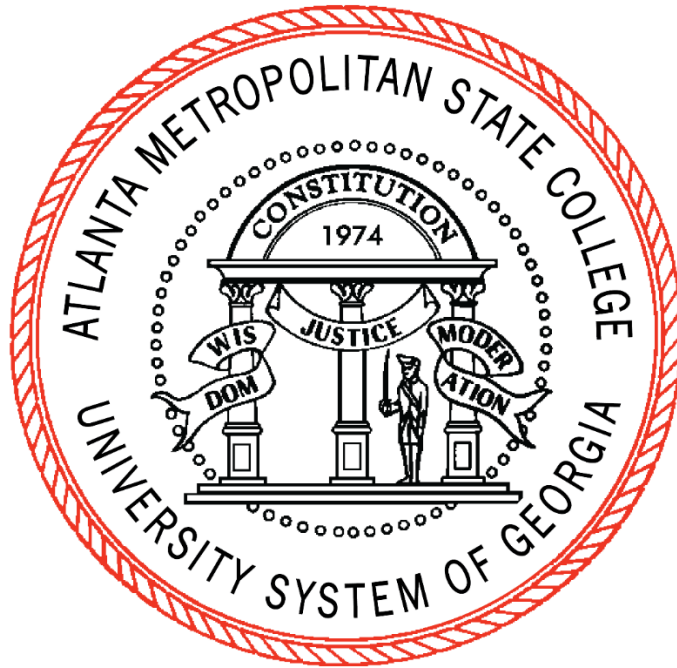


SPRING
COMMENCEMENT EXERCISE

Atlanta Metropolitan State College

Physical Education Complex
Friday, May 9, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.



Mission Statement

Atlanta Metropolitan State College provides educational access to a diverse student population and fosters a positive growth environment through student-focused teaching, quality support services, and community engagement.

Vision Statement

We will be a dynamic campus, bolstering enrollment, expanding educational opportunities, amplifying positive experiences, and intensifying community engagement.

“An institution in Atlanta, for Atlanta”

Core Values

Excellence: AMSC pursues excellence, high standards, and institutional efficiency in education, student services, and college operations.

Integrity: AMSC maintains strong moral principles and respect by cultivating quality standards in learning, leadership, innovation, and service. We are fair and honest in our dealings with students and colleagues, as well as customers and stakeholders.

Leadership: AMSC develops and empowers leaders among students, faculty, and staff through a personable, hands-on approach that promotes innovation, and effectively addresses challenging issues. We create, encourage, and foster active involvement in the implementation of the institution's vision and mission statements.

Belonging: AMSC embodies a culture of inclusion and affirms that we are all connected, supported, and respected. We understand each person is unique, and we work diligently to recognize their intrinsic gifts and talents.

Public Service: AMSC engages and enriches the quality of life in communities by willingly investing our time and effort into causes that affect our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and external stakeholders. We consistently promote the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to uplift the most vulnerable among us.

2025 Commencement Speaker

Charles "Skip" Vaughan



Mr. Skip Vaughan recently retired from PepsiCo after 29 years of service. Skip grew up in Virginia and attended the University of Virginia, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. After school, he joined the Procter and Gamble Company and held several positions of increasing responsibility in Manufacturing, Engineering, and Human Resources in Baltimore, MD; Augusta, GA; Kansas City, KS; and Kansas City, MO.

Mr. Vaughan joined PepsiCo in 1994 as Plant Manager of Pepsi's Los Angeles facility. He later transitioned into the Sales organization, serving as Sales Operations Manager and Unit Sales Manager for the Orange and Los Angeles County areas. He went on to lead Pepsi's business in Los Angeles as Market Manager and Regional Sales Manager where he continued to build a solid track record of performance in Sales, Multicultural Marketing, Operations and Talent Development.

Mr. Vaughan was promoted to Director of Sales Support in 2006, leading Pepsi's work in Customer Service and Cost improvement in the Mid-Atlantic area. He was later named the Vice President of Sales Support for its Atlantic/East Coast business.

In July 2008, Skip was named Vice President & General Manager for Pepsi's Georgia Market. Through Skip's leadership, his Georgia Team successfully launched a marketing campaign called "Georgia Loves Dew" which enabled strong market share growth in PepsiCo Beverages' most competitive market. In 2019, Skip assumed the role of Sr. Director, Strategy and Sales Planning for PBNA's South Division where he has led several initiatives throughout the South to grow market share and build capability for future growth areas.

Mr. Vaughan has held many professional and community leadership roles. He is the immediate past Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors for Atlanta Metropolitan State College. He has also served as Chairman of the Board for the Georgia Beverage Association, a trade organization comprised of beverage business leaders for the betterment of the industry. He served on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Food Industry Association, an organization whose purpose is to improve the overall Grocery Industry in the state. He received the organization's highest award, the Legacy Leadership Award in July 2018, for his service and impact on the industry in state of Georgia. Additionally, he served on Board of Directors for the Dekalb County Chamber of Commerce. Finally, he serves on Board of Directors for Global Health Connections International (GHCI) a non-profit committed to nurturing underserved young students in the STEM fields. Mr. Vaughan is a Life Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc where he has served in numerous leadership positions over the years.

Skip has been married for 36 years to Orian Southall, a retired attorney with Blackwell and Burke, Inc. in Minneapolis, MN. They have one son, Charles "Scooter" Vaughan who is a graduate of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Scooter was a professional hockey player for 7 years in NY Islanders, St. Louis Blues, and Las Vegas Golden Knights organizations.

He enjoys running, playing golf, watching sports, and reading about current events.

History of Atlanta Metropolitan State College

In June 1965, the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized a junior college for the west metropolitan area of Atlanta at an undesignated location. After a great deal of discussion, the Atlanta School Board and the Board of Regents made the decision to build the college on land under the jurisdiction of the Atlanta Board of Education.

The Atlanta School Board authorized its Superintendent in February 1971 to develop a financial plan to build the new college. On October 9, 1972, the Board of Regents reconfirmed, in principle, the construction of the college. In February 1973, the Board of Regents authorized the plans and specifications for Phase I of the construction at a projected cost of \$2 million. Construction began on the first building in 1973 and was completed in August 1974.

The college became the thirty-first institution of the University System of Georgia and began classes in September 1974 with an initial enrollment of 504 students. The college, Atlanta Junior College, was accredited in 1976 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC). During the 1976-77 academic year, the Central Energy Plant construction was completed. In 1978-79, two multi-level academic buildings were added to the resources of the college: an Academic Classroom Building and the College Library.

The 1987-1988 academic year brought the decision to change the institution's name from Atlanta Junior College to Atlanta Metropolitan College (AMC), with the permanent transition becoming effective July 1, 1988. A new Health and Physical Education Complex was completed and occupied during the 1991-92 academic year, and a new Student Center was completed during the Fall 2000 semester.

On May 10, 2011, the Board of Regents approved a substantive and mission change for Atlanta Metropolitan College to offer the bachelor's degree. In December 2011, the SACS-COC approved AMC for a status change from a Level I to Level II institution to offer the bachelor's degree. The name of the institution was changed to Atlanta Metropolitan State College (AMSC) on May 8, 2012, and the new Elridge W. McMillan Academic Sciences Building opened in August of 2012.

On May 20, 2013, an official ceremony was held to rename the newly expanded and renovated AMSC Student Center to the Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. Student Activity Center in honor of Dr. Edwin A. Thompson, Sr., the founding president of the college. The new Student Services and Success Center opened in Spring 2018 to further meet the needs of students via a One-Stop-Shop experience. The first Commencement for graduates of Atlanta Metropolitan State College was held on May 3, 2013, and the first bachelor degrees were awarded May 9, 2014.

In addition to associate's degrees, bachelor's degrees can be completed with majors in Biological Science, Business Administration, Criminal Justice, Film & Entertainment Studies, and Organizational Leadership.

Order of Exercise

Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D. - President
Presiding

Processional*.....	<i>“Highland Cathedral”</i>	Composed by Ulrich Roeber Arranged by Michael Korb Wayne Coleman, <i>Bagpiper</i>
Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance*.....	Atlanta Police Department Honor Guard	
National Anthem*.....	<i>“The Star-Spangled Banner”</i>	Lyrics by Francis Scott Key Composed by John Stafford Smith Kenya Jori Shelton, Alumna – Class of 2007, <i>Soloist</i>
Invocation.....		Lateef Pyles <i>Student Government Association Treasurer 2024-2025</i> <i>President, Hoopz Club</i>
Greetings on behalf of the Trailblazer Student Body.....		Justin Campbell <i>Student Government Association Vice President 2024-2025</i> <i>Vice President, Phi Theta Kappa Beta Beta Tau Chapter</i>
Introduction of Speaker.....		President Thompson-Sellers
Commencement Address.....		Charles “Skip” Vaughan <i>Keynote Speaker</i>
Presentation of Candidates for Degrees.....		Dr. Mark Cunningham <i>Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer</i> Dr. Harry Akoh, Dean, <i>School of Arts & Sciences</i> Dr. Timothy Sherman, Dean, <i>School of Business and Technology</i>
Conferral of Degrees.....		President Thompson-Sellers
Musical Selection.....	<i>“Alma Mater”</i>	Written by Lafayette Summers Lyrics by Ojeda Penn Rearrangement by Val Parker, <i>Accompanist</i> Dr. Brian Crawford, <i>Trumpeter</i>
Induction to the Alumni Association		Leisa Stafford <i>President, AMSC Alumni Association</i>
Closing Remarks		President Thompson-Sellers
Benediction.....		Jenesis Caradine <i>Student Government Association Senator 2024-2025</i> <i>President, Art Club</i>
Recessional*	<i>“Ode to Joy”</i>	Poem by Fredrich Schiller Arranged by Ludwig van Beethoven, Ninth Symphony Wayne Coleman, <i>Bagpiper</i>

**The audience is requested to stand.*



School of Business and Technology
Bachelor of Business Administration
Candidates for Degree

Yasmin Abdulahi
Antanese M. Armstrong
Stacey K. Boddie
Coumba Boye*
Rodney J. Boyer-Rainwater***
Deontrez J. Brown, Sr.
Elijah Emmanuel Brown
Jasmine Monet Browner
Tamika Calhoun
Keisha DeLaney
Ashiria Jamecia Dennis
Cecil Jerome Dukes
Keshia Louise Graves
Shan'Twanecia Donyette Harper

Alliyah Marie Holt
Chanel Allure Holt
Travis F. Johnson, Jr.
Jeremy Allen King
Vaibhav Krishnamurthy*
Tiffany Larkin*
Jade Kalyesia Mathis
Keenan Rashaad Parker
Kendall Alise Roberts*
Kristiuna Kiara Rucker***
Victoria C. Scott*
Talithia S. Stuart*
Chasen Dior Williams

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

***Summa Cum Laude 4.00 - 3.80 ●

**Magna Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.50 ●

*Cum Laude 3.49 - 3.20



School of Business and Technology
Associate of Science in Financial Technology
Candidates for Degrees

Alexandria R. Santiago**

Associate of Science
Candidates for Degrees

Ousseini Abdoulaye Souleymane
Dimitri Alcina
Chigoziri Agufuruonye Ananaba
Olevia Charmaine Baker
Aissata Balde
Stacey K. Boddie
Ra'Neiqua Je'Neice Broadnax
JhaVon D. Bryant
Jenesis Caradine
Brittany J. Castle
Joseph Crawford, Sr.*
Leonard James Crawford, Jr.
Angelina Marie Davis
Antonio L. Davis
Muhammed Drammeh
Charles Ekpe, Jr.
Aaron C. Ellis
Cyril Austin Finley***
Rozalynn Gholston
Karress Guidry-Capers
Alita Chante Harris**
Sequane Devonte Hicks
Gail Linette Howard

Nicola Anthonette Jackson*
Brittney Briana Knight
Samiyah Knight
Jhaimin Jarante Mackey
Olivia Marie Mance
Orlando McClellon
Robert Lewis McKenzie***
Nation E. Murray**
Marilyn Denise Reid
Deliah Ross*
Terrian Valtae Simmons
Jamari Smith
Anthony Darte Stanley, Jr.
Antonio Stephens, Jr.
Wayne Ramel Sutton
Manyang Taal
Erin Thomas
Ivo Villalba
Christopher Ward*
Jamiessa Elois Watts*
Di'Kesheryl Williams
T'Kirrah Ellayne Wilson*
Sierra Donamarie Yerby

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

*** Highest Honors 4.00 - 3.80 ●

** High Honors 3.79 - 3.50 ●

*Honors 3.49 - 3.20



School of Business and Technology

Certificate in Business Management

Candidates for Certificates

Kareem Allah Acosta, Jr.	Woozvelt Makenzy Guano
Joey Albright	Dillon Emerson Harris
Makaila Allen	Jayde Kharizma Hayes
Jaxon William Armstrong	Chaun D. Hudson
Samson Akilu Assefa	Kenneth Hurd
Jean Mary Vianney Tehua Assindjo	Abdinasir Janay
Joshua Barnes	Isaiah Marcellus Jones
Siantra Faye Barnes	Nai'Ya Jade Landry
Mohamed Bayo Velasco	Ding Jie Lee
Alexia Beard	Darnell Malik Don Leger
Aria Elise Brown	Kayla Lodbansa
MaKaylah Butler	Andrea Martinez
Maya M. Campbell	Shontavia McKinney
Laylannie Candelario	Aisha Mohamed
Nyah Casher	Sara Heaven Mohamed
Aliyah Cyril	Saul Adrian Mujica Sanchez
Adam Tiah David	Olubunmi Nia Munroe
Fasha Dawson	Tonya O'Neal
Devin Downs	Jairo Osorio
Dariane Durham	Jasmine Jewell Doll Phillips
Nahom Solomon Fisseha	Rebekah Pinnock
Antonio Luis Estrologo Gabayeron	Shiphrah Price
Justin Gachoya	Jazdy J. Quiterio Panchi
Samuel Gallegos	Ameer Reid
Blessé Gary	Damiya Reid
David Gonzalez Lezama	Leslie Lizbeth Ruiz
Jacob Curtis Green	Aja Russell

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.



School of Business and Technology
Certificate in Business Management *continued*
Candidates for Certificates

Jasmyne A. Scott
Aman Sharma
Marvin Eric Sparks, Jr.
Tyanna R. Thornton
Alexis Nicole Vinson

Kelsey Washington
Bethany Watson
Chelsea Elyse Weatherspoon
Eve E. Wulah

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

Certificate in Cyber Security
Candidates for Certificates

Mekhi Damon Beverly
Jacore Anthony Carr
Maimouna Cleaver
Angel Alejandro Cruz
Abigail De-Graft
Ashlynn Vaughn Ellis
Chace Huffman
Regina Idamkue
Sterling T. Maxwell, IV

Mahad Naseer
Kendall Osborne
Steven Park
Cierra Robbins
Jaelyn Bryce Simmons
Makayla Shyanne St. Rose
Andre Wilkes
Feven Gebrehiwet Zemikael

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.



School of Business and Technology

Certificate in Information Technology

Candidates for Certificates

Gilbert Asante
Jeffrey Jimenez
Arif-Rahim Muhammad Leufroy
Lidya Liku
DeJah Delores McSwine
Emmanuel D. Obediku
Joshua Parker
Khristian Eder Rivera Ramos
Darius Swann
Jephte Teleus

Dexter A. Telfort
Amir Gianni Thomas
Jenson Thomas
Bryan White
Benjamin Yzaguirre
Abdulrahim Zareef

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.



School of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Arts in Film and Entertainment Studies

Candidates for Degrees

Devin Bell
Tajah Charelize Orr

Brandon J. Shropshire
Maliyah Lorraine Smith

Bachelor of Science in Biological Science

Candidates for Degrees

Kenlicia Shade'gail Jones
Kevetta Rochelle Lemons

Ashanti Tomblin

Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice

Candidates for Degrees

Jessica Debra Branch
Tiffany LaShawn Camp*
Sheronda Marie Clark**
Chastity Nashae Cleveland
Latif Colquitt*
Pserda Dickerson
Vada Bernard Dill, Jr.
Zanniqua Zacorria Lishawn Gary
Sophia A. Gibert

Denise Marie Nelson
Donnea S. Lumpkin
JaQuan Rich
Yolanda S. Richardson
Jessica Andria Tapia
Anthony L. Williams, Jr.
Quintario Markez Williams
Vincent Willis, Sr.

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

***Summa Cum Laude 4.00 - 3.80 ● **Magna Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.50 ● *Cum Laude 3.49 - 3.20



School of Arts and Sciences

Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership

Candidates for Degrees

Desmond J. Barnes
Taylor Alexis Bright
Justin Douglass Campbell
Daniel Lee Cochran**
Shilenda Brasheda Hines
Tayla'r A. Keel
Jennifer Denise McIntosh

N'Kele Hadiyah Middlebrooks
Trene Long Reed
April Renee Rice
LaWanna Patrice Ross
Alexis J. Williams
Bendrea Willis

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

***Summa Cum Laude 4.00 - 3.80 ●

**Magna Cum Laude 3.79 - 3.50 ●

*Cum Laude 3.49 - 3.20



School of Arts and Sciences

Associate of Arts

Candidates for Degrees

SaNaiia Boddie*
Kiannah Edmonds
Charda'e Star Evans
Carlos D. Fowler
Antrica N. Gibson
Rahshe' Dijone' Harris-Morris
Kimberly Rockel Hickman
Kenneth Jones
Jentoria Lee
Asia Miracle Moton

Jerome Herbert Moultrie
Iesha Muhammad
Jordan Tyler Murray**
Felicity Diana Nelson
Christella Assong Nso
Chrysolite Azariah Roberson*
Juliette Seymour-Cooke
Nevaeh Jer'Von Slaughter
Dana Chanel Smith
Imani Karen Wyatt*

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

*** Highest Honors 4.00 - 3.80 ●

** High Honors 3.79 - 3.50 ●

*Honors 3.49 - 3.20



School of Arts and Sciences

Associate of Science

Candidates for Degrees

Oyinkansola Michelle Adebola

Janiya Ashanti Alexander

Zachary Cole Allen**

Bridgit Akroma Ameyaw**

Ketraye Domeisha Anderson

Ja'koiya Bailey***

Janise Deshun Baker

Aaron Jacob Ballenger

Adrienne DeOnna Bond

Dominique Victoria Boss

Marianna Gwinn Boyd

Leticia Divine Brabham

Johnae Lichelle Buckingham

Destiny Angelic Bullard

Allure A. Burley

Yundaz Jerne Carrecter

Lucia Rio Castaneda***

Shanetria K. Cato

Sharee Chapman

De-Shawn Clarke

Kanika Abeni Cloud

Tiffany Shamell Cloud

Vanessa D. Dobbs Cloud

Saniya Nona Coleman

Jamia Cooper**

Candice R. Davenport-Legette**

Ashley Davis

Coral De Los Santos Portorreal*

Akiela Dobbs

Moses Douglass

Nikia Nicole Dozier

Isatou Drammeh

Mariamou Dukureh**

Iman Gabrielle Evans

Joshua Darnell Ford**

Kenanna Fowler*

Jayden Francis

Kandice Cassandra Jahdia Franklin

La'Quasia Sha'Quell Franklin

Jolisa A. R. Fuller

Mariah Ann Gaither

Alexis Danielle Galimore

Janeria Grayson

Demirez R. Grier

Assatou Gueye***

Amiah Hair*

André Harding*

Kiyah Tyan Harris

Taylor M. Hawk

Aaron De'Shan Henderson

Mariyam Jabbi

JaKaylan Monique James

Markeida A. Jenkins

Amya Stone Johnson

Chelc'e Johnson

Yolanda Johnson

Tia Michelle Jones

Musa Alusine Kanu

Shawmonika Lasha Kennedy

Carolina Laboy Antunez

Mercedes K. Lee

Alexia Lockett

Simmon Logan, Jr.

Briana Marin

Izabella Jael Martinez

Leontis Massey, II**

Noah Gerald McClendon*

Princess D. McCoy



School of Arts and Sciences

Associate of Science *continued*

Candidates for Degrees

Reynardeya McCree
Jahylah McDougle
Jermunde Eliza McPherson
Daijia Aileen Newsome
Tasneema Maryam Nolen
JaClea' Orange
Alexandria Chernae Ott
Chloe' Pate
Jasmine Jewell Doll Phillips
Gabrielle Prince
Juntia Rosser**
Zainab. O. Salaudeen
Mba Kaddy Sanyang
Sheyanne Scott
Sokhna Magatte Seck***
Melaysia Sekai
Dwight Showers***
Calecia D'chae Simon
Janiyah D. Slade
Jamiaka Damaréa Stanford
Charlesia Talley
Rachel Thomas
Tashae Darmecia Troutman
Alana Aaliyah Yaniece Turnbull
Donnisha Tutson
Kimberly Valdez-Alvarado
Maria G. Valentin Pano
A'laysia Walton

Wesley Jameal Washington
Kimberly Cassandra Gayle White
Rolando Lavar Willis
Jessica Wilson
Glendalyn Natalie Williams
Sharonda Williams
Sierra Donamarie Yerby

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

*** Highest Honors 4.00 - 3.80 ●

** High Honors 3.79 - 3.50 ●

*Honors 3.49 - 3.20



School of Arts and Sciences
Certificate in Film & Television Production
Candidates for Certificates

Brandon J. Shropshire

Certificate in Religious Studies
Candidates for Certificates

Jean Patterson Davis

Theresa A. Matthews

Names of candidates for degrees were submitted prior to the printing of this Commencement program. Their appearance does not necessarily indicate completion of degree requirements.

Presidential Regalia

Presidential regalia are unique among academic vestments in that they symbolize the president's rank and authority as the chief official of the institution—rather than reflecting the individual's academic credentials. There are four velvet bars, known as chevrons, on the sleeve of presidential regalia. Standard robes have only three. College and university presidents wear their distinctive regalia when participating in official college/university ceremonies and convocations. The presidential robe is also worn when representing the institution in official academic occasions at other universities.

The presidential regalia is in the Atlanta Metropolitan State College colors of phoenix red and onyx black and features three-inch embroidered panels bearing the AMSC and Phoenix spirit logos.

Presidential Medallion

The Atlanta Metropolitan State College Presidential Medallion is one of the grand traditions of higher education symbolizing the eminence, authority and responsibilities of the Office of the President. The medallion, bearing the college seal is presented during the inauguration of the President. It is worn by the President when she wears academic regalia for formal ceremonies.

Created by Medalcraft Mint, Inc., the design for the medallion features an engraving of the college seal. The three-inch medallion is cast in antique nickel metal with a red enamel inlay. The medallion is suspended from a nickel oval chain and bears the names of the college's past presidents.

Trailblazer Presidential Legacy

Edwin A. Thompson, Sr. (1974 – 1994)

Harold E. Wade, Ph.D. (1994 – 2006)

Gary A. McGaha, Ph.D. (2007 – 2019)

Georj L. Lewis, Ed.D. (2019 – 2023)

Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D. (2023 – *Present*)

Academic Attire

The academic attire worn by faculty and graduates is the official and traditional dress for graduation ceremonies throughout the United States and in many other countries of the world. Its history may be traced to Europe's 12th century, when scholars found it necessary to wear gowns and hoods for warmth in the unheated buildings where they worked. Today, the academic regalia identifies each member of the academic community by degree, academic field, and awarding institution.

The gowns, which may be worn open or closed, have front facings of velvet. The velvet trim indicates the field of study. Doctors wear silk hoods four feet in length with a silk lining and a five-inch velvet binding; the color of the silk lining indicates the field of study. The cap for the doctor's degree is a black velvet mortar-board with a gold tassel.

Gowns for masters are silk, wool, or similar material. The master's gown, which is worn closed, has full-length, oblong sleeves with a crescent-shaped piece hanging from the sleeve base. These sleeves were originally used as a combination pocket and purse. The master wears hoods three-and-one-half feet long with three-inch velvet bindings. The color symbolism of the lining and velvet is the same as for the doctoral hood.

Baccalaureate and associate degree gowns are made of cotton or worsted with long, pointed sleeves and a single button at the neck. They are worn closed. Women may wear white collars. Caps for masters, bachelors, and associates are in the form of mortar-boards and are cotton poplin or similar material. The tassels are generally black, although tassels for masters and bachelors may be in the color of the academic discipline.

Black is the official color for all gowns; however, some institutions have adopted doctoral gowns in the color of the awarding institution.

The ornamental braid draped over the shoulder of some of the graduates is called a *fourragère*. Derived from French military tradition, it is used by Atlanta Metropolitan State College to give special recognition to those students graduating with honors.

Academic Regalia

The academic dress worn for ceremonies originated during the Middle Ages when university classrooms were unheated, and the gown and hood kept scholars warm. It became a distinctive symbol of academic pursuit, setting apart the academic community. The gown became standardized in 1894 when the American Intercollegiate Commission determined that all robes would be black. The master's degree robe is characterized by long, closed sleeves, while the gown for the doctoral degree features a facing of velvet from the hem to the neck and back, with three velvet bands around each sleeve above the elbow. The traditional hood, also black, is the most distinctive feature of academic attire. The hood is lined with silk in the colors of the institution granting the academic degree and is trimmed in velvet in a color representing the field of study.

As prescribed by the revised American Intercollegiate Code, the color associated with the academic discipline is as follows:

<p>Maize.....Agriculture</p> <p>White.....Arts and Letters</p> <p>Blue Violet.....Architecture</p> <p>Drab.....Business</p> <p>Midnight Blue.....Criminal Justice</p> <p>Lilac.....Dentistry</p> <p>Brown.....Digital Media and Entertainment Design</p> <p>Copper.....Economics</p> <p>Light Blue.....Education</p> <p>Orange.....Engineering</p> <p>White.....History</p> <p>Maroon.....Journalism</p> <p>Purple.....Law</p> <p>Lemon.....Library Science</p>	<p>Science Gold.....Mathematics</p> <p>Kelly Green.....Medicine</p> <p>Pink.....Music</p> <p>Apricot.....Nursing</p> <p>Silver Gray.....Oratory</p> <p>Olive Green.....Pharmacy</p> <p>Royal Blue.....Philosophy</p> <p>Sage Green.....Physical Education</p> <p>Peacock Blue.....Public Administration</p> <p>Salmon Pink.....Public Health</p> <p>Golden Yellow.....Science</p> <p>Citron.....Social Work</p> <p>Scarlet.....Theology</p> <p>Gray.....Veterinary Science</p>
---	--

The Mace

From the battlefields of Medieval times to the hallowed halls of learning, the mace has journeyed across the centuries—evolving from a weapon of war into a sacred symbol of leadership and trust. Today, it stands as the embodiment of the President’s authority and the enduring mission of higher education.

At this ceremony, the mace leads the procession—borne before the faculty, before the President—proclaiming the College’s solemn right to confer degrees and to celebrate the achievements of its scholars.

The mace of Atlanta Metropolitan State College, crafted by the hand of Dr. Kit Carson, Chair and Professor of Education, was hewn from noble Black Walnut—a wood as resilient and enduring as the spirit of our students. Rising from its crown is the carved figure of a Phoenix, its wings unfurled in strength and grace. It is the eternal symbol of resilience, of rebirth, of triumph through adversity.

Upon the shaft are inscribed the names of all who have led this College, with the name of the current President set at its crest—each a steward of the College’s enduring flame. Around the lantern of the mace, the College Seal gleams on all four sides, affirming our commitment to excellence, service, and the transformation of lives.

As Atlanta Metropolitan State College rises to meet the needs of its students and its region, the Phoenix reminds us: from every challenge, we are reborn stronger, ascending higher—undaunted, unwavering, and forever advancing.

Today, *Ms. Sokhna Seck, Instructor of Biology and Dr. Babatunde Onabanjo, Professor of Computer Science*, have been chosen for the distinct honor of carrying the mace.

Gonfalons

Academic gonfalons -- banners suspended on a crossbar -- are another piece of medieval history that have been incorporated into academic tradition that reflect a timeless style, incorporate the college’s colors and represent the School of Business and Technology and the School of Arts and Sciences as well as the phoenix spirit logo, representative of our new brand identity.

Platform Party

Ingrid N. Thompson-Sellers, Ph.D.

President

Charles “Skip” Vaughan

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Mark Cunningham

Interim Provost and Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Harry Akoh

Dean, School of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Timothy Sherman

Dean, School of Business and Technology

Kofi Clark

Interim Registrar

Dr. Babatunde Onabanjo

Professor & Mace Bearer

Sokhna Seck

Instructor & Mace Bearer

Justin Campbell

Student Government Association Vice President, 2024-2025

Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Tom Bradbury	Lowery Houston May
Chris Cannon	Dan Murphy
David B. Dove, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Neil L. Pruitt, Jr.
Richard “Tim” Evans	Harold Reynolds
Erin Hames	Dr. Deep J. Shah
Samuel D. Holmes	T. Dallas Smith, <i>Chair</i>
James M. Hull	Haynes M. Studstill
Cade Joiner	Mathews Swift
Patrick C. Jones	Jim K. Syfan, III
C. Everett Kennedy, III	

Chancellor of the University System of Georgia

Dr. Sonny Perdue

AMC Foundation, Inc. Board of Directors

Pamela Cross, <i>Treasurer</i>	Reginald “Ray” Moore
Janice Andrews, <i>Secretary</i>	Mini’imah Shaheed
Stacey Abrams	John O’Callaghan, <i>Vice Chair</i>
Veronica Adadevoh	Leisa Stafford
Letty Ashworth	Tita Stewart
Victoria Dorsey	Henry J. Thomas
Sharmen Gowens, <i>Chair</i>	Michael Thurmond
Jack Hancock	Kate Troelstra, <i>Executive Director</i>
Dr. LaReese Howell	Willie A. Watkins

2025 Commencement Committee

Saoudatou Barry	Tammy Messier
Charles Beasley	Ivan McKee
Kofi Clark, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Val Parker
Tocarro Combs	Jamila Rivers, <i>Co-Chair</i>
Dr. Brian H. Crawford	Dr. Angela Starling
Dr. Mark Cunningham, <i>Ex-Officio</i>	Kelsey Swaope
Sharon R. Duhart	Captain Gayron Taylor
DeLise Hopson	Dr. Sheila Tenney
Oren Howell	Antonio Travis
Adam Jordan	Jaleen Washington
Kevin Kirby	Dr. Dorothy Williams
Rebecca LaMontagne	MaLinda Williams, <i>Chair</i>
Sande Mathis	

2025 Commencement Announcers

Jamie Butler-Wilcox, M.A.	Charlene Gayle, D.B.A., CPA
---------------------------	-----------------------------

2025 Commencement Sign Language Interpreters

Richard Brumberg	Rebecca Pearce
------------------	----------------

Alma Mater

Written by Lafayette Summers

Lyrics by Ojeda Penn

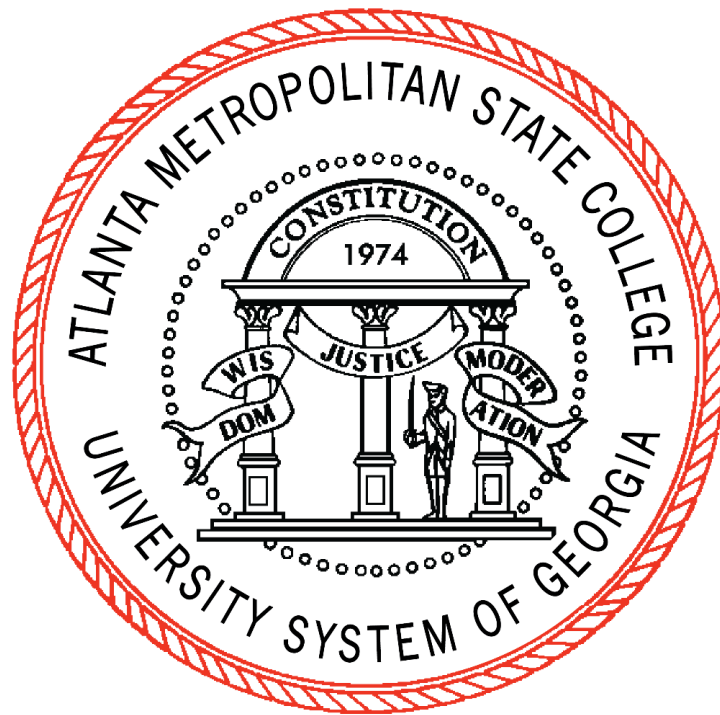
Rearrangement by Val Parker

We come here searching for our inner selves.
We come seeking wisdom for our futures;
And we're proud that we chose to drink from the fountain:
The fountain of knowledge,
The fountain that flows here at Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.

We will long remember the smiling faces we met here.
We thank the Lord above for classmates
And those who guide us onward to our goals.

We come here searching for our inner selves.
We come seeking wisdom for our futures;
And we're proud that we chose to drink from the fountain;
The fountain of knowledge,
The fountain that flows here at Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.

We hail our Alma Mater, Atlanta Metropolitan {State} College.



Atlanta Metropolitan State College
1630 Metropolitan Parkway, SW | Atlanta, Georgia 30310

ATLM.EDU