spatial Justice and Repair

Rebecca Sarah Jacquez

DR. SUSAN KATZ

Can't Hold Us Black: Healing the Wounds of
Anti-Blackness in Education

Daniel Mango

DR. DAVID PHILOXENE

Identifying Social Disparities Inside the Colombia
Jesuit Schools from the Students' Perceptions

Edwin Mauricio Martínez Callejas

DR. MONISHA BAJAJ

Narratives of Resilience: Unveiling the Crowned
Experiences Among Young Gifted Black Girls in
Counseling

Rebecca Caroline McGee

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Ongoing Reclaiming of Subjectivity: A Two-Part
Phenomenological Study of Chinese Queer
Diaspora in the U.S. through a Queer Literacy
Workshop Series

Yichong Ren

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

Traversing Contentions Among Human Rights
Practitioners: An Exploration of Futurizing
Wellness with Joyful Human Rights and
Indigenous and Queer Paradigms to Activate
Well-Being

Paul David Terry

DR. DAVID DONAHUE

"The Culture - I Wish It Were Less Intense
and More Joyful and Full of Life": A Youth
Participatory Action Study on Teen Mental
Health and Wellness

Marna Lee Wolak

DR. SUSAN KATZ

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2025-2026 academic year.
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

Learning and Instruction

The Role of Mother Tongues in Foreign Language Acquisition: Teachers' Perception of Multilingual Learners

Sean Aval

DR. SEDIQUE POPAL

The Impact of Multimedia Glossing in Vocabulary Retention in Farsi Learning: Challenges and Opportunities

Farideh Ferdowsi

DR. SEDIQUE POPAL

The Effects of Applying Self-Regulated Learning Prompts on Academic Achievement in a Public Middle-School Science Classroom

Andrew Barham

DR. XORNAM APEDOE

Beyond a Corrective Experience: Reimagining Liberation in Special Education

Erin MacNabb

DR. NICOLA MCCLUNG

Expanding Traditional Literacy Frameworks: A Multiliteracies Approach in Elementary Classrooms

Caroline Christine Cuenca

DR. XORNAM APEDOE

Relationship Between Working Memory and Reading Comprehension: A Secondary Meta-Analysis

Gennadi Mikhailik

DR. PATRICIA BUSK

The Effectiveness of Mastery Learning on Student Achievement Across STEM Disciplines: A Meta-Analysis

Francis S. Estabillo

DR. PATRICIA BUSK

The Microlearning Effect: What Does the Evidence Tell Us? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Learning Outcomes

Kevin Sy

DR. PATRICIA BUSK

Exploring the Use of Nondigital and Digital Games in the Classroom of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language for Adult Learners

Zheng Yuan George

DR. SEDIQUE POPAL

Teachers' Online Freedom of Expression: A Qualitative Study on Prescribed Policy and Perceived Regulations

Emily Proctor van Sebille

DR. XORNAM APEDOE

Perception and Practice: A Multiple Case Study Exploration of Teacher Beliefs of Intelligence and Praise Practice implement in the Primary School Classroom

Johanna Rose Hall

DR. XORNAM APEDOE

Human Intelligence Inspired Artificial Intelligence

Yulin Xu

DR. PATRICIA BUSK

Dissertations

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2025-2026 academic year.
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

Organization and Leadership

Latinx Students and Mothers' Testimonios of Survival and Resistance while Navigating Domestic Violence and the Struggle for Educational Equity in the United States

Edith Arias

DR. DANFENG KOON

Resilience Ain't Free: Surviving and Resisting While Navigating Well-Being as Black School Social Workers in California's Bay Area

Ashley Lynnette Bonton

DR. SEENAE CHONG

Neurodivergent College Students Raising Critical Consciousness About Identity, Social Mobility, and Success: A Participatory Action Research Study

Rachel Marie Brunson

DR. SEENAE CHONG

Support Systems Utilized in Law School by Black and Latiné Identified Law School Graduates

Stephanie Hope Carlos

DR. GENEVIEVE NEGRON-GONZALES

Corazones Abiertos: The Lived Experiences of Latinas In Public Government Through Pláticas

Ana Graciela De Castro Maquiz

DR. GENEVIEVE NEGRON-GONZALES

Strategic Responses to the Nonprofit Industrial Complex: A Qualitative Case Study Exploring One Activist Nonprofit's Shared Leadership Model

Kathryn Carole Delaney

DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

Investigating Strategies to Support Career Education Students in a Rural Northern California Community College

Lisa Cynthia Furlong

DR. DANFENG KOON

The Parable of Black Student Activism: The Institutional Response and Co-Optation of Black Student Demands in Higher Education Organizations

Emerald Sensaii Green

DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

Re-Membering our Power: Testimonios of Resistance from Nepantleras in the Out-of-School-Time Field

Erin Alicia Gutiérrez

DR. SEENAE CHONG

The Mission Lives with Me: African American Families Navigating Neoliberal School Choice Regimes

David Michael Kloker

DR. DARRICK SMITH

Predictors of Leadership Self-Efficacy: Racial Identity-Related Ideological Values, Racism-Related Stress, and Resilience Among Asian American Educators in K-12 schools

Chong Lor

DR. DARRICK SMITH

Autoethnography Findings: An Educational Leader's Experiences Leading Change Efforts While Immersed in an Entrenched, Industrialized Military Teacher School with a Resistant Staff and Faculty

Robert G. McGee

DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

The following is a listing of dissertations completed during the 2025-2026 academic year.
The assisting chairperson's name is listed below the candidate's name.

Organization and Leadership (*continued*)

Beyond the Bell: Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies in Expanded Learning for Black Students

Amelia Janine Neal
DR. SEENAE CHONG

From Implementation to Power: Teacher Unions, Community Schools, and the Fight for Democratic Public Education

Francisco Jesus Ortiz
DR. DANFENG KOON

Dual Identification: How Organizational Culture Impacts Educational Access for Student with Intersecting Language & Dis/ability Identities

Kara Marie Piastrelli
DR. DANFENG KOON

Providing Writing Skills Support Among First-Generation Underrepresented Community College Students of Color

Shaneel Royneesh Pratap
DR. MICHAEL DUFFY

Rising Stars: Latinx Student Affairs Staff Experiences in Higher Education and the Invisible Burden We Carry with Us

Claudio Isaac Rodriguez Medina
DR. GENEVIEVE NEGRON-GONZALES

College-for-All K-12 Education: Testimonios of Latinx Students who Enroll in California Community Colleges

Elisa Romero-Heaps
DR. GENEVIEVE NEGRON-GONZALES

Fostering Collaboration for Mission and Social Justice: Qualitative Case Studies of Models of Jesuits and non-Jesuit administrators, Faculty and Staff Members' Partnership at Arrupe Jesuit University (AJU) in Zimbabwe and Centre de Recherche et d'Action pour la Paix/Université Jésuite d'Abidjan (CERAP/UJA) in Côte d'Ivoire

Abdon Rwandekwe
DR. URSULA ALDANA

AI Ethics and Governance for Leaders in Higher Education: A Hermeneutic Phenomenology of Faculty Early Adopters' Sensemaking, Pedagogical Innovation, and Transformation

Freddie Seba
DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

Navigating Leadership - Black Male School Leaders' Experiences and Factors Impacting Their Career Advancement

Emmanuel Selvin Stewart
DR. DANFENG KOON

How Can Leadership Development Programs in Tech Companies Better Center the Experiences of Women of Color to Enhance Inclusion?

Iyad Uakoub
DR. DESIREE ZERQUERA

UNIVERSITY WIDE AWARDS

Graduate Student Leadership Award

This award will be given to students who have consistently worked and succeeded in enriching and having an impact on student life and the values of University Life (leadership, social justice, and cultural competency) throughout their careers at USF. This year's student is:

Kojo Ofori Ocran

Hilary Williams Ford Award

Recognized for her contributions and commitment to her field and the University of San Francisco, the Hilary Williams Ford Award is presented to a graduate student who has initiated positive changes in their field, and is awarded to:

Danielle Mina Yau

HONOR SOCIETY

Phi Delta Kappa (ΦΔΚ)

Phi Delta Kappa is an international professional fraternity for men and women in education. Membership is composed of recognized leaders in the profession and graduate students in education whose leadership potential has been identified. The following graduates are members of the University of San Francisco Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa:

Shaneel Royneesh Pratap

ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

McGrath Fellows

The McGrath Fellows of the Change the World From Here Institute was created to develop critically aware, mission-driven and goal-oriented system thinkers who are motivated to change their communities for the common good. The program engages and further develops established campus leaders across all disciplines who practice ethical, cooperative, collaborative and inclusive leadership; engage in both courageous and compassionate action; cultivate changes in values by re-framing and reinterpreting situations, and practice contemplative self-reflection. The Scholars honored here represent members of the graduating class that have completed both the curricular and co-curricular components of the program successfully. Graduating students are:

Abdon Rwandekwe

UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

Community Engaged Learning Faculty Award

The University Community Engaged Learning Faculty Award recognizes the work of full-time faculty in developing service-learning opportunities for USF students. The awardee shall be a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to service learning through the integration of service-learning into the curriculum; innovation in employing a reflective teaching methodology to connect community and public service experience with academic study; and demonstration of leadership that promotes service-learning on campus.

Reginold Daniels, College of Arts and Sciences

Distinguished Adjunct Teaching Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a part-time faculty member for extraordinary dedication to teaching and students, and for innovative and gifted approaches to teaching and the classroom at USF, are awarded to:

*Lynda Boyer-Chu,
School of Nursing and Health Professions*

Rajeev Naidu, College of Arts and Sciences

Manpreet Newsom, School of Education

Distinguished Research Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a full-time faculty member whose recent research and scholarship have made an outstanding contribution to his or her academic discipline, are awarded to:

Xiaosheng Huang, College of Arts and Sciences

Distinguished Teaching Award

A purse and a plaque, awarded jointly by the USF Faculty Association and the University, to a full-time faculty member for extraordinary dedication to teaching and students, and for innovative and gifted approaches to teaching and the classroom, are awarded to:

*June Madsen Clausen,
School of Nursing and Health Professions*

Educational Effectiveness Award

The Educational Effectiveness Award (EEA) is given out annually to one team in recognition of excellence in assessment practices at the University of San Francisco. The recognized assessment work should show evidence of student learning, use of student learning evidence, and help the University, or any part of the University or community, achieve its learning outcomes, goals or mission. Exemplary assessment work should also support a culture of assessment at USF, and include a plan for closing the loop.

*Laura Camara, Longyuan Du, Frank Fletcher,
Monika Hudson, John Koeplin, Courtney Masterson,
Anthony Patino, Yasi Sangari, Richard Stackman,
Bilgehan Yildiz (School of Management)*

UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

Excellence in Academic Leadership Award

The Excellence in Academic Leadership award recognizes an individual who has demonstrated exceptional leadership and vision, particularly during times of uncertainty and transition. The awardee has gone beyond the traditional scope of their role, showing resilience, creativity, and a profound commitment to supporting the USF community. Through navigating challenges, advocating for innovation, and leading transformational change, this leader has made a lasting impact and inspired others through collaboration and leadership.

Osasere Egbuomwan, College of Arts and Sciences

Ignatian Service Award

Ignatian Service Award recognizes an exceptional commitment to the service of students, the University, and the community at large, in light of the religious and moral legacy of St. Ignatius. The awardee shall be a full-time faculty member who has demonstrated an ongoing and creative commitment to the realization of this legacy through his/her actions and accomplishments.

Sonja Martin Poole, School of Management

Inclusive Excellence Award

Presented by the Office of ADEI to recognize a faculty member, librarian, or staff member who has made exceptional contributions to advancing access, fostering belonging, and promoting inclusion within the USF community.

Magaly Salas, Gleeson Library

Innovation in Global Initiative Award

Recognizes a faculty, librarian, or staff member who demonstrates innovation in facilitating global educational opportunities, (study abroad, immersion programs, internships, research opportunities) or bringing global perspective to campus (incorporating global into courses, developing new global courses, or broadening access to global perspectives).

Wei Yang Menkus, Asia Pacific Studies

Innovation in Instruction Award

The Innovation in Instruction Award is granted to a part-time faculty member that utilizes creative or innovative teaching methods, approaches, and techniques in their courses.

*Sharlisa Byrd,
School of Nursing and Health Professions*

UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARDS

Innovation in Teaching with Technology Award

The CIT Awards honor faculty or staff who have demonstrated excellent use of technology in education. Recipients have supported the development of teaching and learning contributing to the overall quality of the USF learning environment.

Full-Time Faculty Team Award

Joyce Yang, Aline Hitti, Zachary Reese
College of Arts and Sciences

Part-Time Faculty Award

Fernanda Lopez Ornelas
College of Arts and Sciences

Mentor of the Year Award

The Mentor of the Year Award was created by the Provost Council in order to recognize a faculty member or a staff person who furthers the Vision, Mission and Values of the University through their demonstrated commitment to and excellence in advising and mentoring our graduate and undergraduate students. The award recognizes individuals who help our students (1) identify their academic goals; (2) establish relationships between their curricular and co-curricular activities; (3) develop the expertise, skills and values that support academic and personal achievement; and, (4) discern how their USF experience will assist them in forming a more humane and just world, and is awarded to:

Zachary Reese, College of Arts and Sciences

Outstanding Teamwork in Advancing the University's Strategic Plan Award

The Outstanding Teamwork in Advancing the University's Strategic Plan Award was created by the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs in order to recognize and honor a team of faculty, librarians and/or staff who have made exceptional contributions to advancing USF's Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on creative co-design, collaboration, and cross-departmental/divisional teamwork.

Residence Life

Adeline Barron, Amanda Chavez, Alyssa Dwyer,
Kahanu Salavea, Jonathan Sirait, Ashrah'Lani Turner,
Austin Quarles

Horizon Collective Working Group

Chris Brooks, Katherine Edwards, Osasere Evbuomwan,
Erin Grinshteyn, Jocelyn Lambert, Courtney Masterson,
Saralyn Ruff, Calla Schmidt

The colorful attire worn by the graduates, the faculty, and officers of the University on the occasion of these Commencement Exercises has historic roots in medieval times. Dressed as they are in cap and gown, the graduates and their professors form part of a long tradition which dates back to Paris and Bologna, to Oxford and Cambridge in the days of their Catholic glory.

The precise origins of the several parts of the academic garb are not easy to discover. However, since medieval students enjoyed the status of clerics during their university years, one is hardly far wrong in asserting that their attire found its inspiration in the clerical dress of medieval times. The gown seems to be an adaptation of the robe of friar or priest; the hood, of the monk's or friar's cowl; and the mortarboard cap of today, the end product of curious evolution, recalls the skull cap of days when tonsured heads needed protection against the drafts of medieval classrooms.

Academic attire began to appear quite generally on United States campuses in the late 1890s. Since that time, its use has become universal for solemn university functions, and its pattern highly uniform.

THE GOWN

The gowns are three in number and styling. That of the bachelor is a yoked, closed-front garment, with long, pointed sleeves; that of the master is cut to be worn open front, its sleeves are long and closed, slit cut just above the elbow to allow the forearm to protrude; the gown of the doctor is also worn open and has full bell-shaped sleeves. Only the doctor's gown is trimmed—with velvet panels down the front and three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Though black velvet is proper trimming for all doctor gowns, the color and material of the panels and sleeve bars is often varied in order to indicate the faculty which granted the wearer's degree; dark blue for Philosophy (PHD); light blue for Education (EDD); white for Arts and Letters (LITTD); gold-yellow for Science (SCD); orange for Engineering (ENGD, DCE); purple for Law (LLD, DCL, JD, JUD, JCD); green for Medicine (MD); scarlet for Theology (STD, DD).

THE HOOD

The hood at first seems to have been worn over the head and was attached to the gown. When the skull cap was introduced, the hood was retained, but detached and worn much as it is today. Each degree (bachelor, master, doctor) has a right to a hood, which varies in length and, in the case of the doctor's, also in pattern. The bachelor's hood is three feet long; the master's hood, three and one-half; the doctor's hood, four, with wide panels on either side.

The color or colors with which the hood is lined are those of the college or university that granted the wearer's degree—for example, the University of San Francisco is known by the gold chevron on the field of Kelly green. The colored velvet binding or edging of the hood, in different widths for bachelor, master, doctor, is a key to the faculty granting the degree. The velvet colors include white for Arts, gold-yellow for Science, drab for Business, apricot for Nursing, light blue for Education, royal blue for Nonprofit Administration, peacock blue for Public Administration, scarlet for Theology, purple for Law, and so forth.

THE CAP

The mortar board has become the universally accepted style in United States colleges and universities. Many European institutions still retain distinctive forms of academic headdress—for example, the University of London's tam-o-shanter cap.

The doctor, following graduation, has the right to wear a gold tassel on the mortar board; black, however, is perfectly proper and perhaps more common.



UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO
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