

2026 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Sunday, November 1

2pm

Orpheum

Vancouver, British Columbia

MISSION

Anchored in the scholarship of Alfred Adler and the enduring principle of *Gemeinschaftsgefühl* — a deep sense of social interest and mutual responsibility — Adler University prepares students to be global leaders who improve health outcomes through applied research, community co-creation, and immersive education.

This mission results in three core outcomes:

Leadership

Through curiosity, courage, and collaboration, graduates emerge as global scholars and practitioners whose leadership transforms systems, advances well-being, and promotes social interest at every level of society.

Collaboration

Students practise reciprocity and co-creation, fostering community connection and responsibility that leads to healthier systems and lasting impact.

Impact

Students, faculty, and staff advance research, knowledge, and applied practices that create measurable and sustainable improvements in health and well-being — locally and globally.

NOT FOR OURSELVES ALONE,
but for all.

ADLER UNIVERSITY

2026 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

November 1, 2026 | 2 PM | Orpheum

Processional

Spakwus Slolem/Eagle Song Dancers, Squamish First Nation

Welcome

Bob Baker, Elder, Squamish First Nation
Bradley O'Hara, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice-President
Lisa Coleman, Ph.D., President

Graduate Address

Farah Salim, MCP, Master of Counselling Psychology

Commencement Address

Ron Rice, Executive Director, Victoria Native Friendship Society

Presentation of Graduates

Lisa Coleman, Ph.D., President
Bradley O'Hara, Ph.D., Provost and Senior Vice-President
Renuga Nagarajan, Ph.D., Faculty, Public Policy and Administration
Jason Walker, Psy.D., Ph.D., Program Director,
Health and Wellness Psychology and Industrial and Organizational Psychology
Cassandra Evans, MCP:AT, Interim Program Director, Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy
Asa-Sophia Maglio, Ph.D., Program Director, Counselling Psychology
Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D., Program Director, Clinical Psychology

Closing Remarks

Lisa Coleman, Ph.D., President
Bradley O'Hara, Ph.D., Executive Dean, Vancouver Campus

Recessional

Aiden Fowler, Bagpiper

Regalia

The tradition of wearing academic regalia in the United States and Canada dates back to the first universities in Europe, founded in the 12th and 13th centuries. Academic robes, hoods, and caps have evolved over time.

In the United States, caps and gowns have been used since colonial times. In 1885, a widespread student movement in America pushed to wear caps and gowns at commencement ceremonies. In British Columbia, academic dress began to be adopted in the mid-19th century and, over time, a full range of gowns, hoods, and headdresses was prescribed and worn by officers and graduates of higher learning.

By 1894, colleges and universities across North America began standardizing the style and colours of robes and hoods. All robes were black and the lining and border colour of the hood differentiated faculties and academic institutions.

Academic Costume

An academic costume describes the academic origin and accomplishments of the wearer. Holders of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees are recognizable by their costume, and the trained eye may identify the university that conferred the degree, as well as the individual's field of learning.

The shape and decorations of the gown designate the highest degree earned by an individual. The master's gown has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist or upper arm; the rear part of its oblong shape is square cut. The doctoral gown may be readily identified by the velvet facing down its front and by three velvet bars on each sleeve.

Master's degree holders wear mortarboards with a tassel noting the year of their graduation. The tassel may also be colour-coded according to the degree program. Doctoral degree holders can wear tams (as worn by our Chicago Campus graduates) or beefeater caps (as worn by our Vancouver Campus graduates).

The hood is an important and distinctive feature of academic pageantry. The master's hood is three feet long with a three-inch edge. The doctoral hood is four feet long with a five-inch edge. The colour of the hood's velvet edge represents the field in which the wearer earned his or her degree and the inner lining showcases the official academic colours of the institution that conferred the degree. Adler University graduates from the Chicago and Online campuses, for example, wear linings that are burgundy and gold. Graduates from the Vancouver Campus wear linings that are orange, green, and brown.

Graduate Speaker

Farah Salim's academic journey began in criminology, where questions of justice evolved into deeper questions about human behaviour. Her desire to understand not only the systems that shape people's lives, but also what drives how people think, feel, and respond, ultimately led her to psychology and to earning her Master of Counselling Psychology from Adler University.

As a Pakistani-Canadian woman, Salim carries her family's story into academic spaces no generation before her has entered. That journey has deepened her commitment to advocacy and to making space for voices and experiences that have historically been underrepresented.

Salim is a Registered Clinical Counsellor (RCC) and Canadian Certified Counsellor (CCC) who has since established her own private practice. Her clinical interests lie at the intersection of trauma, attachment, and neuroscience, with a particular interest in how early experiences influence emotion, relationships, and patterns of survival. Looking ahead, Salim aspires to become an educator and mentor, extending her impact from the therapy room into the classroom. As a clinician, future educator, and advocate, she hopes to elevate voices and cultures that deserve greater visibility in mental health and academia and help build a profession where more people can see themselves represented, heard, and empowered to lead.

Commencement Speaker

Ron Rice is a member of Cowichan Tribes and has the hereditary name of Wush'q. He has lived on **lək̓ʷəŋən** territory in Victoria on and off for nearly 40 years.

After many years of service with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres (BCAAFC), Ron became Executive Director of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) in January 2018 after being chosen as volunteer board chair for 14 years.

While leading the charge at VNFC, Ron has also served on the board of the Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness, the Raven Investment Impact Foundation and at Camosun College for six years. He is currently on the board of Island Health.

Ron's favourite hobby is event planning, and the many high-profile events and ceremonies he has planned include the Opening Ceremonies for the Cowichan 2008 North American Indigenous Games. The Medal of Good Citizenship was awarded to Ron in January of 2023 by the province of BC for his volunteer work and contributions to community. In his spare time, Ron organizes the Aboriginal Back-to-School picnic provincewide.

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

Vancouver Campus

Master of Public Policy and Administration: Concentration in Social Change Leadership

Flourish Kevwe Alonge
Phebe Enechojo Ameh
Caroline Joseph Biseko
Kate Bowers
Varaidzo Martha Chokuwenga
Fazia Bi Farik
Chimuanya Grace Inyima
Deborah Tajam Kachalla
Busola Ndaman
Ishtiaq Hossain Ornab

Master of Applied Psychology: Health & Wellness

Prabhleen

Master of Psychology - Health and Wellness

Kamalpreet Kaur
Gomini Arora
Marinella Cabinian
Sprinkle Mehul Christian
Zahra Karbakhsh Ravari
Fizza Mushtaq
Nagin Sadiqzada
Rebecca Schwenk

Master of Arts in Industrial & Organizational Psychology

Purvi Singh
Autumn Brooke Pereira
Chirag Sethi

Master of Industrial & Organizational Psychology

Selorm Abasa-Addo
Mojisola Victoria Ayejunikanwa
Christian Codrington
Shandon Savio Coutinho
Mariam Motunrayo Isioma
Ishir Joshi
Harshdeep Kaur
Simar Kaur Matharu
Helen Mejia Segura
Lindsay Mess
Agustin Molina
Manoela Mosena Saratt
Daisy Caur Pasay
Rincy Shaji
Priscilla Wambuci Wanjiru
Ashaunte Wellington
Makaita Zanamwe

Master of Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy

Miranda P Bakonyi
Nicole Hayashi
Huo Li
Wai Ting Li
Ying Heng Lu
Jade Mitchem
Manisha Shivani Naidu Ramlu
Joachim R Sison
Melissa Soleski
Bronwyn Taylor
Rebecca Watt

Master of Arts in Counselling Psychology

Alyssa Brooks
Moha Chaturvedi
Jordyn Leigh Marais

Master of Counselling Psychology: School and Youth Concentration

Simranjit Kaur Dhami
Tze-Lin Foong
Amanpreet Kaur Kaler
Sonia N Peacock
Joel Dave Emiterio Radoc
Dimple Sharma
Shan LJ Sproul
Emily Wang

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES continued

Vancouver Campus

Master of Counselling Psychology

Khush Ada
Kirsten Albrighton
Arghavan Ansari
Salma Azmy
Ava K Bampton
Cynthia Bendickson
Dhaniah Suhana Binte Mohammad Wijaya
Shrija Bose
Manreet Kaur Buttar
Harsharan K Chana
Kar Kei Chen
Kyla Natasha Coopman
Monica Crawford
Yeung Yeung Dao
Nikhil Datt
Rajdeep Deol
Salma Faragalla
Miguel Angel Garay Buenrostro
Pashmeen Ghumman
Jennifer Gill
Karnjiv Gill
Anuj Goel
Tanya Louise Griffiths
Rebecca Leigh Himel
Derrick Ho
Miranda Hoag
Stephen Horner
Helena M Jasinska
Lauren Jennings
Michelle Jeong
Gillian Gail Kirk
Zohreh Kohzadi
Brynn M Lavery
Kristina L Leon
Delaney L Lewis
Brett Makarenko
Christopher M Marks-Worling
Kimia Mohammadpour Halabis
Devanshi Hitesh Muni
Laiba Musab
Brittany Oake
Erika Preece
Andrea Alexandra Priala
Daniela Sablinskas
Trifa Saeed
Alejandra Saldana
Farah Salim
Srijita Sarkar
Lauren Michelle Schneider
Nidhi Sanath Shetty
Qian (Sandy) Shi
Sara Shrestha
Joshua Emile Silver
Vidushi Soni
Valeria Soto Terrones
Amy Jing Sun
Zia Shaura Nasreen Syed
Melanie Tan
Lauren Tiede
Minh Phuc (Harry) Truong
Jenny Wallace
Di Wu
Odeya M Yeoman
Charles Edward Young
Jesse Edward Allan Young
Abigail Yuen
Julia Zhou
Hai Shi Zhu

Online Campus

Master of Arts in Industrial and Organizational Psychology: Data Science Concentration

Yvonne Ijeamaka Azichoba

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

Vancouver Campus

Doctor of Psychology in Clinical Psychology (Psy.D)

Christian Filice

Dissertation Title: *Looking in the Mirror: An Autoethnographic Inquiry into Addiction and Recovery*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Tony Adams

Jennifer L. Hart

Dissertation Title: *Adapting Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Adults with ADHD*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Gayle Goldstein

David Jennings

Dissertation Title: *Voices of Sexual Shame and Authenticity in Men who have Sex with Men: A Listening Guide Study of Men's Stories*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Janelle Kwee

Isra Khan

Dissertation Title: *The Association Between Narcissistic Personality Traits and Emotion Regulation Strategies: Investigating First-Generation Immigrant Populations in Canada*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Amir A. Sepehry

Robyn Lam

Dissertation Title: *Do DBT Skills Last? Long-Term Stability of DBT Skills and Their Effects on BPD Symptoms and Psychosocial Functioning*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Michael Sheppard

Manroop Maan

Dissertation Title: *Towards the Understanding of IPV Exposure in South Asian Children*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Manal Guirguis-Younger

Yasaman S. Madanikia

Dissertation Title: *Voices of Not Good Enough-ness: Experiences of Perfectionism in Iranian Immigrant Women*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Janelle Kwee

Lauryn Obdeyn

Dissertation Title: *An Exploration of the Lived Experiences of #mentalhealth Content Creators on TikTok*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Nicole Dorfan

Samantha O'Brien

Dissertation Title: *Heterosexual Women of Colour's Embodied Experiences of Sexual Pleasure*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Janelle Kwee

Anita Paskvalin

Dissertation Title: *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Traumatic Brain Injury: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis*
Dissertation Committee Chair: Dr. Amir Sepehry

Peter Charles Senften

Dissertation Title: *Factors Impacting Performance and Symptom Validity in Mild Traumatic Brain Injury*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Jordan Maile

CANDIDATES FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES continued

Online Campus

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Industrial & Organizational Psychology

Jessica Mary McPhee

Dissertation Title: *Female, Male, and Nonbinary Leaders' Relationship with Emotion*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Irene Jones

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Organizational Leadership

Donette P Archer

Dissertation Title: *Time And Sex In The Executive Suite: A Study Of The Perception Of Gender-Distributed Transformational Leadership In Canadian Financial Institutions From 2014-2019*
Dissertation Committee Chair:
Dr. Camille Edosomwan

CORE FACULTY

Benjamin Aiken, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Christina Cook, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Nicole Dorfan, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Manal Guirguis-Younger, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Jenna Hepp, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Jinnie Jeon, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy

Maira Jimenez-Sanchez, M.Ed., M.Sc.
Health and Wellness Psychology

Derrick Klaassen, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Janelle Kwee, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Johnson Ma, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Asa-Sophia Maglio, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Christian Maile, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Jordan Maile, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychology

Somayyeh Mohammadi, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Kelsey Sarasqueta-Allen, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Amir Sepehry, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Gillian Smith, Ph.D.
Counselling Psychology

Jason Walker, Psy.D, Ph.D.
Health and Wellness Psychology and Industrial and Organizational Psychology

Keturah Welton, Ph.D
Counselling Psychology: Art Therapy

Travis Yang, Ph.D
Counselling Psychology

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The Board of Trustees, Cabinet, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni of Adler University warmly congratulate the members of the graduating class of 2026. Today's commencement ceremony marks the beginning of your chosen professional life. We wish you well as you celebrate this special day and continue your journey as alumni of Adler University.



ADLER UNIVERSITY

520 Seymour Street
Vancouver, BC V6B 3J5

adler.edu

Adler University's Vancouver Campus is located on the unceded and traditional territory of the Coast Salish peoples, including the territory xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Sḵwx̱wú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Sə̓lílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.