



**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
DOCTORAL COMMENCEMENT**

APRIL 30, 2026



OUR MISSION

Steadfast in Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, Concordia University Chicago promotes academic rigor in its liberal arts and professional programs; grounds students in objective truth, integrity, and excellence; and practices faithfulness to the Confessional teachings of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as it forms students for vocations in church, family, and the world.



Commencement services are being livestreamed at CUChicago.edu/Live and will be available for on-demand viewing on the website.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO SPRING 2026 COMMENCEMENT

GUEST GUIDELINES

Health & Safety Protocols

Food and beverage is not allowed inside Geiseman Gymnasium.

Baby strollers and walkers must be parked in designated area when not in use to prevent blocking of aisles.

Noisemakers are not permitted.

For the safety of all guests, we ask that you please remain in your seat until the faculty and graduates have recessed out of the Gymnasium at the end of the ceremony.

Immediately following the recessional, we kindly ask that graduates and their guests promptly clear the Gymnasium.

Please silence all electronic devices.

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please take a moment to locate the exit nearest to you.

Procession Guidelines

Please silence all electronic devices.

Unauthorized guest presence is not permitted near the stage.

Ushers will respectfully ask those not permitted in the area to return to their seats.

Guest photography is only allowed from the seating area. Please do not stand in aisles. Flash and tripod photography is not allowed in the Gymnasium.

Photographers from Grad Images will take pictures of each graduate. Photos will be posted online and access codes will be emailed to graduates. For more information, please call 800-247-3435 or visit GradImages.com.

Balloons and signs are not permitted inside the Gymnasium. An usher will provide guests a ticket to check items before storing them in a safe location until after the ceremony.

SPRING 2026 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

PROCESSIONAL

The audience shall remain seated during the procession.

WELCOME

Dr. Robert Balza

Vice President for Academic Affairs

INVOCATION

Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13

University Chaplain

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:15-16

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Dr. Russell P. Dawn

University President

Out of respect for each graduate, please hold your applause until the last graduate has processed across the stage.



GRADUATE NAMES

*For the full list
of graduates,
please scan the
QR code to view online.*

SPRING 2026 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

ALUMNI RESPONSE

Dr. Fernando Noriega, EdD '26

Sports Leadership

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOME

Kristin (Hirt) Hardy, BA '98

ALMA MATER

All Concordia-Chicago alumni are invited to stand to be recognized before the singing of the *Alma Mater*.

Hail to thee, our Al-ma Ma-ter! Hail to thee, Ma-roon and Gold!

Here we stand, thy sons and daugh-ters, Think-ing back to days of old:

Days of joy and hap-py meet-ings, Days of friend-ship and of love.

As we stand be-fore thy Pil-lars, Hail! Con-cor-dia! Hail!

SPRING 2026 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

CHARGE TO THE GRADUATES

Dr. Russell P. Dawn

University President

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

Rev. Simeon Raddatz, BA '13

University Chaplain

DISMISSAL

Dr. Robert Balza

Vice President for Academic Affairs

RECESSIONAL

*Following the recessional, light refreshments will be served
for graduates and their guests in the Triangle.*

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

UNIVERSITY EXECUTIVE CABINET

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Vice President for Academic Affairs

Mrs. Kathryn Gebhardt, BA '96

Vice President for Student Success and Dean of Students

Mr. Jeffrey Hynes

Senior Vice President for University Advancement, Foundation President and CEO

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Vice President for Administration

Mr. John Thoelke, BA '92

Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer

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Dean, College of Business

Dr. Maja Miskovic

Dean, College of Education

Dr. Suzanne Walsh

Dean, College of Health, Science & Technology

Deaconess Kristin Wassilak, BA '86, MA '96

Dean, College of Theology, Arts & Humanities

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