

# COMMENCEMENT *Policy*



Participation in Commencement is voluntary and open to students who choose to attend. By electing to participate, students agree to adhere to all established rules and policies associated with the event. The University regards Commencement as a respectful occasion to honor significant educational achievements. Upholding decorum and courtesy is expected from all participants, their families, and fellow degree candidates. Any behavior deemed offensive, disrespectful, or disruptive to the ceremony will be reported to the Dean of Students for review. During this process, a hold may be placed on the student's records, which could delay the mailing of diplomas and the release of transcripts. Following review, the hold may be lifted upon the completion of any sanctions imposed. Once degree candidates have entered the venue and are seated, they are expected to remain seated until the ceremony concludes with the faculty's recessional.

Graduates are expected to uphold the dignity and decorum appropriate to the commencement ceremony. In addition to wearing suitable attire, graduates should refrain from behaviors that may disrupt the event, including but not limited to dancing, jumping, chanting, or any other conduct deemed unprofessional or disruptive in the formal setting. The consumption of alcohol or other substances before or during commencement ceremonies is prohibited, as it can impair conduct and disrupt the event.

Each graduate is expected to communicate with their guest(s) regarding appropriate conduct during the commencement ceremony. All students have the right to hear their names as they cross the stage. Kindly refrain from excessive shouting, prolonged cheering, or loud applause, as such behavior can be disruptive to others and is considered inappropriate.

Graduates shall process across the stage in a measured, safe, and professional manner.

- Adherence to the University's alcohol policy is expected.
- Improper attire, signs, and insignia will be removed by the marshals.
- Cell phones and other electronic equipment should be turned off.

- Most importantly, when candidates cross the stage to receive their diplomas, they are to do so by walking at a deliberate pace and without any undue actions of celebration.
- For safety reasons, only authorized personnel are permitted on stage. Individuals accompanying graduates are restricted to those with mobility challenges registered with the Office of Student Accessibility Services.

## **DRESS CODE**

Commencement is a formal event. We encourage candidates, marshals, and media personnel to consider this when selecting their attire. Comfortable footwear is highly recommended, as candidates will be walking significant distances and standing for extended periods. Please select suitable shoes accordingly.

## **PROHIBITED ITEMS**

To ensure a respectful environment for all guests and graduates, the following items are prohibited in the Coliseum:

- Air horns or noise makers of any kind
- Alcohol of any kind
- Balloons, banners or posters
- e-Cigarettes or tobacco of any kind
- Weapons or sharp objects of any kind

## **FLOOR ACCESS DURING CEREMONY**

Access to the commencement floor during the ceremony is restricted to authorized personnel, including commencement marshals, individuals with press credentials, and ceremony participants.