

# 2024

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UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW ENGLAND

COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE  
GRADUATION CEREMONY



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## ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

The University of New England is Maine's largest private university, with two beautiful coastal campuses in Maine, a one-of-a-kind study-abroad campus in Tangier, Morocco, and an array of flexible online offerings. In an uncommonly welcoming and supportive community, we offer hands-on learning, empowering students to make a positive impact in a world full of challenges. We are the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts. Visit [www.unen.edu](http://www.unen.edu).

## THE DENTIST'S PLEDGE

I, (Dental Student's Name), as a member of the dental profession, shall keep this pledge and these stipulations.

I understand and accept that my primary responsibility is to my patients, and I shall dedicate myself to render, to the best of my ability, the highest standard of oral health care and to maintain a relationship of respect and confidence.

Therefore, let all come to me safe in the knowledge that their total health and well-being are my first consideration.

I shall accept the responsibility that, as a professional, my competence rests on continuing the attainment of knowledge and skill in the arts and sciences of dentistry.

I acknowledge my obligation to support and sustain the honor and integrity of the profession and to conduct myself in all endeavors such that I shall merit the respect of patients, colleagues, and my community. I further commit myself to the betterment of my community for the benefit of all of society.

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## THE POMP BEHIND THE CIRCUMSTANCE



### THE GOWN

The history of the academic gown goes back to the 12th century. During this period, everyone — both men and women, royalty, lay folk, clerics, tradesmen, students — wore long flowing robes. The apparel varied in elegance according to the rank and wealth of the owner, from simple rough worsteds to rich gold brocades wrought with tassels and trimmed with colorful velvet and rich furs. It was in this period that the first organized bodies of learning were formed. From the gowns worn in the “universities” of the period have evolved the academic costumes of today.

The bachelor's gown is a simple design falling straight from a rather elaborate yoke with long pointed sleeves. The gown worn by a master has long, closed, somewhat fuller sleeves, which reach nearly to the wearer's knees. The arms go through slits at the elbow, giving the appearance of short sleeves. The doctoral gown is cut much fuller and has large bell-shaped sleeves. The gowns are usually, but not always, black, and those of bachelors and masters are generally devoid of ornamentation. The doctoral gowns are distinguished by the five-inch velvet panel around the neck and down both sides of the front as well as by three-inch velvet bars sewn on each sleeve. The color of the velvet trim may be black or may indicate the nature of the degree. For example, the color designating a Doctor of Dental Medicine is lilac.

### THE HOOD

The hood seems to have had a somewhat practical origin. Medieval monks used their hood for two purposes: to protect their shaved heads in the winter and as a container to collect alms.

Today, the hood serves as the most symbolic part of the academic regalia by which the observer can ascertain the wearer's level and kind of degree. The bachelor's hood is the smallest, being three feet long. The velvet trim along the edges, indicating the nature of the degree, is two inches wide. The master's hood is six inches longer and bears a three-inch velvet trim.

The doctoral hood presented today is a full four feet long and exhibits a five-inch lilac trim indicating the Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

The colorful interior of the hood, visible from behind, indicates by hue the degree-granting institution. The University of New England's colors are blue and grey.

### THE CORDS AND STOLES

The cord in graduation ceremonies is used to signify a special designation or membership in an honor society. The origin of the cord is from the Catholic and Anglican churches, where cords were used to distinguish between the varying levels of clergy members. The stole featuring navy blue with lilac trim and the gold insignia of Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) represents membership in the OKU National Dental Honor Society.

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GRADUATION SPEAKER  
**SHANNA GAGNON, D.M.D.**  
*President of the Maine Dental Association*

Shanna Gagnon, who currently practices general dentistry in Farmingdale, graduated from Bowdoin College in 2000 and earned her D.M.D. at the University of Connecticut School of Dental Medicine in 2004. Gagnon is a second-generation dentist and joined her father, Donald Gagnon, in private practice in Maine after dental school. She credits this opportunity with acquiring invaluable clinical experience and expediting her professional growth. In May of 2021, UNE graduate Jessica Sikora, M.P.H., D.M.D. '21, joined the practice to offset patient care after the retirement of Gagnon's father in 2012. Gagnon is the current president of the Maine Dental Association and has served on its board of directors in varying capacities since 2007, including Kennebec Valley representative, the president-elect, and vice president. Gagnon believes in the importance of lifelong learning and is an active member of the Casco Bay Study Club. She and her husband, Nate, live in West Gardiner with their three daughters, Julianna, Lexi, and Vivienne.

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**EASTPORT**

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Pawtucket, RI

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**R a K**  
Svitlovodsk, Ukraine

**N a Laa**  
Dover, NH

**M a Ja La**  
Lyman, ME

**R L**  
Stephenville, TX

**Ma O**  
Vienna, VA

**S A a O**  
South Portland, ME

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Canterbury, NH

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Hampton, VA

**Or W a**  
Biddeford, ME

**FARMINGTON**

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Sebring, OH

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Dublin, OH

**Ha H**  
Belchertown, MA

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Karakol, Kyrgyzstan

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Boerne, TX

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