

Jackson State University

Office of the Registrar and Records

Graduation Name Pronunciation Guide

Phonetic Spelling Instructions

Although the pronunciation of many names is obvious, some require special attention. If your name is one that is pronounced in a special way, please use the key below to advise us how your name should be pronounced.

Indicate either the *phonetic spelling* of your name OR a *familiar word that rhymes* with your name.

- Syllables are separated by dashes
- Stressed syllables are capitalized

For example:

Raul Gonzalez: rah-OOL gon-SAH-les

Ngoc Nguyen: nahk nuhWEN or sounds like “knock” “WIN”

Sophia Lamagna: so-FEE-uh sounds like “lasagna”

PHONETIC SPELLING KEY:

Consonants

Respelling symbol(s)	Example
b	<i>Brandi, Caleb</i>
ch	<i>Charles, Katrina</i>
d	<i>Don, Alfred</i>
dh	<i>Heather</i>
f	<i>Felix, Steph</i>
g	<i>Gavin, Craig</i>
h	<i>Hakim, Alejandro</i>
j	<i>George, Jenny</i>
k	<i>Kim, Queen, Lekesha, Erick</i>
kh	<i>Jack, Kendrick</i>
l	<i>Lisa, Jewell</i>
m	<i>Madison, Abraham</i>
n	<i>Natalie, Nolan</i>
ng	<i>Frank, Hank</i>
ng-g	<i>Chang</i>
p	<i>Paul, Springer, Skip</i>
py	<i>Pugh</i>
r	<i>Reggie, Aubrey</i>
s or ss	<i>Sue, Cindy, Bessie</i>
sh	<i>Sheila, Chardonnay, Elisha</i>
t	<i>Thomas, Stephanie, Yvette</i>
th	<i>Theo, Keith</i>
v	<i>Valerie, Kaavia</i>
w	<i>William</i>
wh	<i>Wiley, Whitney</i>
y	<i>Yvonne</i>
z	<i>Lorenzo, Rose</i>
zh	<i>Frazier</i>

Other

Respelling symbol(s)	Example
UR	<i>further</i>
AIR	<i>hair, bare</i>
EER	<i>beer, hear</i>
OOR	<i>poor</i>
OR	<i>door, for</i>
AR	<i>car</i>
IKE	<i>bike</i>
INE	<i>line</i>
ITE	<i>light, bite</i>
ICE	<i>dice</i>
AL	<i>pal</i>
ALL	<i>ball</i>
AIL	<i>pail</i>
ULL	<i>hull</i>
OOL	<i>tool</i>
OAL	<i>coal</i>
EEL or EAL	<i>deal</i>
ILL	<i>pill</i>
ILE	<i>style, pile</i>

Vowels

Respelling symbol(s)	Example
a	<i>trap, cat</i>
ah or aa	<i>palm, pot</i>
air	<i>square</i>
ar	<i>start</i>
arr	<i>marry</i>
aw	<i>thought, saw</i>
ay, ai	<i>face, ape</i>
er	<i>letter, Peter</i>
e, eh	<i>dress, met</i>
ee	<i>fleece, tree</i>
eer	<i>near</i>
err	<i>merry</i>
ew	<i>ewe, dew</i>
eye	<i>item</i>
i or ih (Use ih at end of syllable, esp. if i yields a real word, e.g. "hi", "ski")	<i>kit, bit</i>
irr	<i>mirror</i>
o	<i>lot</i>
oh or oe	<i>goat, toe, go</i>
oo	<i>food, boot, shoe</i>
oor	<i>cure or Europe</i>
ohr	<i>force or wore</i>
or or awr	<i>north or war</i>
orr	<i>orange</i>
ou	<i>out</i>
ow	<i>mouth</i>
oy	<i>choice, toy</i>
u	<i>strut</i>
uu	<i>foot, put</i>
uh	<i>mother, comma</i>
ur	<i>nurse</i>
urr	<i>hurry</i>
ye	<i>price</i>