



Commencement Ceremony Directions

Every graduate intending to participate in the Commencement Exercises on Sunday, May 21, 2023, must be in an assigned seat in the gym in the Rodgers Recreation Center by 8:15 a.m. If you are not in place by 8:15 a.m., your name will be pulled from the list, and will not be called during the ceremony. **There can be no exceptions.** Please allow yourself and your family plenty of time for traveling to the University, finding a parking place, preparing your attire for the procession, and locating your seat in the gym. Directions for the academic procession will be given at this time. Before leaving home, be certain that you have your cap, gown, tassel, academic hood and, if applicable, honor cord. Honor cords will be distributed in Rodgers on Sunday morning.

1. Professional staff will direct you to your assigned seat in Rodgers Recreation Center.
2. Be certain you remain in your seat until the procession is formed.
3. Full academic regalia (including a cap) is required. Only University-recognized cords, stoles or pins may be worn on the outside of the gown.
4. Students graduating with Bachelor degrees wear the tassels over **right** eye.
NOTE: The Master of Ceremonies will announce that Bachelor degree students should change their tassels to the **left** side once all degrees are awarded. Please wait for this announcement before changing them.
5. The order of the procession will be as follows:
 - Bachelor of Arts and Science
 - Bachelor of Arts
 - Bachelor of Science
6. **Be certain to remain in the exact order in which you are placed for the procession.**
7. FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS OF THE CANDIDATE MARSHAL AT ALL TIMES.
8. Once the Marshals have led you to your seat, **remain standing.** The Master of Ceremonies will announce the time to sit.
NOTE: All degree candidates will be led by the Marshals up the **center aisle** to the ramp on the **left.** Another Marshal will double check that you are in the right order. When directed, hand your card to the reader, then walk across the stage to The President. Receive the diploma with your **left** hand and accept her handshake with your **right** hand.
9. Continue to walk off the stage, descending the **right ramp.** It is important that everyone return by the **side aisle** to keep the center aisle open.
10. As a courtesy to all graduates, we ask that you remain present for the entire ceremony.
11. At the close of the ceremony, the Flag Bearers will lead the President's Party, the Faculty, and graduates out of the tent.