Commencement Script Example 2

**Event Title:** Spring 2025 College of Dentistry Commencement Ceremony

**Ceremony:** College of Dentistry

**Date:** 6/6/2025

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Location:** Hancher Auditorium

*Please ensure that all speaker remarks, including stage directions and cues, are consolidated into a single document.*

‘Celebrating Iowa’ Video

Faculty Procession

*[Stage Direction]* Faculty Marshal enters from the back of the backstage and leads the procession of faculty. Faculty should line up and follow the Faculty Marshal to the stage.

National Anthem

Introduction of Dean

**Speaker:** Mr. Grant Wood **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction] Faculty Marshal heads to the podium to introduce the dean.*

Good afternoon, esteemed faculty, family, friends, and graduates.

It is my great honor today to introduce someone whose leadership, vision, and unwavering dedication have made an indelible impact on this institution and its mission to prepare the next generation of scientists and explorers. Our dean, Dr. James Van Allen, has been a guiding force at the University of Iowa’s College of Dentistry, shaping not only the academic environment but also the holistic experience of every student who has walked through these halls.

Under Dean Van Allen’s leadership, the College of Dentistry has flourished, continuously setting new standards of excellence in both education and research. He has worked tirelessly to create an environment where students, faculty, and researchers alike are inspired to grow, innovate, and push the boundaries of discovery. He has consistently placed students at the heart of his work, fostering an institution that provides opportunity, challenge, and unwavering support for those striving to make meaningful contributions to the world of science.

Beyond his administrative accomplishments, Dean Van Allen is a renowned scholar in space physics, and his contributions to advancing knowledge and exploration have been recognized both nationally and internationally. His pioneering research in astrophysics and his dedication to scientific inquiry have shaped our understanding of the universe and inspired generations of researchers. His passion for education, commitment to scientific innovation, and advocacy for discovery-driven learning are evident in everything he does.

It is truly a privilege to have Dean Van Allen with us today as we celebrate this important milestone in the lives of our graduates, who are about to embark on their own journeys of exploration and discovery. Please join me in welcoming Dean James Van Allen.

Welcome

**Speaker:** Dean James Van Allen **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction] Click here to enter a stage direction.*

Distinguished faculty, family, and friends, and most importantly, graduates—thank you for the honor of speaking to you on this momentous day.

We have gathered here today to celebrate you—the graduates who have worked tirelessly to reach this pinnacle moment in your academic journey. Today, you stand at the threshold of a new chapter in your life, ready to begin a career that will affect the lives of countless individuals, their families, and communities. As healthcare professionals, you are the future of Dentistry— the world is counting on your ability, compassion, and commitment.

To the families, friends, and loved ones who have supported these graduates along the way—your sacrifices, encouragement, and unwavering belief in them are instrumental. You have helped make today possible, and for that, we thank you.

Acknowledging the Graduates

**Speaker:** President Sally Mason **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction]* The President enters from stage right and approaches the podium to deliver her speech. She stands and addresses the audience.

Graduating students, family and friends, faculty and staff, and distinguished guests—on behalf of the University of Iowa, I am delighted to welcome you to this incredibly special occasion. It is a joy and privilege to share it with you.

To the parents, family, friends, and supporters here today—thank you for being here to celebrate your graduating student. Most importantly, thank you for the significant role you have played in their journey to this milestone. I am certain I speak for all the graduates when I say that your unwavering support and encouragement have meant more than words can express.

Graduates—looking out at this crowd, it is clear how proud your friends and family are of you. This is a moment of immense pride for all of us. But I want you to know that this is not only one of the proudest moments for your loved ones. It is also one of the proudest moments in the life of your college and university.

This day represents the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and growth. You have navigated challenges, endured late nights, and discovered new passions. You have faced moments of doubt, yet you persevered. The lessons you have learned here are not only in textbooks—they are in the relationships you have built, but the conversations also that changed your perspective, and the resilience you have cultivated. It is this combination of intellectual and personal growth that makes you ready for what lies ahead in your chosen healthcare fields.

As graduates of the University of Iowa, you leave with more than just a degree. You leave with the knowledge and skills to approach the world with curiosity, to solve problems with creativity, and to act with integrity and compassion. You are equipped not only to thrive in your careers as dentists, but also to shape the future of healthcare itself.

Education has the power to transform lives, but it is not just about what we learn—it is about what we do with what we have learned. The world you are about to step into is constantly changing, and the challenges it presents will require adaptability, critical thinking, and a sense of purpose. You are trained to think broadly and act decisively, and it is this foundation that will guide you.

Take the time to reflect on the road you have traveled to get here. Embrace the uncertainty that comes with the next steps—because growth happens in the unknown. Be fearless in following your passions, and know that no matter where life takes you, the education you have received here will continue to serve you.

As you embark on the next stage of your journey, I offer you some thoughts: First, embrace failure as part of your success. Every misstep and obstacle you meet is an opportunity to gain experience and grow. Second, be kind to yourself and others. In an ever-changing world, human connection and compassion are more important than ever. Lastly, never stop asking questions. Stay curious. The answers may not always be immediate, but in seeking them, you will continue to grow.

The future is vast, and your opportunities are boundless. Some of you will continue your academic pursuits, while others will begin careers in hospitals, clinics, community pharmacies, or private practice. Whatever path you choose, remember that you have the tools to create an impact. You have the power to change lives, shape communities, and contribute to a better world.

And no matter where life leads you, always remember that today is not just an end—it is the beginning of something far greater. The values, friendships, and experiences you carry with you from this institution will shape who you are and how you lead others in the future of healthcare.

For some of you, this may be the last time you are on campus, but no matter where you go in the world, you will always be a Hawkeye, and your Hawkeye family will always be here to support you.

As you walk across this stage, you step into the future with pride, excitement, and a sense of purpose. You are not just graduates; you are the next generation of healthcare professionals—leaders, thinkers, and innovators. I have no doubt that you will continue to make us proud.

On behalf of the entire University of Iowa community, we congratulate you on your accomplishments and wish you all the best in the next exciting chapter of your life. Congratulations, Class of 2025!We are so proud of you.

Address by Graduating Student

**Speaker:** Mr. Tennessee Williams **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction] The Student Speaker walks up to the podium from his seat and addresses the audience.*

Distinguished faculty, family and friends, and fellow graduates—good afternoon!

It is truly an honor to stand before you today as we celebrate one of the most important milestones of our lives—our graduation. I want to start by thanking everyone who has supported us on this journey—our families, friends, mentors, and professors. Without you, none of us would be here today.

As I look out at all of you, I am reminded that our time here at the University of Iowa was not just about classes, exams, and assignments—though those were certainly important! Our time here was about growth. We came in as individuals, full of potential, and we leave today as graduates, each of us transformed by the experiences we have had and the lessons we have learned.

We have faced our fair share of challenges over the years. Whether it was the late-night study sessions, the unexpected detours in our plans, or the moments when we doubted ourselves—every one of us has overcome something to reach this day. Yet, through it all, we have persevered. And in doing so, we have gained not just knowledge, but wisdom and resilience.

But it has not all been difficult. Alongside the challenges were moments of joy and inspiration. We have made lifelong friendships, discovered new passions, and challenged ourselves in ways we never imagined. We have had conversations that changed the way we see the world, and experiences that shaped the people we are becoming. Every late-night coffee, every spirited class discussion, and every moment of doubt pushed us to learn more about ourselves and the world around us.

Today, as we stand on the precipice of the future, we carry with us not only our degrees but also the lessons we have learned along the way. We are armed with the ability to think critically, to solve problems creatively, and to engage with the world around us with compassion and integrity. These are the tools that will serve us no matter where our next steps take us.

Looking ahead, I know there is a sense of uncertainty. For many of us, the next step might not be completely clear, and that is okay. The world we are entering is constantly evolving, and the paths we choose may not always be linear. But one thing I am certain of is that the education we have received here will continue to serve us as we face the unknown.

I encourage all of us to embrace the uncertainty ahead. It is in the unknown that we will find new opportunities for growth. And as we navigate the twists and turns of our individual journeys, let us remember that we have already shown the qualities needed to succeed: resilience, determination, and an unyielding drive to keep learning.

We are not just graduates—we are the future. We are the thinkers, the innovators, the creators, and the leaders of tomorrow. And while today marks the end of one chapter, it is also the beginning of an exciting new adventure. Whatever paths we choose, wherever we go in the world, we will continue to carry the values of this institution with us. We will continue to strive for excellence, to challenge ourselves and others, and to make a positive impact on the world.

And as we go forward, we should remember something else: no matter how far we may travel, no matter where life takes us, we will always be a part of the University of Iowa family. This community, the friendships we have made, and the experiences we have shared will stay with us for the rest of our lives.

So, to my fellow graduates, I say this: congratulations! You have earned every bit of success you have achieved, and I have no doubt that you will continue to do remarkable things in the years to come.

Thank you, and once again, congratulations to the Class of 2025!

Hippocratic Oath

**Speaker:** Dean James Van Allen **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction]* Dean moves to podium*.*

Today marks a monumental milestone in your journey—the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, and sacrifice. As you stand here, on the threshold of a new chapter, you are not just stepping into your careers as healthcare professionals; you are stepping into a sacred trust, a promise that binds you to your patients, to your colleagues, to your communities, and to the values that uphold the dignity and sanctity of life.

One of the most important traditions in healthcare is the recitation of the Hippocratic Oath. This oath, passed down through the centuries, speaks to the ethical foundation of your profession. It is a reminder of the responsibility you have, not only to your patients but also to your profession, to the broader healthcare community, and to the world.

As you recite this oath, reflect on the weight of these words, and commit yourself, once again, to the ideals of healthcare you have learned and embraced here. It is my honor to lead you in this moment of solemn commitment. Please rise.

*[Stage Direction: The graduates stand, facing the Dean.]*

Repeat after me.

*[Stage Direction: The Dean begins the recitation of the Hippocratic Oath, and the graduates follow.]*

I swear by Apollo the physician, by Asclepius, by Hygeia, and by Panacea,
and I take to witness all the gods and goddesses,
that, according to my ability and judgment,
I will keep this Oath and this stipulation:
To hold my teacher in this art equal to my own parents,
to share my substance with him,
and to relieve his necessities if required;
to look upon his offspring as my own brothers and sisters,
and to teach them this art, if they desire to learn it,
without fee and covenant;
to prescribe regimen for the good of my patients,
according to my ability and judgment,
and never do harm to anyone.
I will not give a lethal drug to anyone if I am asked,
nor will I advise such a plan;
and similarly I will not give to a woman an abortive remedy.
But I will preserve the purity of my life and my art.
I will not cut for stone, even for patients in whom the disease is manifest;
I will leave this to be done by practitioners of this work.
In every house where I come, I will enter only for the good of my patients,
keeping myself far from all intentional injustice,
from all mischief, and in particular from the seduction of women or men,
whether they are free or slaves.
Whatever, in connection with my professional practice,
or not in connection with it, I see or hear in the lives of men,
which ought not to be spread abroad, I will keep secret and will consider such things to be holy secrets.
If I keep this Oath faithfully, may I enjoy my life and practice my art,
respected by all men and women,
but if I swerve from it or violate it, may the opposite be my fate."

Conferral of Degrees

**Speaker:** Dean James Van Allen **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction]* : The Dean moves to the center of the stage, where the President is standing, to begin the conferral of degrees*.*

Now, we come to the most significant moment of this ceremony—the conferral of degrees.

Today, we celebrate not just academic achievements, but the tremendous commitment and dedication you have shown to the health and well-being of others. The degrees you have earned are not just a testament to your intellectual ability, but to your deep compassion, your unwavering ethics, and your resilience in facing the challenges that come with pursuing careers in healthcare.

As healthcare professionals, you are prepared to care for others, to diagnose, to heal, and to bring hope in times of need. Now, we stand together to formally recognize the culmination of years of study, practice, and commitment to the service of humanity.

I will now lead us in this important tradition, where we formally recognize the achievements of the graduates and confer upon them the degrees, they have worked so hard to earn.

I invite President Mason to come forward. Will the candidates for the Doctor of Dental Surgery please rise?

*[Stage Direction: The President stands next to the Dean, ready to confer the degrees.]*

**Speaker:** President Sally Mason **Center Podium**

On recommendation of the faculty of the College of Dentistry, and by the authority vested in me by the Board of Regents, State of Iowa, I confer on each of you the degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery as qualified and designated.

Presentation of Graduates

**Speaker:** Dean James Van Allen **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction]* The Dean returns to the center of the stage and prepares for the presentation of graduates*.*

At this time, we will begin the presentation of the graduates.

As each graduate’s name is called, I ask that they come forward to the stage. Upon reaching the stage, they will stop to shake hands with President Masonand me, before continuing down the stairs and returning to their seat.

We will continue calling the names of all our graduates until everyone has been recognized.

Graduates, as your name is called, take a moment to enjoy this special recognition. Today marks not only the culmination of your hard work but also your transition into a profession that has the power to transform lives. As healthcare professionals, you now carry with you the responsibility to heal, to care, and to uphold the dignity of human life.

*[Stage Direction]* During the presentation of names, the graduates walk across the stage to shake hands with the President and the Dean.

Tassel-Turning Ceremony

**Speaker:** Dean James Van Allen **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction]* : After all graduates have walked across the stage, the Dean returns to the podium for the next part of the ceremony.

Now, we come to an incredibly special moment in today’s ceremony—the Tassel-Turning Ceremony. Graduates, this is the moment when you will officially transition from being a student to a healthcare professional.

As you stand before us, ready to embark on the next chapter of your journey, I ask that you take a moment to reflect on the incredible achievement this day signifies. You have worked tirelessly, faced immense challenges, and proved resilience, empathy, and commitment to patient care. Today, you are not just receiving a degree but affirming your place as a graduate who will make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

I invite each of you to carefully move the tassel on your cap from the right side to the left. This simple act marks a significant milestone in your life, signifying your transformation from a student to a graduate who is now ready to make an impact in the world of healthcare.

As you make this symbolic gesture, know that you are part of a larger community—one that is committed to the care of others and to upholding the values of compassion, integrity, and service. With your tassels now on the left, you join a vast community of proud alumni who have come before you, stepping forward with the potential to make a profound impact on the world around you.

I invite everyone to join me in applauding the Class of 2025, who have now officially earned their degrees and are ready to serve the world.

Closing Remarks

**Speaker:** President Sally Mason **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction] The President* walks to the center of the stage for the final remarks.

Graduates, today marks the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. You have worked hard, overcome obstacles, and achieved extraordinary things. It is with pride that we celebrate you, as you now join the ranks of healthcare professionals who will affect lives and make a lasting difference in the world.

As you move forward in your careers, remember that the education you have received here is not just about medical knowledge or technical skills—it is about the ability to think critically, to act with empathy, and to lead with integrity. You are trained not only to heal but to offer comfort, to guide, and to serve humanity with dignity and respect.

To the families and friends of our graduates—thank you for your unwavering support and for sharing in this special moment with us today. Your encouragement has been an essential part of their success.

And to the faculty and staff who have guided and mentored these students, thank you for your dedication and for shaping these graduates into the skilled, compassionate professionals they are today.

As we close this ceremony, I encourage each of you to reflect on your journey, embrace the challenges that lie ahead, and carry with you the lessons, experiences, and friendships you have gained here. Wherever your path leads, you will always have a place in the University of Iowa family.

Congratulations, Class of 2025**.** We are so proud of you, and we look forward to seeing the incredible contributions you will make in the world of healthcare.

Thank you, and may your future be bright and filled with the power to heal and to change lives.

Faculty Recession

**Speaker:** Mr. Grant Wood **Center Podium**

*[Stage Direction]* As the recessional music begins, all speakers, faculty, and graduates exit the stage*.*

Please remain standing as the recessional begins. Graduates, please follow the faculty and procession as we conclude today’s ceremony.