

The graduates listed below will be available for interviews:

ASU 2025 Graduate Commencement

When: Monday, May 12, at 9 a.m.

Where: Desert Financial Arena, 600 E. Veterans Way, Tempe, AZ 85281

- **Dani Bermudez** — She had tried school before, but it wasn't until [ASU Earned Admissions](#) that she was able to find the support she needed as a mother, student and full-time worker. Finding a community and support for veterans, Bermudez was able to enter the accelerated 4+1 program, allowing her to earn her bachelor's and master's degrees in a shorter timeline. This May she's set to graduate with her [master's degree in psychology](#) and will be the student speaker at the [Veterans Stole Ceremony](#). Today Bermudez works as the self-directed harm prevention specialist in the integrated primary prevention workforce for the National Guard.
- **Holly Molinaro** — This ASU graduate made [national headlines](#) with her research showing that pet owners may not know their dogs as well as they think. Under the mentorship of [Professor Clive Wynne](#) in ASU's [Canine Science Collaboratory](#), Molinaro has spent her doctoral career exploring how dogs express emotion and how successful people are at identifying those emotions. She graduates this May as the recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Award in natural sciences from [The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#), earning her PhD in psychology with a specialization in [behavioral neuroscience and comparative psychology](#).
- **Cecilia Alcantar-Chavez** — Alcantar-Chavez is ASU President Michael Crow's teaching assistant and is earning her graduate degree in global management from [Thunderbird School of Global Management](#). She was the student body president of ASU's Polytechnic campus, interned in Washington, D.C., helped secure grants for the [Julie Ann Wrigley Global Futures Laboratory](#) and has a job lined up at the Phoenix City Manager's Office following graduation. Alcantar-Chavez is one of 10 siblings.
- **Paul Iannone** — Iannone likes to think of his journey as ASU's version of "Good Will Hunting": He went from holding a plunger to holding a doctorate and is graduating with a PhD in art history from the School of Art, within the [Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts](#). Iannone took a maintenance job at ASU mostly to provide health insurance for his family, but the employee tuition discount empowered him to pursue his passion for film. In an extraordinary feat of perseverance, he has been a student, teacher and employee at ASU — sometimes having been all three at once.

ASU 2025 Undergraduate Commencement

When: Monday, May 12, at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Mountain America Stadium, 500 E. Veterans Way, Tempe, AZ 85287

- **Abigail Zagala** — At just 14 years old, Zagala is set to graduate with a bachelor's degree in social and behavioral science from the [New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences](#) on ASU's West Valley campus. Homeschooled from an early age, she began reading before age 2, took college algebra at 8 and completed high school by 11. With strong family support, she has thrived both academically and socially, challenging stereotypes about gifted youth. Her professors praise her maturity, emotional intelligence and self-driven passion for learning. Despite her age,

she has navigated the college environment and hopes to study human rights law, using her education to advocate for marginalized communities and eventually open a nonprofit to offer free legal services.

- **Omkaar Shenoy** — Shenoy is an international student worker for ASU's Office of Media Relations and Strategic Communications, where his innovations helped streamline internal systems with his programming and coding skills. He is graduating from the [Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering](#) with a bachelor's degree in computer science and has a job lined up at Aramark in Philadelphia post-graduation. His engineering talents have left an impact that will continue to make ASU more efficient for years to come.
- **Clayton A. Burkhardt** — A veteran and brain tumor survivor, Burkhardt is graduating from the [Ira A. Fulton Schools of Engineering](#) with a degree in electrical engineering. In 2021, while flying a Chinook helicopter on a training flight in Germany, Burkhardt suffered a seizure mid-flight. This event led to the diagnosis of a highly malignant brain tumor requiring multiple surgeries. One of these surgeries left him unable to speak, and Burkhardt underwent months of intensive recovery to regain his ability to communicate. The experience inspired his appreciation for medical technology, notably MRI. Burkhardt plans to use his electrical engineering expertise to improve imaging techniques, enhance diagnostic capabilities and make a meaningful impact in health care.
- **Mackenzie Schmader** — Schmader graduates this May with a degree in construction management and technology from the [Ira A. Schools of Engineering](#). An advocate for women in STEM and a mentor to younger generations, she has led multiple student organizations, notably serving two years as president of Advancing Women in Construction. She also served as the vice president of the Construction Management Association of America chapter at ASU for three years, organizing site tours and bringing in industry leaders to showcase diverse career opportunities available after graduation. She begins her role as a project engineer for McCarthy Building Companies in Phoenix following graduation.
- **Rashi Duttagupta** — This triple major balanced rigorous academics and a host of extracurricular activities during her ASU career, including managing her own small business. She is also part of the first cohort to graduate from [W. P. Carey's AI in business program](#). During her academic journey, Duttagupta was invited to the Deloitte Leadership Conference at Deloitte University, where she later interned and will return in September as a full-time employee following her graduation.