

CLASS OF 2025 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Quad-Cities Campus

Vibrant Arena at The MARK Thursday, May 15, 2025

On Academic Regalia

On at least one solemn occasion during the academic calendar – Spring Commencement – the faculty of the college publicly display their full academic regalia and participate in the ritual of a processional and recessional from the commencement ceremony. The purposes of commencement are well-known, but the reasons for the peculiar dress of the celebrants and the order of the procession are often as confusing to the audience as they are, in fact, to the faculty. This note may help to explain academic costumes.

Today's academics are descendants of clerical schoolmen in the universities of medieval Europe. Like clergy, members of the bench and bar, and other learned professionals, the medieval scholar clothed himself in heavy robes to keep out the draft from unheated, windowless buildings. Like all members of medieval society, faculty enjoyed the visible symbols of their rank. These outward signs of accomplishment and authority were tailored into the robes. The need for such voluminous garments to keep the scholar from catching a cold is long past, but the use of them to symbolize the dignity of the profession remains.

Caps and gowns worn by our faculty are black. Black was the color adopted by mutual agreement among American colleges and universities at the end of the 19th century. In Europe, each university has its own distinctive gowns, varying in color and cut with each institution. A European commencement is a far more colorful occasion than its American counterpart.

There are four basic academic degrees: the associate degree, the baccalaureate or bachelor's degree, the master's degree and the doctorate. Each has a special robe. The associate and bachelor's gowns are trim, neat and unadorned, as benefits apprentices. The master's gown is still simple, but fuller, with a hood draped from the shoulders down the back. Once used to keep the shaved heads of medieval clerks from freezing, the hood now is solely a badge of degree of scholarly achievement. The master's hood is small and narrow, but displays the colors of the institution that awarded the degree. The doctorate robe has a generous cut, is faced with velvet, and emblazoned with velvet stripes on the ample sleeves. Most of the velvet facings and chevrons or stripes are black, but some are other colors. According to personal taste, doctors may display the color of their doctoral degree on their sleeves and facings: for example; royal blue for philosophy, green for medicine, purple for law, scarlet for theology. The doctor's hood is lined in satin with the colors of the degree itself. All academic costumes include the square cap called a mortarboard. The doctor's tassels may be either black or gold. Tassels of all other degrees may be black or the colors of the college or department from which the student graduated or is graduating.

Stage party members wearing black, gold and red hoods are members of the Black Hawk College Board of Trustees. Their hoods do not represent academic rank; they indicate the trustees' public service through their governance of the local college district. The three colors represent an integration of the colors of the college's Quad-Cities Campus and East Campus.

Commencement Program

Prelude Music			
pecial Prelude Music "The Liberty Bell March" John Philip Sousa			
"Nessun Dorma" from <i>Turnadot</i> Giacomo Puccini, arr. Robert Van Beringen Erin Mahr, Director Black Hawk College Concert Band			
Presentation of the Colors*			
Academic Procession*			
Francis Scott Key/John Stafford Smith Arranged by Bill Moffit Erin Mahr, Director Black Hawk College Concert Band/Combined Choirs			
Moment of Silence*			
(As the Colors are retired, please remain standing in a moment of silence in respect for our country and in honor of the members of our military.)			
Black Hawk College School Song"* Introduced by Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas President, Black Hawk College "Thaxted" melody by Gustav Holst Arranged by Dr. C. Edgar Crockett Text by Dorothy Beck and Paul Cioe Dr. Irene Leites, Director Black Hawk College Community Band/Combined Choirs			

(*Please stand.)

"America the Beautiful"	Introduced by Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas Composed by Samuel A. Ward Text by Katharine Lee Bates Arranged by Carmen Dragon Choral adaptation by Andrew Endress Erin Mahr, Director Black Hawk College Concert Band/Combined Choirs
Welcome	Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas President, Black Hawk College
Professors Emeriti Presentation	Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas President, Black Hawk College Fritz W. Larsen Board Chair, Black Hawk College
Student Remarks	Nyzaria Robinson-Wyatt 2025 Black Hawk College graduate
Presentation of the Class of 2025	Torria Norman Interim Vice President for Instruction
Awarding of Certificates and Conferring of Degrees	Dr. Jeremy L. Thomas Board of Trustees Dr. Douglas Davidson Professor President, Quad-Cities Campus Faculty Senate
Recessional	"Fanfare and Recessional" by James D. Ployhar "Transit of Venus" John Philip Sousa Erin Mahr, Director Black Hawk College Concert Band



The Black Hawk College Seal

The official college seal was adopted in May 1969. It incorporates some of the oldest symbols known. The "Y," or fork, is a key sign symbolizing the up reaching spirit, the striving of being. Above the key sign is the flame which represents knowledge, specifically the knowledge of liberal arts and sciences programs. The old chemical sign at right is for basic metals, which represents vocational and technical education. On the left is the philosopher's sign which describes the nature of human intellect and symbolizes the active intellect present in adults who continue their education. The enclosing circle represents the continuing circle of education. The Latin phrase, Collegium Pro Populo, identifies Black Hawk as the College for the People.

Graduation Honors

Summa Cum Laude graduates are identified by a gold honor cord. (60 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.95 GPA or higher)

Magna Cum Laude graduates are identified by a white honor cord. (45 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.85 GPA or higher)

Cum Laude graduates are identified by a red honor cord.

(30 hours at Black Hawk College and a 3.75 GPA or higher)

Honors Regalia

- Alpha Beta Gamma, International Business Honor Society

 Alpha Beta Gamma graduates may be identified by a blue stole with Greek letters or a blue stole with emblem and Greek letters.
- Delta Alpha Pi, International Honor Society for Students with Disabilities Delta Alpha Pi graduates may be identified by a royal blue and gold cord.
- Phi Theta Kappa, Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges
 Phi Theta Kappa graduates may be identified by double blue and gold cords and/or gold stole.
- ▲ Psi Beta, National Honor Society in Psychology for Community and Junior Colleges Psi Beta graduates may be identified by gold cords with blue and gold tassels.
- Sigma Kappa Delta, the English Honor Society for Two-Year Colleges Sigma Kappa Delta graduates may be identified by green and yellow cords.
- Military Service Military service members honorably discharged or currently serving may be identified by a red, white and blue honor cord.
- NJCAA Student-Athlete All-Academic First Team 4.0 GPA
- * NJCAA Student-Athlete All-Academic Second Team 3.80-3.99 GPA
- ★ NJCAA Student-Athlete All-Academic Third Team 3.60-3.79 GPA
- NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball All-America Third Team Selected by the NJCAA Division II Women's Basketball Committee
- Black Hawk College Honors Program These graduates are identified by a gold, black and white cord.

CERTIFICATES Class of 2025

Natalee Jo DeVoss, Rock Island

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ■* Christina Lyn Pohl, Rock Island
- Courtney Leigh Richter, Moline
- Emma Leigh Stout, Milan Aaron Robert York, Rock Island

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Carissa Gonzalez, Moline

ART TECHNOLOGY

* Justin Michael Lessin, East Moline

ASSISTANT TEACHER

Riley Elizabeth Hudson, Morrison Roberto Jesus Morales Prieto, Moline

BANKING AND FINANCE

■* Christina Lyn Pohl, Rock Island

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Himari Grace Dennis, Rock Island

Molly DeSmet, Illinois City

Lily Kateri Devlin, Moline Shakira Diasso-Adamou, East Moline Akou Bright Doh, East Moline Josias Atheleme Dokambire, East Moline Taylor Cheyenne Dowd, New Windsor Tiana Drummond, Rock Island Nancy Solimar Duarte-Guerrero, Kewanee Keegan Diane Dunsworth, Carbon Cliff Lana Ann Edkin, Moline Daniela Enriquez, East Moline Cecily Jane Ferris, Davenport, IA Kaylee Renae Floming, Atkinson Khloey Ann Marie Floyd, Atkinson Ethan Wavne Franks, Silvis Kayci Lyn Freeman, Geneseo Violet Ivery Frenell, Silvis Donna Arany Garcia, Wheeling Mckinzie Lynn Gillespie, Silvis Adriana Gomez, Moline Alena Jazmyne Gomez, Coal Valley Jolina Ariel Gonzalez, Moline Chelsea B. Green, Rock Island Jordan Taylor Guillen, Moline Mayra Lissett Gutierrez, Moline Jaelyn Marie Hare, East Moline Kamryn Ann Marie Harris, Coal Valley Hailey Lynn Haskins, Colona Devyn J'Cole Hayes, Rock Island Eduardo Javier Herrera, East Moline Abigayle Lee Hicks, East Moline Van Bawi Tha Hnem, Silvis Esther Abigael Houedou, Moline Deja C. Humphries, Rock Island Olivia Grace Hunt, Davenport, IA Riham Idrees, Sudan Blessing Jabbah, Rock Island Lela Johnson, Moline Aunah Elise Jones, Rock Island Andrew Ryan Kirby, Joy Ablavi Rebecca Komassi, East Moline DeNym Shanea Langford, Rock Island Nehemiah Veyene Lenzen, Moline Su su Let, Rock Island Kylee Lynn Littlejohn, Rock Island Hadjara B. Mama, East Moline Zenab Mama, East Moline Levi Nel Deih Mang, Moline Selene Marquez, Moline Aubrey Kay Massie, Milan

Heather Denay Mattan, Moline

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 Van B. Ceu, Colona
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- Jackson Colgan, East Moline
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 Joseph Michael Coronado, Hampton
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 Vanessa Cruz, Moline
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- Carina Ella Johnson, Moline Sadie Rose Johnson, Port Byron Dylan Jacob Karenke, East Moline Jasleen Kaur, New Windsor Kamalpreet Kaur, New Windsor
- Nolan Ray Kerr, Macomb
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- Michi Ku, Chicago
- * Jaelyn Justine Lambin, Geneseo
- **O

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 Landon Stephen Leatherman, Lutz, FL

 Ntiebuwayo Leya, Rock Island

 Cody Ryan Lindeman, Sherrard

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 Laycee Mawazo, Moline

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 Marikka L. Nephew, Moline
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 Adrian Jesus Nevarez, East Moline
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- Ella Kay Oliva, Orion
 Jesus Ortiz, East Moline
 Zachary Robert Otten-Thoms, Rock Island
 Bienvenue Panla, Moline
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 Addison Lee Pickens, Viola
- Kaiden Porter, Rock Island Taylor Rae Powless, East Moline
- Quin Tyler Pruett, Coal Valley
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- Joseph Alexander Pustejovsky, Geneseo
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- Conner Jeffrey Schimmel, Coal Valley
- Amber Rene Rhoads Schlue, Davenport, IA Beau Christopher Schneider, Coal Valley Elizabeth Kerr Seeley, Moline Tayler Nicole Seibel, Milan
- Lillian Mai Severtsgaard, Bettendorf, IA Bibi I. Sha, Rock Island Rylee Christine Sherwood, East Moline
- Nucleus Shrestha, Davenport, IA
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 Delaney Raejean Speth, Davenport, IA
- Sarah Frances Spurgetis, Moline Katie Lynn Storm, East Moline
- Darian Malia Summers, Hampton
- Attingly Robyn Taylor, Silvis
 Ahmareah Amor Treasure Trevino, East Moline
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- Isabel Vega, Moline
- Aurel Junior Viyegbe, Moline
- Macyn Annelise Walston, Silvis Samantha Belle Watters, Geneseo Ryan R. Whitcher, East Moline
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- Sandra Adwoa Yeboah, Moline Joseph Austin Young, Decatur Noah Matthew Young, Eldridge, IA Noah M. Younts, Moline
- Paige Marie Zaehringer, Moline Daniel Zepeda, Moline

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 Hannah Elizabeth Baranczyk, Moline
- Rachid Basmala, East Moline
 Tamara Terese Burleson, East Moline
 Suan Sian Cin, Moline
 Hunter John Conant. Moline
- Mason Keith DeGreve, Colona
- Stephen Michael Dillender II, Rock Island Ashtyn Lois Dohrn, Clinton, IA
 Asha Tianna Doukoure, Rock Island
 Victor Octavio Duarte, Rock Island
- Blaine Jeffery Engle, Aledo
- *A

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 Denison Edward Franklin, Davenport, IA
 Jeff Ryan Gallaugher, East Moline
 Mizero Gerald. Rock Island
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- Zachary Xaiver Houtekier, Moline

- Tyler Christopher Hunter Demarest, Silvis
- Isabella Judith Ibarra, Princeton

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- Isaac Kaufman, Port ByronShannon Lynn Kenneavy, Clinton, IA
- Cole Thomas Kimball, Orion
- Cole Allen Kratzberg, Orion
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- Andrea Linda Lopreato, Mount Pleasant, IA
 Jaelynn Emma McCann, Geneseo
 Hser Nav Moo. Rock Island
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- Alexia Ramirez, Davenport, IA Donald Mac Raymer, Moline
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