



CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies Commencement Exercises

The Graduate School and University Center
The City University of New York

June 5, 2024

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CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies			York College

“American students need to learn to think across disciplines since that’s where most new breakthroughs are made.”

—Thomas Friedman, *New York Times* columnist and author

ABOUT CUNY BACCALAUREATE FOR UNIQUE AND INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

In the late 1960s, a group of faculty and students asked CUNY to allow individual faculty and students to define programs of study, with access to courses across campuses. On February 22, 1971, the NYS Board of Higher Education authorized a university-wide B.A.; soon after, the B.S. was approved. First known as the CUNY Baccalaureate Program and renamed CUNY Baccalaureate for Unique and Interdisciplinary Studies in 2008, the degree is commonly called CUNY BA.

Faculty mentoring is the cornerstone. Over 400 professors have mentored CUNY BA students as they have built their individualized degrees, which have ranged from American Revolutionary History to Zoological Photography. Student-mentor opportunities have proven invaluable in the personal development of CUNY BA students, leading to independent research projects, internships, and study abroad opportunities.

CUNY BA has received grants from renowned foundations and organizations, and was recognized by the University Design Consortium, an international organization that challenges public universities to develop innovative strategies to address complex issues, and nationally as a top military-friendly institution. In addition, CUNY BA has its own academic fellowship established by the Thomas W. Smith Foundation and has received a multi-million-dollar bequest from the Barbara J. Price estate for fellowships. Since 1994, CUNY BA has funded over 1,300 students.

Five decades later, the goal of helping students and faculty pursue intellectual innovation continues. There are over 8,000 alumni; the majority report that they have received raises and promotions or have successfully changed careers, have gone on to graduate school, and are working in careers related to their self-designed areas of study.

cunyba.cuny.edu

ORDER OF EXERCISES

PROCESSIONAL

OPENING OF CEREMONY

Margaret Carroll
Professor of Biology, Medgar Evers College
Grand Marshal

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jody Clark Vaisman
Academic Director, CUNY Baccalaureate

ON BEHALF OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY CENTER

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Interim President, The Graduate School and University Center

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Associate Professor of Dance, Hunter College

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Emma DeGroff
June 2024 Graduate

ON BEHALF OF THE ALUMNI

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CUNY Baccalaureate, 2014; Johns Hopkins, 2019
Research Project Coordination, University of Maryland School of Medicine

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Academic Director, CUNY Baccalaureate
&
Malika Pegues
CUNY Baccalaureate, 2022; Brooklyn College, 2024

REMARKS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS

Steve Everett
Provost and Senior Vice President, The Graduate School and University Center

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

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Academic Director, CUNY Baccalaureate
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CUNY Baccalaureate, 2022; Brooklyn College, 2024

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Dean, CUNY Baccalaureate; Senior Vice President of Finance and Administration; Dean of Academic Initiatives and Strategic Innovation, The Graduate School and University Center

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Political and Business Strategy

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Dimensions of Loss and Death

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User Experience and Interaction Design and
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Perspectives

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*Subject to successful completion of degree requirements.

Preferred first names are used for commencement; diplomas and transcripts are issued only under legal names.

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