

1. Hello, Class of 2021!
2. I'm very honored and thankful to be here today, and to have the opportunity to address this year's graduating class. It's an opportunity that humbles me.
3. When I think back to the time leading up to my first days of college, two words come to mind...excited and mystified.
4. For me, those days seem like yesterday. One thing that captures the excitement and mystification was being asked, on a daily occurrence, "What do you want to study in college?"
5. At the time, I had no idea what I wanted to study and wasn't sure how I was ever going to decide, because this question seemed to be synonymous with "what do you want to do for the rest of your life?"
6. It wasn't that I didn't have any interests; it was quite the opposite. I was excited by all of the topics and career choices I could pursue. Meanwhile, mystified by how I was supposed to decide on one path as well as suppress all of the distractions that college life would bring.
7. At the time, older friends and family members were preparing me to decide what I might want to do, as well as imparting me with their wisdom on how to make the most out of my college years.
8. I remember one of my aunts giving me what turned out to be some of the most valuable advice...She looked at me and said, "You better learn to like coffee!" She was right.
9. Others weighed the pros and cons of various career paths, informing me which fields they could see me being successful in. Some were a bit more practical, telling me which fields were more likely to provide an income that could actually pay off student loans!
10. As I stand here today, looking back on my college years, I can see that the professors, classmates, friends, and intellectual growth I encountered along the way, helped me make the most out of my college years. Preparing me, as well as all of you, for the next chapter of our life.
11. We've been given the resources and opportunities to become better versions of ourselves, and equipped to positively impact the world around us, however we so choose.

12. In fact, this year's graduating class has already made an impact by accumulating among the highest number of volunteer hours compared to previous graduating classes over the past 5 years. An achievement that holds promise to be the way we will choose to utilize our skills and energy through the next chapters of our life.
13. So, Class of 2021, as this chapter of our life comes to a close and the next chapter begins, may we continue to choose to positively impact the world around us. Using our skills and abilities to do so.
14. And, may we go forward with zest and confidence into this next chapter, embracing more exciting and mystifying experiences.
15. Thank you, and congratulations to the class of 2021!