

**Olivia Shive**  
**Life Class President, Class of 2021**  
**Acadia University**

- Hello, graduating class of 2021. My name is Olivia Shive, and I'm your Grad Class President. Welcome to the very first virtual convocation ceremony. I never thought that we would be celebrating our graduation from Acadia in this way.

But graduating isn't always about a big fancy event. It is about the celebration of the four years of hard work, stress and exhausting self-discovery in which we are all still able to do.

I want to start off by congratulating every single one of you, as you are all truly amazing. Today we celebrate our accomplishments and our dreams.

Looking back, it really has been the time of our lives. It is an extreme honour to be here today, representing the special group of people that I get to call my Acadia family. I would like to thank the students, faculty and staff who have made such an impact on our lives. Without their help and support, we would not be in the position that we are today.

We are now being welcomed into the vast Acadia Alumni Community and I can assure you that we will bump into our alumni family at every turn as we make our way through life. We have the opportunity to return every year for homecoming alumni events to stay connected and continue our love and support for this amazing school.

This year has not been easy, but we all faced it with impeccable strength and resilience. This year has prepared us to be stronger individuals, allowing us to adapt to any situation now and for the future. It is finally our time, and it feels somewhat normal, but really there is no normal. There is simply change and it is up to us to decide what we do with that change.

It felt like an eternity and I didn't think the day would ever come where we would end this amazing journey but here we are. We must go live the lives that we have always imagined and 'Oh the places we will go'. The opportunities are endless.

Whenever you find yourself doubting how far you can go, just remember how far you have come. I know only great things will come out of this graduating class. As I have gotten to know a lot of you during the four years here at Acadia, you were all kind, worthy and extremely hardworking. You portray all of the skills needed to be successful in life. Now, it is simply a matter of doing.

The Acadia community has prepared us for everything that the future has to hold. It has allowed us to discover what we love, and this shaped us into the passionate individuals that we are today.

I am forever thankful for this close-knit little town and I am more thankful for you all. As you have allowed me to lead you through your final hurrah. My hopes for us all is health

and happiness, no matter where the road takes us. Like Conan O'Brien once said, "Work hard and be kind and amazing things will happen." Thank you all.