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.

2019 Honors Convocation

The Spring 2019 Honors Convocation will be conducted at 10am on Monday, May 13, 2019 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.
2019 Keynote Speaker - Dr. Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UT System
Dr. Rebecca Karoff, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Dr. Rebecca Karoff joined the University of Texas System in February 2016 as Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. She is responsible for leading and supporting student success initiatives system-wide. Her work addresses the student success continuum, PK-20 and into the workforce, and recognizes the remarkable responsibility and opportunity of the University of Texas System to achieve more equitable access and outcomes for the state's increasingly diverse students. Through a number of projects, she is focused on identifying the touchpoints where the UT System and institutions can collaborate meaningfully together and across sectors, and on fortifying the levers and bridges that connect PK-12 to higher education. These projects work to strengthen educator preparation programs, dual credit in Texas, critical literacies students need in a globally interdependent economy, and undergraduate student success at the System's academic universities. She is the primary architect of the UT System's student success framework, which is focused on student financial well-being, effective advising, and deepening students' sense of academic and social belonging. All of her work is data-informed, equity-minded and quality-driven, and she is interested in expanded approaches to measuring student success.

Prior to joining the UT System, Dr. Karoff served as Senior Special Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs at the University of Wisconsin System, where she utilized her extensive policy background to help drive proficiency-based curricular delivery and reform through a number of collaborative system-wide initiatives. She was the founder and director of LEAP Wisconsin, the UW System's partnership with the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) on its Liberal Education and America's Promise or LEAP Campaign. With AAC&U, she led a number of grant-funded LEAP projects in the UW System. Additionally, she played a lead role in the planning and development of The UW Flexible Option, the University of Wisconsin System's online, competency-based educational program.

Dr. Karoff has been successful in identifying internal and external resources to fund institutional and system student success work, including grants from the Gates and Lumina Foundations. She has authored numerous published articles, and regularly presents at state and national conferences.

With more than 20 years working on public higher education at the system level, first in Wisconsin and now in Texas, she is dedicated to utilizing the power of the system as a catalyst for quality educational attainment, equity, innovation and transformation in the 21st-century global society.

A native of Massachusetts, Dr. Karoff moved to Wisconsin to pursue graduate study in Comparative Literature. Before entering public higher education administration, Dr. Karoff taught Comparative Literature at UW-Madison, from which she received PhD and MA degrees. She earned a BA with Honors from Brown University.

Rebecca and her husband Brad are the parents of two mostly-grown children, Jacob and Sophie.

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.

*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 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.