

Commencement Ceremony

ROCKBRIDGE SEMINARY



Graduation Program
July 23, 2024



Commencement Ceremony

Rockbridge Seminary

July 23, 2024 – 6:00 p.m. Central

Prelude

Academic Procession
Pomp and Circumstance

Welcome and Introductions
Rev. Tommy Hilliker
Seminary President

Invocation
Mr. Kevin Compton
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Reading from Scripture
Dr. Steve Custer
Seminary Faculty

Philippians 1:3-9 (NLT)

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight...

Carole Eldridge Leadership Award
Ladonna Tapplin
Presented by Mrs. Linda Graber
Director of Alumni Relations

Simpson-Proux Ministry Service Award
Heather M. Cova
Okello Jophiter Obasi
Presented by Dr. Mark Simpson,
Vice President for Academic Services

Worship in Music
Brittany Mackie
Goodness of God

Commencement Address
Kay Warren
Author

Conferring of Honorary Doctorate
Kay Warren

Conferring of Degrees
Rev. Tommy Hilliker, Seminary President
Dr. Mark Simpson, Vice President for
Academic Services

Blessing of Graduates
Rev. Mark Carver
Board of Trustees

Graduate Recessional
Courante

Graduating Class of 2024

Diploma in Ministry Studies

The D.M.S. is a two-year undergraduate diploma designed for men and women who are serving on a church staff or in other ministry positions.

Pasar Jim Koomprapun

Mission Viejo, CA

Steven A. Maus

Casa Grande, AZ

Okello Jophiter Obasi

Busia, Uganda

James Charles Reed

New Taipei City, Taiwan

Jared Steven Tricarico

Maryville, TN

Master of Ministry Leadership

The M.M.L. is a two-year professional degree designed for men and women serving on a church staff or in other ministry positions.

Kirby Benisch

Colby, KS

Birch Champeon

Grand Rapids, MI

Heather M. Cova

Orange, CA

James Darnell Daniel Jr.

Fallbrook, CA

Michael J. Hoggard

West Union, WV

Ryan Lee Schreckenghaust

Lee's Summit, MO

Ladonna Tapplin

Las Vegas, NV

Joshua Westurn

Bargersville, IN

Coby L. Wilbanks

Nacogdoches, TX

Master of Divinity

The M.Div. is a three-year professional degree designed for men and women who serve or desire to serve in such roles as ordained pastor, career missionary, or chaplain.

Nicholas Bert Atyia

Seminole, OK

Chan Ka Wah

Hong Kong

Allen Salibo

Irvine, CA

Christine Grace Santos

Ann Arbor, MI

Jeremy Paine Seminoff

Tokyo, Japan

Cole Robert Sullivan

Canton, TX

Michael Wright

Smyrna, DE

Doctor of Ministry

The D.Min. is a three-to-six-year professional doctorate designed for men and women to develop transformational leadership competencies in areas such as spirituality, spiritual community, transformational discipleship, or organizational or missional leadership.

Doctor of Divinity

The D.D. at Rockbridge is an honorary academic degree conferred upon individuals who have made significant contributions to ministry.

Kay Warren

Author

About Rockbridge Seminary

Rockbridge Seminary Mission

Rockbridge Seminary is an accredited degree-granting institution of higher learning that exists to develop servant leaders for Christian ministry through quality distance educational experiences that allow them to study and practice without leaving their ministry field. Rockbridge Seminary is the only seminary with degree programs built around the five purposes of the church found in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Academic Regalia

The Intercollegiate Code of 1895 set the standards for academic regalia and the colors that would represent the different departments of learning in the academy. This code has been virtually unchanged since its inception over 100 years ago.

Rockbridge's school colors are blue and white and are found in the silk lining of the hood. Blue represents wisdom and truth. White represents purity. Red panels and trim represent theology, scarlet being the traditional color of the church throughout all ages.

The undergraduate gown is made with long pointed sleeves. The masters gown has a long, oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The rear part of the oblong sleeve is square cut, hanging at forearm's length below the wrist. The doctoral gown has bell-shaped sleeves with cuffs, the sleeves encircled with velvet chevrons and the gown face with velvet panels.

The style of the academic hood represents the highest degree earned. The undergraduate hood is the shortest in length with a point at the bottom. The masters hood is slightly longer and fuller, with a narrow panel at the bottom. The doctorate hood is billowed fuller, is four feet in length, and has a wide panel at the bottom.

The black mortarboard is the most common style of cap worn for all degrees. The rounded velvet cap or tam is a common substitution.

Tassel colors reflect the field of learning as established by the Intercollegiate Code, but gold or yellow is usually worn only by those receiving the doctor degree, regardless of the field of learning.

The tassel is moved from the right to the left at the undergraduate level. After that the individual is considered a graduate, and the tassel remains on the left for all future degrees.

Rockbridge Seminary Seal



The Seminary Seal consists of five ellipses that represent the five biblical purposes of the church taken from the Great Commandment and the Great Commission found in Matthew

22:35-40 and Matthew 28:16-20. The rectangle in the center of the emblem represents the Bible, God's Word. The Bible is our authoritative source for Rockbridge Seminary.

Blue represents loyalty, commitment, and steadfastness. We are deeply committed to developing spiritual leaders who will share God's Good News to the world and build healthy, growing churches.

Facts About Rockbridge Seminary

Seminary Established	2002
Number of Graduates	448
USA States Represented	48
Countries Represented	16

Students Achieved Learning Goals	98%
Students Recommend Rockbridge	99%
Students Satisfied with Studies	97%

Website www.rockbridge.edu

Twitter twitter.com/seminary

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