



University Commencement 2023



Welcome to the annual University Commencement at UT Dallas.
Tonight, we salute you, our graduates.

Your dedication and discipline have opened a pathway to new possibilities. And your Comet family is proud to have played a part in your bright future.

Thank you for choosing UT Dallas for your education. We heartily congratulate you, as well as your supportive families and friends, as you embark on the next stage of your journey.

Enjoy the celebration!

Richard C. Benson

Dr. Richard C. Benson

President

Eugene McDermott Distinguished University Chair of Leadership



UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT 2023

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

Friday, May 12, 2023

COMMENCEMENT CONCERT | 7:00 p.m.

Musical performance by the
UT Dallas Jazz Band

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY | 7:30 p.m.

Procession, recognition and celebration

GRAND PROCESSION OF GRADUATES

PRESENTATION OF THE FACULTY AND LEADERSHIP

Ravi Prakash, PhD
Speaker of the Faculty

WELCOME FROM FACULTY AND STUDENTS

PRESIDING

Richard C. Benson, PhD
President, The University of Texas at Dallas

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Aaron Aryanpur, BA'00

PRESENTATION OF SCHOOLS

President Benson
School Deans

CERTIFICATION OF DEGREES

Jessica C. Murphy, PhD
Dean, Undergraduate Education

Juan E. González, PhD
Dean, Graduate Education

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

President Benson

CLOSING OF CEREMONY

Remarks and UT Dallas Alma Mater
President Benson

COSMIC LIGHT SHOW AND CAMPUS CELEBRATION





COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS

Aaron Aryanpur, BA'00

Temoc Creator and Entertainer

Stand-up comedian Aaron Aryanpur BA'00 has appeared on television and in comedy clubs, theaters and colleges across the country. Crowned the “Funniest Comic in Texas” in 2012, he made his national television debut on Fox’s “Laughs” and was a semifinalist in both Comedy Central’s “Up Next Talent Search” and NBC’s “Stand-Up for Diversity” competitions.

Aryanpur’s album “In Spite Of” made the Top 10 of both iTunes’ and Billboard’s comedy album charts. He also has appeared on the “Minivan Men” podcast with fellow comics Maz Jobrani (“Curb Your Enthusiasm”) and Al Madrigal (“The Daily Show”). His work has been featured on Comedy Central Radio and 24/7 Comedy Radio.

With nearly 20 years of experience, Aryanpur also has been a contributing joke writer and a voice-over actor for a variety of programs. As a University of Texas at Dallas student in 1998, Aryanpur created Blaze, the first iteration of UTD’s beloved mascot Temoc. He graduated from UT Dallas with a bachelor’s degree in art and performance.



UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Richard C. Benson, PhD

President

Inga H. Musselman, PhD

Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

Kyle D. Edgington, PhD

Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations

Frank Feagans, MS

Vice President for Information Technology

Gene Fitch Jr., EdD

Vice President for Student Affairs

Calvin D. Jamison, EdD

Vice President for Facilities and Economic Development

Rafael O. Martín, PhD

Vice President and Chief of Staff

Joseph J. Pancrazio, PhD

Vice President for Research and Innovation

Terry A. Pankratz, MBA

Vice President for Budget and Finance

Yvette E. Pearson, PhD

Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Amanda Rockow, MA

Vice President for Public Affairs

John Walls, MA

Vice President for Communications

Nils Roemer, PhD

Dean of School of Arts, Humanities, and Technology

Steven L. Small, PhD, MD

Dean of School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences

Jennifer S. Holmes, PhD

Dean of School of Economic, Political and Policy Sciences

Stephanie G. Adams, PhD

Dean of Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science

Tonja Wissinger, PhD

Interim Dean of School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Hasan Pirkul, PhD

Dean of Naveen Jindal School of Management

David W. Hyndman, PhD

Dean of School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

Jessica C. Murphy, PhD

Dean of Undergraduate Education

Juan E. González, PhD

Dean of Graduate Education

Donal Skinner, PhD

Dean of Hobson Wildenthal Honors College

Ellen D. Safley, PhD

Dean of Libraries

Amanda Smith, EdD

Dean of Students



UT DALLAS ALMA MATER

UT Dallas orange and green
Founders' visionary dream
To inflame the scholar's heart
Lighting pathways through the dark
Reaching out from Earth to space
Serving all the human race
Joined as one in unity
Alma Mater UTD

COMET WAVE

The Comet Wave was implemented at our inaugural
University Commencement in 2022.

At the end of the ceremony, our graduates will remove
their caps and wave them with sparkling lights on their wrists
to give one last *Whoosh* to their University.

THANK YOU

To all who helped make this year's University Commencement a success, thank you!

Planning Committee of University Events, Office of Communications,
Office of the Registrar, and Division of Student Affairs.

University support services including UT Dallas Police, Media Services, Emergency
Management and Continuity Planning, Fire and Life Safety, University Emergency Medical Response,
Parking and Transportation, and Facilities Management.

Student musicians of the UTD Jazz Band and UTD Chamber Singers, along with
Dr. Jonathan Palant, Associate Dean of the Arts and Director of Choral Activities,
and Kelly Durbin, UT Dallas Jazz Band Director.

Commencement Ambassadors and Ushers for volunteering
their support to allow the evening to progress smoothly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All are invited to participate in a farewell celebration brought to you by
the Office of Student Affairs. The celebration will commence following the Cosmic Light Show
at the conclusion of the ceremony. Please join the festivities taking place to the west
of the ceremony location next to the Visitor Center.

For information on school-based ceremonies during the remainder of Commencement Week,
please visit www.graduation.utdallas.edu



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS