COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

CONVOCATION

MAY 17

2026

DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS

ACTIVITIES & RECREATION CENTER

201 E. PEABODY DR, CHAMPAIGN IL

stat.illinois.edu

TO OUR GRADUATES

Today you are graduates of the University of Illinois

This is a remarkable achievement, and we hope that you celebrate the occasion with loved ones. Commencement is a joyous and deeply symbolic event for all, including the faculty members, staff, family, friends, and others who have supported you on your journey. As a member of the Class of 2026, you have overcome many challenges to earn your degree.

Congratulations, and we look forward to learning of your future success.

ORDER OF EXERCISE

May 17, 2026

PROCESSIONAL OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS
Pomp & Circumstance March No. 1, Op. 39 by Edward Elgar

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF THE FACULTY
Yuguo Chen, Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES COMMENDATION OF GRADUATES
Robert Morrissey, Associate Dean for Technology & Online Learning in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Professor of History

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER
Georgios Fellouris, Associate Professor and Associate Chair, Department of Statistics

CONVOCATION ADDRESS
David Madigan, Professor, Northeastern University Khoury College of Computer Sciences

PRESENTATION OF GRADUATES

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN STATISTICS
Ruoqing Zhu, Associate Professor and Director of Doctoral Program

MASTER OF SCIENCE IN STATISTICS
Darren Glosemeyer, Instructor and Director of Master of Science Programs

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN STATISTICS
Kit Clement, Teaching Assistant Professor

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN STATISTICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE
Karle Flanagan, Teaching Associate Professor

CLOSING REMARKS
Yuguo Chen Professor and Chair, Department of Statistics

CEREMONY MARSHALS

Jennifer Anderson-Bliss, Senior Academic Advisor
Alexandra Chronopoulou, Clinical Associate Professor, Academic Advisor
Sarah Kwilecki, Academic Advisor
Aaron Smith, Senior Academic Advisor

ATTENDING FACULTY

Lelys Bravo De Guenni, Clinical Associate Professor
Kelly Findley, Teaching Associate Professor
V.N. Vimal Rao, Teaching Assistant Professor
Douglas Simpson, Professor, Director of External and Corporate Relations

ACADEMIC DRESS

Academic dress, consisting of cap, gown, and hood, originated about the twelfth century and was worn primarily for warmth. Subsequently, the material of the gown and lining, and the shape of the hood, represented the economic and social, as well as academic status of the wearer.

In the United States, the great majority of the academic costumes now worn are in accordance with the general provisions of the Intercollegiate Code of 1895, which was revised in 1932 and again in 1960. Under this code, the bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves, the master's gown has oblong sleeves with an arc at the bottom, and the doctor's gown has bell-shaped sleeves. All gowns are black, although the adoption of colored gowns by individual institutions in the United States is becoming more prevalent.

The bachelor's and master's gowns are untrimmed. The doctor's gown is faced down the front with velvet and has three bars of velvet across the sleeves. The facing and bars may be black or may be the color of the subject to which the degree pertains. The bachelor's gown is worn closed; the master's and doctor's gowns may be worn open or closed. Women may wear white collars with the bachelor's gown when no hood is worn.

Hoods are also black. The bachelor's hood is 3 feet in length, the master's is 3 ½ feet, and the doctor's is 4 feet. Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. At the University of Illinois, the lining is orange and blue. The colored velvet border of the hood, which is 2 inches, 3 inches, and 5 inches wide for the bachelor's, master's, and doctor's degree respectively, identifies the faculty or field of study to which the degree pertains.

The black mortarboard cap is standard in the United States. Usually, all tassels are black, but where the graduating seniors do not wear hoods, as at the University of Illinois, the color of the cap tassel indicates the department of study. At the University of Illinois, candidates for degrees wear tassels on the right front quadrant of their caps before degrees are conferred, and move them to the left front quadrant after degrees are conferred. Caps are considered a part of the costume and are customarily removed only during an invocation or benediction, and then by men only.

For all academic purposes, including trimmings of doctor's gowns, edging of hoods, tassels of caps, and linings of banners, there are different colors associated with the different disciplines. The color for Liberal Arts & Sciences is white.

Caps and gowns were worn for the first time at the University of Illinois Commencement ceremony of 1897. In the early 1900s the Commencement procession marched up Burrill Avenue to the old Armory. After diplomas were received, the procession marched back to the lawn south of Green Street. The seniors sang the State song and "Auld Lang Syne" before they said good-bye to each other and the campus.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

David Madigan is a professor at the Khoury College of Computer Sciences at Northeastern University and Special Advisor to the President. He served as Northeastern University's provost and senior vice president for academic affairs from 2020-2025, during which time he was the university's chief academic officer and led its 10 schools and colleges, research enterprises, and libraries. He also collaborated with the senior vice president for finance in order to set the university's budget and financial priorities.

A native of Ireland, Madigan received both his bachelor's degree in mathematical sciences and his PhD in statistics from Trinity College Dublin. In his career, he has written over 200 publications in areas such as Bayesian statistics, text mining, Monte Carlo methods, pharmacovigilance, and probabilistic graphical models. He has also advised 18 PhD students. In 2012, Madigan was elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; he has been a leading researcher in the fields of healthcare and Big Data. For three years, he was a member of the FDA's Drug Safety and Risk Management Advisory Committee.

Madigan came to Northeastern from Columbia University, where he oversaw five schools, 27 departments, and more than 50 research centers and institutes. He led initiatives to expand lifelong learning programs at the university and to make its faculty and study body more diverse. Notably, he launched a program to ensure that Columbia's first-generation students would have the support they needed to achieve success. Previously, he also held various leadership roles and positions at Rutgers University and the University of Washington. At the latter, he was a part of the world-renowned Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. Additionally, Madigan has served as vice president of data mining at Soliloquy, Inc., principal technical staff member at AT&T Labs-Research, information technology consultant at KPMG, technology manager at Peregrine Expert Systems Ltd., expert system consultant at SkillSoft, and actuarial associate at Hibernian Life Assurance, Ireland.

Madigan has led large-scale global collaborations involving researchers from academic institutions, pharmaceutical companies, and government regulators in the United States and Europe. He's currently one of the leaders of the Observational Health Data Sciences and Informatics program, which is composed of researchers around the world who harness the power of Big Data to study the safety and efficacy of healthcare practices. He has also previously served as editor-in-chief of Statistical Science, a review journal focused on contemporary statistical thought.

HONORS AND AWARDS

UNIVERSITY HONORS

BRONZE TABLET

Alexander David Broihier
Tianshuo Chen
Xinyue Dai
Adrian Keyi Du
Calvin Theodore Franke
Yiming Gao
Yuan Gao
Jiangshan Gong
Wenbo Huang
Danfeng LI
Ting-Yu Lin
Tianyi Ma
Subbu Muthiah
Penghao Ouyang
Matthew Aidan Raitano
Yutao Rao
Nuoxing Shang
Xing Sun
Dylan P. Wu
Linda Yan
Mingde Yang
Letian Zhang
Mingxuan Zhao

COLLEGE HONORS

SENIOR JAMES SCHOLARS

Alexander Broihier
Sean Camp
Sydney Casey
Tianshuo Chen
Zihan Gu
Patrice Kao
Abhinav Mahesh
Subbu Muthiah
Aditya Ramesh
Aryan Sapre
Letian Zhang
Kevin Zhou

HONOR SOCIETY

PHI BETA KAPPA

Maanas Belambe
Juncheng He
Calvin Frank
Ayana Patidar
Matthew Raitano
Jiayi Song
Luke Thorell
Wang Yuran
Letian Zhang

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Outstanding Student in the Statistics Major
Daksheshkaran Thinakaran

Outstanding Student in the Statistics & Computer Science Major
Ayana Patidar

Undergraduate Student Departmental Service Award
Charlotte Sampson

GRADUATE AWARD

Horace W. Norton Prize for Outstanding Thesis Research in Statistics
Yuan Bo

DEGREE INFORMATION

This program contains an unofficial list of candidates for graduation in May 2026 and a list of graduates who received degrees in August 2025 and December 2025. The list of May candidates is as accurate as possible; however, because of production deadlines, names of some degree recipients may not appear, while names of degree candidates who have not completed degree requirements may be included.

The University's official registry for conferral of degrees is the Office of the Registrar, 901 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL 61801.

GRADUATES AND CANDIDATES

The following lists are organized by degree. Because of deadlines, lists may be incomplete.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Eduardo Cardenas-Torres
Markov model methods for discrete sequences and soccer analysis

Anwesha Chakravarti
Learning to share: Bayesian approaches to sparsity and transfer

Byeongjip Kim
Statistical inference in complex networks: community detection, change-point detection, link prediction, and two-sample testing

Yuhan Li
Topics in offline statistical reinforcement learning: addressing challenges in continuous actions, distribution shifts, and unmeasured confounding

Siddhanth Sabharwal
Multi-Location Networks and Ecosystem Detection: Methods and Applications

Eric Wayman
Restricted latent class models for polytomous attributes

Bo Yuan
Statistical and Computational Methods for Biological Data Analysis

Yi Zhang
Statistical inference with complex datasets: from self normalization to machine learning

Yubo Zhuang
Statistical and algorithmic foundation of K-means clustering

MASTERS OF STATISTICS

STATISTICS

Saniya Abushakimova
Nidhi Baheti
Yu Bao
Jyot Buch
Nathaniel Butler
Mitchell Caballero
Hanghe Cao
Eduardo Cardenas-Torres
Siwen Chen
Jiachen Cong
Irfan Demetoglu
Tymon Duchnicki
Yiru Fang
Shruti Umakant Gharate
Zibo Gong
Karina Grewal
Aster Guan
Weijia He
Tyler Hecht
Shiding Huang
Xiaoshan Huang
Jake Hunnius
Haotian Ju
Jaehyung Kim
Mehmet Korkmaz
Vallabh Kudva
Yi-Hsuan Kuo
Shuyang Lei
Yifan Li
Zirui Li
Zizhou Li
Steve Liang
Hao Liang
Xinyuan Liu
Jaideep Mahajan
Aysu Maharramli
Junan Mao
Mohini Nath
Ngoc Nguyen
Ziyue Pan
Viraj Udayraj Parmaj
Renee Petrucelli
Anshika Pradhan
Bhavana Sanghi
Zelei Shao
Ayush Sharma
Jingyao Shen
Samantha Shi-Jun
Tanmay Ameya Shikhare
Amitabh Swain
Aniket Ankush Tathe
Abhi Thanvi
Alarsh Tiwari
Kexin Wang
Qiyang Wang
Yanlin Wang
Bo-Yang Wang
Hubert T Witkos
Rong Xie
James Luo Xu
Kaihong Zhang
Wentao Zheng
Yanting Zhou
Jinhong Zhu

STATISTICS: ANALYTICS CONCENTRATION

Logan Maddox Blancett
Han Chen
Vladislav V Fedorov
Sai Surya Rishita Mylavarapu
Luke Nian Peng
Ha Hai Pham
Tianwen Qin
Aadya Ranjan
Kehuan Wang
Saurav Kumar Gupta

STATISTICS: APPLIED CONCENTRATION

Huiying Cai
Yan Yi Lance Du
Jianfeng Guo
Mingyue Huo
Trung Tran Quoc Le
Juan Ricardo Lopez
Ruchuan Ma
Tara Marie Prezioso
Xin Chen
Seungmi Kim
Gustavo Enrique Nino Chaparro
Maria Janina Dela Cruz Sarol

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

STATISTICS

Aditya Agarwal
Faayez Akhtar
Joules Kelvin Apura
Rohan Arya
Allison Nadine Asbock
Kaitlin Maeve Baggot
Arpit Bansal
Beilin Bao
Sophia Beauban
Ansh Bera
Tanvika Boyineni
Anqiao Cai
Sean Michael Camp
Anika Canamedi
Weiyuan Cao
Sydney Reese Casey
Ahana Chakraborty
Pranavi Rao Challagonda
Junwei Chang
Divya Savithri Chappa
Tianshuo Chen
Tianze Chen
Yitian Chen
Dylan Reichiang Chhay
Allen Chiu
Yu Suk Chung
Claire Chung
Olivia Grace Colvig
Xinyue Dai
Shiyao Dai
Zhenmin Dai
Charles Day
Hersh Doshi
Austin Charles Douglas
Matthew R Drafz
Henri Louw Du Plessis
Samantha Lynn Duby
Yihe Fan
Kaile Fang
Zhuofan Feng
Calvin Theodore Franke
Krish Jay Gandhi
Sathvik Shanmukha Ganti
Yuan Gao
Zhangyuqiao Gao
Yiming Gao
Luisa Fernanda Garcia
Alexander James Gates
Robert Brian Gerloff
Samuel Edward Gerstein
Shakir Ghoghawala
Mingliang Gong
Sanjana Gongati
Shubh Goyal
Anoushka Grover
Tongtong Gu
Zihan Gu
Leslie Guachichullca
Zhiyuan Guan
Richard John Guhl
Haoyang Gui
Xiangchen Guo
Siddhant Shobhit Gupta
Reed Allen Haas
Gebran Martin Hammoud
Ellen Harris
Eric Hartman
Zichao He
Chelsea Jiesi He-Chen
Nicholas James Heiser
Christopher N Henk
Gavin Hewawasam
Tatsuya Higashiomori
Daniel Patrick Hogan
Bo Hu
Ruilin Hu
Yixiao Hu
Guanqiao Huang
Lucas Gray Hull
Madeline Yeaton Hunt
Chengyue Ji
Linhao Jiang
Yunjing Jiang
Beixuan Jin
Yunting Jing
Jian Jo
Elliot Raymond Johnson
Bhuvan Sudheer Kala
Patrice Janet Kao
Haley Anish Kharvari
Gayeon Kim
Ian Dae Kyung Kim
Dongha Kim
Madelyn Sumi Kim
Sangwon Kim
Kenshi King
Matthew Michael Klima
Eunsoo Kwon
Dev Langaliya
Tiffany P Le
Brian Junwoo Lee
Chaeyeon Lee
Michelle Lee
Xinyang Li
Bingqing Li
Danfeng Li
Haoyu Li
Jingnan Li
Molei Li
Yuxi LI
Zhongze Li

Zonghan Li
Zihao Lian
Irene Liang
Junhang Liang
Zhanqing Liang
Zhuoying Liang
Zhe Hong Lim
Hee Jae Lim
Yihan Lin
Ting-Yu Lin
Qiancheng Lin
Yael Lindenberg
Ruiqi Liu
Raelyn Liu
Jiayu Liu
Timothy Tianshu Long
Denys Lytviak
Han Lyu
Yike Ma
Fengdan Ma
Rauf Makharov
Yingxue Mao
Matthew David McDonald
Lorraine McNaughton
Jieyi Mei
Haoyu Meng
Xinyue Meng
Sarah Jessica Michalec
Maksim Mihajlovic
Zekun Mu
Erwen Mundo
Zohair Abdul Muqeem
Daniel Nkongolo Mutombo
Samuel James Naatz
Rohan Sudeep Nadkarni
Kethan Deva Naidu
Wahid Nasir
Sophia Margarite Nietubicz
Yisen Niu
Lillian Yuping Novosel
Kensuke Maximilian Ogata
Jaehoon Oh
Alexander Grant Orsic
Arul Gandhi Palaniappan
Tanav Palisetti
Chi-An Pan
Qi Pang
Yoochan Park
Xingrui Pei
Tianyang Peng
Thomas Richard Perzentka
Jonathan Daniel Petro
Trustan Gabriel Price
Shuyu Qin
Yihao Qin
Serene Qiu
Matthew Aidan Raitano
Yutao Rao
Raj Ravi
Pratin Ravi
Shane Francis Riefke
Robert Graham Rohner
Noah William Rominger
Shreya Sud Sachdev
Divyam Vikash Saharia
Charlotte Anne Sampson
Maximilian Blaise Schuchart
Abhilash Selvam Babu
Nirvaan Rupak Sen
Isaac Lee Sentman
Seonghan Seo
Ayush Chakrakodi Shastry
Jinghe Shen
Zijian Shen
Henry Yin Shen
Rebecca Yan Shi
Yuwen Shi
Sarah Jacqueline Shoaff
Sean Thomas Slattery
Denver Kris Soekawan
Chae Yeon Song
Jiayi Song
Joshua Song
Adlai Ewing Stevenson
Yuze Sui
Kejun Sun
Qixian Sun
Xing Sun
Christian Emanuel Tate
Jinghe Teng
Daksheshkaran Thinakaran
Kaylin Ann Thomas
Minh-An Thomas
Luke Eriksson Thorell
Wyatt Reese Thurston
Aadit Tibrewala
Skylar Tinsley
Arseniy Titov
Leyna Tran
Kerr Tu
Tarun Velamoor
Jianing Wang
Honglin Wang
Jiajun Wang
Suixin Wang
Xingtai Wang
Yiqing Wang
Yuran Wang
Zheyu Wang
Michael Weintraub
Shiyu Weng
Ethan Witek
Nicholas Gerald Wooden
Xinwei Wu
Ting-Kan Wu
Changrong Wu
Jack Alan Wuthnow
Junhao Xiong
Yijun Xu
Duorui Xu
Jiayi Xu
Yiqian Xu
Litong Xue
Ke Yan
Mingde Yang
Molin Yang
Zidong Yang
Jinna Yoon
Brandon Yu

Tyler Yu
Weihao Yuan
Dennis Zakabluk
Maia Genevieve Zatarski
Jiacheng Zeng
Binchi Zhang
Getong Zhang
Rongsheng Zhang
Tianqi Zhang
Joshua Yucheng Zhang
Yuxuan Zhang
Zexin Zhang
Lifan Zhao
Mingxuan Zhao
Wenjing Zheng
Yixu Zheng
Qi Zhou
Yichen Zhou
Huazhang Zhou

STATISTICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

Ruchir Adenwala
Rami Alkadri
Alyssa Rose Anastasi
Surya Teja Rikhita Baddula
Mridhan Balaji
Maanas Belambe
Arnav Amol Bhagwat
Ishaan Bhandari
Ria Bhargava
Jeremy Pryan Bizon
Alexander David Broihier
Yuncong Cao
Daniel Jay Carpenter
Pranjal Chaitanya
Ethan Yuting Chang
Dhruv Chaudhari
Ying Chen
Xiaoyang Chen
Dilan Naimesh Choksi
Shriya Dave
Yingcheng Deng
Aarul Dhawan
Nhi Uyen Dinh
Adrian Keyi Du
Rohan Gavankar
Srikar Poojithram Girijala
Jiangshan Gong
Dhanush Gurrala
Numair Hajyani
Mideum Han
Ananth Aravind Hariharan
Sahana Hariharan
Juncheng He
Sidharth Rao Hejamadi
Yuanyi Hou
Zhicheng Hu
Kexin Hu
Wenbo Huang
Sai Shreyas Isukapalli
Kshitij Jalan
Suraj Jayasimha
Senuvi Vidara Jayasinghe
Emil Joseph Jermann
Kavin Jindel
Warren Jodjana
Megan Kerni
Arnav Kethana
Hannah Kong
Sankalp Kumar
Byung Seok Lee
Shrikar Lekkala
Tony Yiheng Leng
Jianing Li
Karena Shinran Liang
Yan-chen Lin
Juntian Liu
Tailei Liu
Yutong Liu
Zhiyun Liu
Yanze Lu
Tianyi Ma
Anjali Reddy Maddulapalli
Abhinav Mahesh
Anvitha Manepalli
Manasi Nitin Mangalvedhe
Andrew Mao
Sofia Mark
Ayushi Luna Maskey
Anshi Mathur
Aashna Aniket Mauskar
David Mocianko
Subbu Muthiah
Ribhav Nagayach
Quang The Nguyen
Jiaqi Niu
Penghao Ouyang
Shrut Ravi Patel
Ayana Patidar
Tian Qiu
Anas I Qneibi
Zhican Quan
Aditya Ramesh
Aman Ravishankar
Oliver Rogalski
Shen Rong
Rishab Laxmidas Sakalkale
Aryan Neelkanth Sapre
Francis Louis Schmidt
Karan Prashant Shah
Matthew Gan Yang Shang
Nuoxing Shang
Areet Suhas Sheth
Lydia Ziyan Shin
Kinjal Singh
Mohit Singh
Utkarsh Singh
Adam Murtaza Sitabkhan
Sneha Sundar
Tarun Suresh
Jason Chun Sze
Jonathan Chen Tang
Ansh Tomar

Tyler Haozhe Too
Akshay Ravi Vellore
Vedant Vyas
Zicheng Wang
David Wang
Mingqian Wang
Yi Wang
Dili Wu
Dylan P Wu
Jeremy Wu
Orlando Xie
Yixuan Xie
Linda Yan
Zhijian Yang
Wanjing Yao
Jianqiu Ye
Hojoon Yoo
Brandon Yuan
John Christopher Zammit
Yunxi Zeng
Jiaxun Zhang
Jie Zhang
Letian Zhang
Zitao Zhang
Xinze Zheng
Baoyuan Zhou
Qianhua Zhou

Thank you to the families and friends who have supported our graduates throughout their studies. You are an integral part of their success and have made this graduation day even more special.

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Finally, thank you to Aaron Thompson for coordinating this ceremony.