

NC STATE
Poole College of
Management

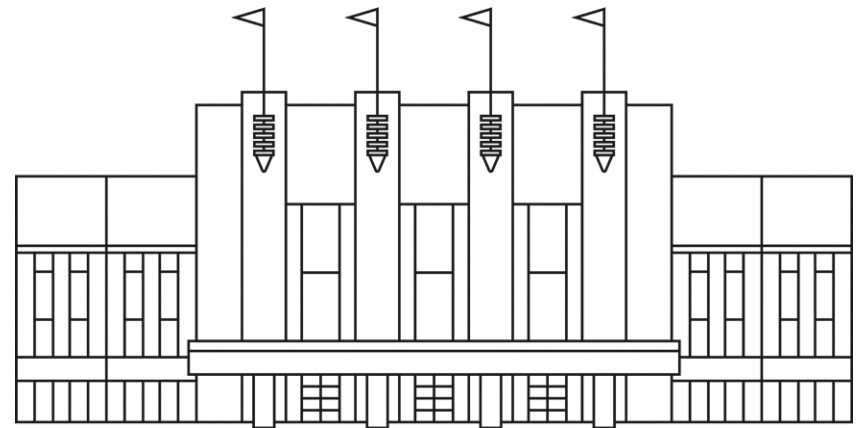
**JENKINS GRADUATE PROGRAMS
COMMENCEMENT**

May 9, 2026

Reynolds Coliseum
Raleigh, NC

#NCState26 #NCStatePoole

Closed captioning for the Poole College of Management commencement ceremony can be viewed at: go.ncsu.edu/captions



William Neal Reynolds Coliseum

Order of Events

Prelude and Processional

Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1 by Sir Edward Elgar

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Frank A. Buckless, PhD
Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean

Address to Fellow Graduates

Chloe Ekberg, Class of '26
Master of Business Administration

Recognition of Graduate Degrees Conferred

Vikas Anand, PhD
Associate Dean for Academic Programs

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

Graduates presented by: Umut Dur, PhD
Graduates hooded by: Denis Pelletier, PhD

Master of Economics

Graduates presented by: Umut Dur, PhD
Graduates hooded by: Denis Pelletier, PhD

Master of Accounting

Graduates presented by: Kathy Krawczyk, PhD
Graduates hooded by: Scott Showalter, CPA

Master of Business Administration

Graduates presented by: Don Warsing, PhD
Graduates hooded by: Vikas Anand, PhD

Master of Management, Marketing Analytics

Graduates presented by: Rishika Rishika, PhD
Graduates hooded by: Vikas Anand, PhD

Master of Management, Risk and Analytics

Graduates presented by: Ericka Kranitz, MS, CPA
Graduates hooded by: Vikas Anand, PhD

Alumni Induction and Pinning

Frank A. Buckless, PhD
Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean

Alma Mater

By Alvin M. Fountain and Bonnie F. Norris Jr., Class of 1923

Closing Remarks

Frank A. Buckless, PhD
Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean

Fanfare*

Recessional

The Jenkins Graduate Programs would like to thank our faculty, family, friends and guests for joining us today. We appreciate your unrelenting support and encouragement in pursuit of our graduates' goals.

** Please be aware that theatrical smoke may be used at this time.*

Academic Programs Leadership

Deans

Frank A. Buckless, PhD

Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean and Professor of Accounting

Vikas Anand, PhD

Associate Dean for Academic Programs and
Professor of Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Richard Warr, PhD

Associate Dean for Faculty and Research and Professor of Finance

Nichole Miller, MS

Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Tedd Szeto, PhD

Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Programs

Department Heads

Jonathan Bohlmann, PhD

Department Head of Business Management and
Professor of Marketing and Innovation

Sebastian Heese, PhD

Interim Department Head of Information Technology, Analytics and
Operations and Owens Distinguished Professor of
Supply Chain Management

Karen Jansen, PhD

Department Head of Management, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
and Professor of Leadership and Change

Denis Pelletier, PhD

Department Head of Economics and Professor of Economics

Roby Sawyers, PhD

Department Head of Accounting and Forvis Mazars Professor of Accounting

Mark Walker, PhD

Department Head of Finance and Professor of Finance

Academic Programs Leadership

Program Directors

Umut Dur, PhD

Director of Graduate Economics Programs and
Professor of Economics

Ericka Kranitz, MS, CPA

Director of Master of Management, Risk and Analytics Program and
Professor of Practice in Accounting

Rishika Rishika, PhD

Director of Master of Management, Marketing Analytics Program and
Professor of Marketing

Scott Showalter, CPA

Director of Jenkins Master of Accounting Program and
Professor of Practice in Accounting

Don Warsing, PhD

Director of Master of Business Administration Program and
Associate Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management

Welcome from the Dean

Dear Graduates:

On behalf of the NC State Poole College of Management faculty and staff, congratulations to you on this achievement! I also congratulate your family members and friends who supported and encouraged you along the way.

Our top priority as a college of management is the success of our students. We aim to attract, educate, and prepare you to make meaningful contributions in your chosen fields.

I look forward to staying connected with you and learning about your next steps as you apply what you've learned during your time here at NC State.

I am grateful to be part of an exceptional college community that celebrates excellence, innovation, inclusion, ethical decision-making – and works tirelessly to think beyond traditional boundaries to do the extraordinary. You are an important part of that community and are making it possible for us to continue raising the bar for management education at NC State – thank you!

All of us at the Poole College of Management send our best wishes for a bright future.



Frank Buckless
Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Dean
Poole College of Management



Academic Regalia

The master's and doctoral graduates typically wear a traditional black cap and gown and a colored hood. Of all the components of the academic costume, the hood is most symbolic. The hood's coloring and size represent the level and subject of degree earned, as well as the institution from which it was awarded. The hood has colors on it in two different places. On one side of the hood there are patches of velvet, and on the other side there are large patches of silk. The silk patches are the colors of the institution that gave the degree. The velvet indicates the area of study.

Faculty typically wear the regalia of the institution from which they earned their highest degree.

The graduates typically wear a cap or "mortar board" with a tassel. The tassels for the PhD degree are gold, and those for other graduate and professional degrees may correspond to the trimmings on the hoods.

The stoles and cords represent a rich variety of honors and associations in which the graduates have participated during their time at North Carolina State University.

Commencement Speaker

Chloe Ekberg, Class of '26 Master of Business Administration

Chloe Ekberg is graduating with a Master of Business Administration and two certificates: Marketing, and Technology Entrepreneurship and Commercialization. During her time in the Jenkins MBA program, she served as Vice President of Communications for the MBA Student Association while holding dual graduate assistantships in Career Services and Admissions — giving her a unique opportunity to connect with MBA cohorts throughout their journeys.

Ekberg credits the Career Services team, particularly Dave, Heather and Annie, with mentoring her through the MBA program, and considers the Admissions team her “school family” and a daily reminder of what it means to be part of the Wolfpack.

Some of her most meaningful experiences include being selected as the 2026 Jenkins Graduate Commencement speaker and developing commercialization strategies for patented technologies aimed at advancing women’s health in her TEC courses.

After graduation, she plans to work as a Growth Marketing Manager at Relay, a Series B startup in Raleigh. In the future, Ekberg hopes to inspire others to take risks, invest in their ambitions, and learn to fail fast and fail forward. “I believe we are remembered by how we make people feel, so I hope my legacy is making people feel supported and encouraged to go after their goals, no matter how overwhelming or scary they may seem.”

Jenkins Graduate Programs

Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

Sarah Bainn

Dissertation: *Essays on the Economics of Reproductive Health, Disability, and Public Policy*

Under the direction of Dr. Raymond Guiteras and Dr. Adriana Corredor-Waldron

Richard Li

Dissertation: *Essays on the Health Impacts of Pesticide Use and The Effects of Crop Insurance on Suicide*

Under the direction of Dr. Xiaoyong Zheng

Master of Economics

Joshua Arcidiacono
Seong Min Choi
Anna Gargol
Seungyong Jeong
Casey Johannesen
Sai Nitish Rajagopala

Master of Accounting

Aidan D. Allred
Kossi Ametepé Amedin
Alan William Baldwin IV
Ricky Bang
Kaitlyn Dawn Bartholomew
Maggienella Basile
Henry Parker Black
Anna Reese Blue
Shannon Nicole Brewer
Miraya Brown
Yujie Cai
Kimberlee Kate Carter
Arielle Christie
Matthew Benjamin Cinoman
Alexander Lee Clark
Sydney Nicole Clark
Maclain Coords
Jesse Davis
Sophia Davis
Hudson Blake Deese
Julie Anderson Dudkiewicz
Ainsley Earhart
Haley Elizabeth Edwards
Leslie Reshel Marie Ellison
Elizabeth Evanchick
Ethan Alexander Evans
Courtney Elizabeth Farishian
Jon Williamson Felton
Fernanda Ferreira de Almeida
Barboza
Jackson Wade Ferrell
Kannon Frady

Ava Mae Gangemi
William Malloy Garman
Joseph Edward Goins
Alyn Gomez Santos
Anna Elizabeth Grantham
Troy Wade Greene
Chase Michael Hakerem
Garrett Owen Harbison
Allison Faith Henry
Alyssa Nicole Heron
Dallas Kendall Hill
KaLeyah LaChe Hilton
Mason Tyler Hines
Laketa Holmes
Alexis Paige Houser
Toby Lee Howie
Naylea Jacobo
Xingjian Jiang
Vedik Jindal
Bruce Payne Lindsay Johnston
(*Posthumous*)
Daniel Patrick Jones
Richard Brent Jones
Savannah Grace Jordan
Steven Jordan
Carmen Tamika Kebe
Austin Tyler Kunkel
Rimma Malikovna Lee
Nathan August Lieberman
Xueying Lin
Josiah Franklin Linton
Cole Lucas
Anyah Donna Luna
Hayden Herbert Lunenfeld
Mila Maher
Alexa Jolie Mavrakis
Anabelle Maya
Jacob Wiley McLeod
Michael Wayne Miller Jr.
Charles Wesley Mitchum
Dayana Jasmine Montijo
Bryan Gabriel Moreno

Jillian Morgan
Hunter Moses
Sarah Muti
Sai Laasya Narreddi
Matthew James Nesbit
Hang T. Nguyen
Hunter Novy
Riany Padilla
Katherine Marshall Pair
Juliana Cavender Park
Macy Lee-Ann Parkhurst
Olivia Claire Paszt
William Spencer Patrick
Kate Ashton Perruccio
Christina Sherry Phillips
Sadie Phipps
Luke Andrew Pirrung
Daniel Ponder
Jason Praefcke
Avery Leigh Puryear
Eliana Ramirez
Emma Leighann Rhyne
Ty Williams Ritchie
Andrew Roberson
Bryan Jose Rodriguez-Sanchez
Elizabeth Marie Rowe
Morgan Elizabeth Rumble
Sara Sangermano
Rachel Ellie Seran
Ryan Nathaniel Sharkey
Grant Oliver Sherer
Paul Nathaniel Silverstein
Jacob Donald Sloane
Hannah Elizabeth Smith
Dylan Ashleigh Sneed
Cassandra Stoter
Noah Christopher Tessau
Valerie Kay Troxler
Joshua J. Warner
Michael Watkins
James Conner Weaver

Julia Lauren Wilson
Jordyn Wood
Britt C. Woolley
Alex Hon Yee

Summer 2026

Ricky Keiyu Chan
Jeffery Shane Gardner
Jack Ryon Wharton
Jennifer Bower
Colin R. Cacioppo
Frances Margaret Gehrke
Hunter Abbott Griffin
Alexandra Maria Landeros
Brandon Quang Le
Jesse Tyler Lockamy

Master of Business Administration

Abdul-Rahim Baba
Abdul-Mumin*^{BA, MA}
Qanita Ahmad*^{BAI}
Brock Allard
Layne Victoria Barton
Matthew Emerson Bauder*^{BL}
Travis Ray Beal*^{FI}
Jackson L. Beaufort*^{FI}
Andrew Michael Bennett*^{BL}
Bishop Scott Biddix
Ian Gavin Brown
Elise M. Carlsten
Peyton Carrington*^{BL}
Ya Ting Chen*^{BA}
Chiranjeevi Sri Raghava Chennupati
Kristen Elisabeth Chong
Parker Scott Clayton*^{OSC}
Katie Elizabeth Cobb
Bradley Cook*^{TEC}
Sarah Maria Cornel
Garrett Dalton Craig
Riley Jacob Culver

*Students with the designated initials indicate graduate certificates earned. Business Analytics (BA), Business Artificial Intelligence (BAI), Business Leadership (BL), Business Sustainability (BS), Finance (FI), Marketing (MA), Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSC), Technology, Entrepreneurship and Commercialization (TEC)

Valeriya Dandik Evans
Matthew Thomas Davis*MA, TEC
Jennifer Fox Davis
Somayeh Dayyan Ardestany*MA
Megan Fenton Deaver*BS
Jackson Thomas DeSilva
Richard Dong
Kameron Miles Douglas*OSC
Phillip Bradley Duncan
James Patrick Ealley
Caroline Maria Efsen*BA, BL, OSC
Chloe Ekberg*MA, TEC
Joshua Taylor Epperson*FI
Jason Christopher Esposito*BA
Sunday Joel Ezugwu*BAI
Samy Gamal Faddel
Mohamed*BL, TEC
Chase Alexander Fisher*BA
William Peyton Forrest
Alexis Marie Galloway*BA, BL
George Elwood Garner IV*OSC
Venkata Sai Chidrupi Golla
George Floyd Green*BAI, FI
Spencer N. Haroldson
Rand Yousef Abd Allah
Hiasat*BA, OSC
Madison Leigh Holliday
Elaine Aza Hudson
Justin Hyde
Joshua Paul Johanni
Matthew Johnson*BA, BL
Christian Jones*BS
Vinod Kadiyala*BA
Ramanpreet Kaur*MA
Zachary Austin Kerutis*BS
Arnold Kibichij*FI
Joon Youp Kim
Jordon Kornegay*BA
Kathryne Lynnette Krueger*MA
Jeremy Lahn
Jonah Lane*BS
Fedoua Larhouasli*MA

Eugene Christopher Ashby
Learn*MA
Christopher James Liotta*MA
Megan Abigail Lovett
Akshay Manchanda*MA
Harrison Joel Marisiddaiah
Vicente Martinez
Garrett Clay Massengill*BA, OSC
NaKeshia Oni Pulley
April Mial*MA
Erik Matthew Milde*BS
Charles Madison Miller
Brandon Michael Miranda*BL, BS
Aarcha Mulakkal*BA
Robert Patrick Murray*BA, OSC
Natalie Elise Negron*BAI, BL
Emily Dickinson Newcomb*BL
Rylie Nicole Newman
Laura Elizabeth Geary Niebroski
Brooke Caroline Ozaki*OSC
Bismark Nii Pardie*BA
George Konstantinos Pistiolis
Matthew Glenn Pope*OSC
Diego Alejandro Pulido
Curtis Rask*BL
Saumya Rathore*BA
Lauren Nicole Richardson*BA
Stefano Paolo Rivera
Nicole Chauvigne Rodevick*BA, BL
Elizabeth Anne Rowland*OSC
Andrew Grant Sankey
Kyle Joseph Sawyers*BA, MA, OSC
Jannah Syed Shakil
Yug Sharma
Eliya Sider
Zachary Ryan Smith
Hannah E. Stubblefield
David Takamiya*BA, MA
Alexandrea Tantum*BAI, BL
Lillian Tisserand*BAI, BS
Victoria Elizabeth Tran*BL
Weslee Jake Tucker*BA, FI

Chinelo Vivian Umelo*BA
Sandra Norma Von Canon*BA
Emily Michelle Wayland*BL
Ryan Thomas Webster
Shawna Lynn Woodford
Rachel Jackson Woods

Master of Management, Marketing Analytics

Jackson L. Beaufort*FI
Katherine Lynn Birdsall*BA
Marina Amar Essa*BA
Travis Tucker Galbraith*BA
Justin David Hall*BA
Iswarya Ravichandran*BA
Laurel Ann Shriver*BA
Charles C. Thomas*BA
Zachary Evan Waites*BAI
Kaylee Brett Warren*BAI
Makala Elaine Wright*BA

Master of Management, Risk and Analytics

Mina Ahmadi-Torshizi*BA
Amanda Kathrine Blackmon*BA
Melissa Cowell
Steffane Monique Demery*BA
Tracy Lucindy Edwards*BA
Stephanie D. Jackson*BA
Kathryne Lynnette Krueger*MA
Michael Niedermayer*BA
Tyler Alan Palmer*BAI
Melissa Thornton*BA
Ju Yon Yu*BA

*Students with the designated initials indicate graduate certificates earned. Business Analytics (BA), Business Artificial Intelligence (BAI), Business Leadership (BL), Business Sustainability (BS), Finance (FI), Marketing (MA), Operations and Supply Chain Management (OSC), Technology, Entrepreneurship and Commercialization (TEC)

Jenkins Graduate Programs Special Recognitions

McLauchlan Leadership Fellows

Abdul-Rahim Baba Abdul-Mumin
Travis Ray Beal
Jackson L. Beaufort
Elise M. Carlsten
Kristen Elisabeth Chong
Melissa Cowell
Valeriya Dandik Evans
Jennifer Fox Davis
Joshua Taylor Epperson
Matthew Johnson
Jeremy Lahn
Natalie Elise Negrón
Emily Dickinson Newcomb
Bismark Nii Pardie
Curtis Rask
Saumya Rathore
Stefano Paolo Rivera

John T. Caldwell Scholars⁺

Cassandra Stoter

Graduate Student Advisory Board

Zain Gheyath Majeed
Saumya Rathore
Bismark Nii Pardie
Jackson L. Beaufort
Victoria Elizabeth Tran
Macy Lee-Ann Parkhurst

Jenkins Graduate Programs National and International Academic Honor Societies

Beta Gamma Sigma^{*}

Ya Ting Chen
Sarah Maria Cornel
Valeriya Dandik Evans
Jennifer Fox Davis
Steffane Monique Demery
Julie Anderson Dudkiewicz
Leslie Reshel Marie Ellison
Rand Yousef AbdAllah Hiasat
Denise Ford Jackson
Joshua Paul Johanni
Xueying Lin
Megan Abigail Lovett
Vicente Martinez
Robert Patrick Murray
Curtis Rask
Nicole Chauvigne Rodevick
Elizabeth Anne Rowland
Jacob Donald Sloane
James Barton Summers III

⁺Students who were inducted during their Poole College of Management graduate studies.

^{*}Students who were inducted during their Poole College of Management graduate studies.

The Think and Do Business School

poole.ncsu.edu

The Poole College of Management builds on NC State's strong foundation as a leading public research university known for excellence in STEM. As a dynamic, research-driven and student-centered business school, we've earned a remarkable reputation in just 30 years that continues to grow.

Our distinction lies in delivering high-value, high-return education that is accessible to all, creating impactful research that informs practice, and engaging with organizations and communities to benefit North Carolina citizens and beyond. Fully accredited by the AACSB, Poole College shines in all areas of business education and research, with programs that consistently rank among the top 10 in the nation.

Essential Facts and Figures

- › 100+ full-time faculty members engaged in purposeful research that generates knowledge and drives economic development
- › 4,700+ total undergraduate and graduate students
- › 35,000+ alumni
- › Bachelor's degrees in accounting, business administration, economics
- › Master's degrees in accounting, business administration, economics, management
- › Doctoral degree in economics
- › 15+ focus areas, ranging from business analytics and supply chain management to entrepreneurship and marketing
- › Hundreds of mutually beneficial relationships with corporate partners
- › Major initiatives fostering research, learning and corporate engagement: Business Analytics and AI Initiative, Business Sustainability Collaborative, Enterprise Risk Management Initiative, Entrepreneurship Clinic, Supply Chain Resource Cooperative
- › Executive education through online and face-to-face learning and development programs
- › \$1.42M: Additional lifetime earnings per Poole graduate – nearly double the UNC System average.



Mission and Values

Mission

The Poole College of Management develops innovative leaders, creates world-class research and engages with our community to make our world a better place to live and work.

Vision

The Poole College of Management will be the preeminent Think and Do business school, recognized for its teaching, research and service.

We Value

- › Excellence in all that we do
- › The success of our students and alumni
- › The impact of our research and scholarship
- › A culture that champions respect, belonging and well-being
- › Ethical awareness, decisions and behaviors
- › Innovative approaches to problem-solving
- › Positive contributions to our society and the world

Ranked Among the Best

- › **No. 1** in North Carolina, **No. 10** among U.S. public universities and **No. 22** among all national universities for undergraduate business analytics programs – *US News & World Report, 2025*
- › **No. 3** best online master of accounting program in the U.S. – *University HQ, 2025*
- › **No. 4** in the Southeast for undergraduate entrepreneurship (university-wide) – *The Princeton Review, 2024*
- › **No. 11** online MBA program in the U.S. – *The Princeton Review, 2025*
- › **No. 16** full-time MBA program in entrepreneurship – *Bloomberg, 2025-26*
- › **No. 18** online MBA globally and **No. 10** for employability worldwide – *QS World University Rankings, 2026*
- › **No. 25** best online business master's in the U.S. (Master of Accounting, Master of Management, concentrations in Marketing Analytics and Risk & Analytics) – *U.S. News & World Report, 2026*

Poole College Alumni

Dedicated alumni are vital to the future success and growth of the Poole College of Management. We look to our alumni to help us achieve our mission of providing transformative opportunities for our students and faculty. Poole College alumni provide support through their time, talent, network, and financial resources. From funding to hiring, alumni play a vital role in shaping the future of Poole College.

Today, the class of 2026 entered this ceremony as students and will exit as Poole College alumni.

Poole College Alumni Commitment

As a graduate of Poole College, I commit to embodying the values of our community.

I will honor my education and experiences by striving to create impact through my career and my community.

With pride and purpose, I will carry the Poole Pack forward.

Please share your accomplishments with us as you grow in your life and career. Visit poole.ncsu.edu/alumni to keep in touch. You can also stay connected through social media: @NCStatePoole

Congratulations and GO PACK!

North Carolina State University Alma Mater

Words by: Alvin M. Fountain, Class of 1923

Music by: Bonnie F. Norris Jr., Class of 1923

Where the Southern winds softly blow
O'er the fields of Caroline,

There stands ever cherished NC State,
As thy honored shrine.

So lift your voices; Loudly sing
From hill to oceanside!

Our hearts ever hold you, NC State
In the folds
Of our love and pride.

Congratulations, Graduates!

All May 2026 graduates are considered candidates for graduation until final graduation clearance is completed on June 8, 2026. Diplomas and diploma covers will be mailed to graduates by the NC State Office of Registration and Records during the last week of June 2026.

In accordance with The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, names of students with a full privacy block have been withheld from this publication. This program is prepared for informational purposes only. The appearance of an individual's name does not constitute the university's acknowledgment, certification, or representation that the individual has fulfilled the requirements for a degree.

NC State University promotes equal opportunity and prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon one's age, color, disability, gender identity, genetic information, national origin, race, religion, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, and veteran status. 300 copies of this public document were printed at a cost of \$2.75 per copy.

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