Honors Convocation Tradition

Honors Convocation is an annual celebration at UT Dallas where undergraduate students are recognized for their distinguished academic achievements. Students earning Latin Honors, Major Honors, or Collegium V Honors are invited to attend. The tradition of Honors Convocation dedicates time prior to commencement for the academic community to gather and recognize the very best of the University's undergraduates who are prepared to make significant contributions to their professional field or graduate programs.

2020 Honors Convocation

The Spring 2020 Honors Convocation will be conducted at 9am on Monday, May 11, 2020 in the Activity Center Main Gym.

Notify the university of your intent to attend the Honors Convocation ceremony using the Honors Convocation RSVP Form.

Please note the following:

• If you do not attend Honors Convocation, you may pick up your medallion at commencement.
• Only students graduating in the spring and summer will be provided a medallion at the Honors Convocation ceremony. Students who graduated in fall should bring the honors medallion they were provided for fall commencement.
• You will use your UT Dallas NetID and Password to access the online Honors Convocation RSVP Form.
• Once you complete the form, select ‘Submit’ located at the bottom of the form.

The Honors Convocation Ceremony

At this event, students who are graduating with Latin Honors, Major Honors, or Collegium V Honors will be recognized and given a UT Dallas honors medallion, which is to be worn during commencement to signify their honors recognition. The ceremony will include recognition of the Outstanding Undergraduate Student Award and the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring. In the past, the Honors Convocation ceremony has recognized winners of the Undergraduate Alumni Achievement Award. Recipients of this award include the following distinguished individuals: David Lozano (2018), Desmond Blair (2017), Conrad Capili (2016), Christina Gallegos Deoja (2015), and Aubrey Meyers (2014).

Audience members will also enjoy a presentation from the keynote speaker, as well as congratulatory words to the students from the University's president and provost. Deans of the eight UT Dallas schools and several of the University's most decorated faculty will join students in this celebration. Students who are invited to participate in this tradition are also encouraged to invite family, friends, and faculty who inspired or mentored them during their academic career at UT Dallas.
Denise Paquette Boots is the Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education in the School of Economic, Political & Policy Sciences, Professor of Public Policy and Political Economy, and Senior Research Fellow in the Institute for Urban Policy Research at UT Dallas. Dr. Boots’ research focuses on interpersonal violence, with an emphasis on domestic violence and homicide, child abuse and neglect, campus sexual assault, mental health, problem-solving courts, neuropsychological vulnerabilities, capital punishment, gendered pathways to crime and victimization, parricide, and outcome and process evaluations of courts and criminal justice programs and has been awarded over $1.3 million dollars in private and public sponsored projects. Dr. Boots has published roughly 50 articles, book chapters, technical reports and an academic monograph, serves on the Title IX Advisory Committee, is an Executive Committee member for the City of Dallas Domestic Violence Taskforce, an editorial board member for the respected journal *Violence Against Women*, and the founding president and Executive Board member for Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society at UT Dallas. In 2010, she was awarded the UT Board of Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award, and in 2016 the UT Dallas President’s Teaching Excellence Award for tenured faculty.

**Recognition of Latin Honors**

UT Dallas Honors Convocation also recognizes undergraduates who will graduate with the traditional Latin Honors designations. Students must have completed a minimum amount of coursework at UT Dallas to be recognized with Latin Honors per the University's [Undergraduate Catalog](https://oue.utdallas.edu/special-programs/honors-convocation/makepdf).  

*Summa Cum Laude*, or with highest honors, is the recognition of the greatest academic success in the UT Dallas undergraduate experience. Students earning *Summa Cum Laude* honors must graduate with the designated grade point average and be in the highest five percent of their academic school.

*Magna Cum Laude*, or with high honors, is the recognition of students who have continuously met the academic challenges of the university and their discipline and emerged triumphant. These students must graduate with the designated grade point average and be in the next ten percent of their academic school.

*Cum Laude*, or with honors, is the recognition of students who have sustained academic excellence during their undergraduate career. These students must graduate with the designated minimum grade point average and be in the next fifteen percent of their academic school.

*Visit the Office of the Registrar Latin Honors webpage* for more information.

**Recognition of Major Honors**

During the Honors Convocation ceremony, students who earn [Major Honors](https://oue.utdallas.edu/special-programs/honors-convocation/makepdf) from their academic school through successful completion of the school's Honors Program are also recognized. Each program provides two levels of recognition: Honors and Distinction. Student must have completed a minimum amount of coursework at UT Dallas to be recognized with Major Honors.

**Recognition of Collegium V Honors**

The Honors Convocation ceremony also allows for formal recognition of graduating students who have successfully completed the Collegium V Honors Program (CV) requirements. The CV experience encourages intellectually creative, inquisitive, and highly motivated students to extend their educational experience
beyond the scope of the traditional undergraduate curriculum.

Visit the Collegium V webpage for more information.

Convocation Student Information

The Honors Convocation ceremony will last approximately one hour. Business casual (no jeans or shorts) is the suggested attire for all guests. Invitees are encouraged to arrive an hour prior to the ceremony. All students who will be recognized must sign-in at the Honors Convocation check-in desk. Honorees will be given a UT Dallas honors medallion at check-in. After checking in, honorees will line up and process into the ceremony. There is no limit to the number of guests and the event is free to all honorees and their guests. The university will not provide a location, nor is responsible for backpacks, purses, or other personal belongings during the ceremony. Please do not bring those items or leave them with your guests.