

May 6, 2023

To Graduating Seniors in the Class of 2023

Congratulations - the day is finally here!

This year's ceremony will be held INDOORS in the Activities Arena at the Shirk Center

As much as we had hoped to be outdoors on the Quad, after much deliberation, we made the difficult decision to hold Commencement indoors at the Shirk Center. There are still no attendance limitations; there is plenty of seating, and it is all on the lower floor so easily accessible to all of your guests from the parking lot entrance.

Following is information regarding the line-up for the Processional, a brief outline of the Ceremony itself, and cap and gown return instructions.

Note: There are no storage spaces, so everything you bring will remain with you during the Ceremony.

There will be ice water, lemonade, and iced tea available in the practice gym before, during, and after the ceremony.

PROCESSIONAL – Arrive by 12:15 p.m. / Line up begins at 12:20 p.m. in the Performance Gym / Basketball Arena

Commencement should be conducted with dignity and respect for all those attending. You'll have plenty of time after the ceremony to celebrate - please do not bring any alcohol in with you. We ask that you also not bring anything with you on stage. Even if you know there is no safety issue, things hidden under robes can be of concern to those in the audience.

Coordination and instructions on Sunday, May 7 will come from the Senior Faculty Marshals—Professor Zahia Drici and Professor David Marvin. Other faculty will join them as

Marshals for the day. Student Marshals are Andrew Garcia '24 and Kevin Pankham '24 representing the Junior Class.

Line up for the Processional begins at ***12:20 p.m.*** and you must be dressed in your academic robe, cap, and tassel. You will assemble in the Performance Gym / Basketball Arena. Professors Marvin and Drici will announce instructions for lining up.

1. Graduates receiving the following degrees will line up on the west side:

- B.S.N. for School of Nursing graduates
- B.F.A. for Art, Theatre Arts and Music Theatre
- B.M. for Music
- B.M.E. for Music Education
- B.A. and B.S. for Liberal Arts with last names beginning **A through Haug**, alphabetically

Signs will be posted to indicate where the line-up starts for each DEGREE – B.S.N., B.F.A., B.M., B.M.E., B.A. and B.S. The line will need to “snake” up and down the length of the west side of the gym in an orderly way.

2. B.A. and B.S. Liberal Arts graduates with last names beginning **Heflen through Z** alphabetically, will line up on the east side. Again, the line will need to “snake” up and down the length of the east side of the gym in an orderly way.

**IN ORDER TO RECEIVE THE CORRECT DIPLOMA,
YOU MUST LINE UP IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, BY DEGREE,
AS LISTED IN THE COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM.**

Commencement programs will be available to look at. All will go well, if you just follow the person listed ahead of you in the program.

The restrooms in the Shirk Center will be open. Please make one last stop if needed so there are no interruptions during the ceremony.

At 12:48 p.m., the Prelude will begin. It will last about 12 minutes. Following the prelude, the processional will begin. This will be the traditional Pomp and Circumstance music.

- Faculty Marshals will lead the graduates from the Performance Arena to the indoor track. Graduates who lined up on the west side of the gym will process around the west side of

the track and graduates who lined up on the east side of the gym will process around the east side of the track.

- The procession will stop when the marshals leading the lines of graduates reach the northeast and northwest corners of the track. Graduates will move to the outside of the track and face the audience. That provides a walkway so that the Mace Bearer (Professor Mohan) and Platform Party (led by President Nugent and Provost Brodl) can walk past the graduates to the stage.
- Graduates stand in place while the Marshals lead the Faculty past you in a procession of honor. Please feel free to share greetings with Faculty as they pass.
- Marshals then lead the graduates up the center aisle and carefully count the graduates into their seats, 14 students to a row. Please move efficiently from the center aisle all the way down the row to your chair. And, please trust the Marshals' counting even if the row appears overfull.
- Remain standing until the Invocation is completed. It is customary that men remove their caps during the Invocation.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

The Marshals and President Nugent will guide you through this step. Follow the person listed ahead of you in the program to remain in order.

- Degrees are awarded in the order listed in the program: B.S.N., B.F.A., B.M., B.M.E., B.A. and B.S., and to each graduate in the alphabetic order you are lined up. For each degree, President Nugent will ask the group of students to rise, will confer the degree, and will then ask the graduates receiving that degree to come forward to receive their diplomas.
- The Marshals will direct you to the left (west) side of the stage where your photograph will be taken by a professional photographer as you walk toward him. You will walk up the stairs, **give your name to the Reader**, and walk towards President Nugent at the front of the stage as your name is announced.
- When you reach the President you shake his right hand and receive your diploma in your left hand. Look at the President as you receive your diploma—your photograph will be taken by the photographer.
- Follow the graduate in front of you to the right (east) side of the stage and pat the cement pineapple (symbol of luck) before going down the right (east) steps where a third, posed photo will be taken.
- The Marshals will then direct your route back to your chair.
- If by some chance you receive the wrong diploma tube, you can switch with the correct person or contact Registrar Leslie Betz after the ceremony.

RECESSIONAL AND RECEPTION

After the ceremony ends, the Mace Bearer leads the Platform Party in the Recessional. The Marshals then direct the Faculty and finally the Graduates to leave the seating area row by row using the center aisle. Please follow the Marshals all of the way back to the Performance Gym before meeting up with friends and family. This will prevent the aisles from becoming blocked. During the reception, faculty will be gathered to greet you and your family near signs listing the individual Department and School names on the upper floor of the Shirk Center. (The map in the program is incorrect because the ceremony location was changed from outdoors to indoors.) Please look for the signs and visit with faculty before you depart.

Before you leave, return your cap and gown, which the University has rented for you, to the Fort Natatorium Lobby of the Shirk Center by the swimming pool. You may keep your tassel.

Tassel colors signify the degree you are receiving:

- Bachelor of Arts - white
- Bachelor of Science - gold
- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - apricot
- Bachelor of Fine Arts - brown
- Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education - pink