



WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

Information and instructions for
graduates, families and guests

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Friday, May 2, 2025

Wayne State Fieldhouse
1290 W. Warren Ave., Detroit

commencement.wayne.edu

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Graduates,

Congratulations on your graduation from Wayne State University! It's almost time to celebrate your academic achievements with your family and guests at the May 2025 commencement ceremonies.

Commencement provides the university an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of its graduates and share in the excitement with faculty, administration, staff, fellow graduates, and family and guests.

Commencement is an exciting and memorable occasion for all of our graduates, but it is also a solemn one. Leaving before the ceremony has ended is disrespectful to others. Graduates and their guests are expected to remain for the entire ceremony. The last graduate to cross the stage should expect to receive the same honor as the first, so please show consideration by remaining seated until the conclusion of the ceremony.

The information included here will assist you in preparing for your special day. This guide includes important instructions for you, your family and your guests. Please read the guide carefully to ensure that your milestone event is a joyous and unforgettable one.

Congratulations, and best of luck on your future endeavors!

Commencement team

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

Wayne State Fieldhouse

1290 W. Warren Ave., Detroit

Doors to the Wayne State Fieldhouse will open
60 minutes before each ceremony.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

Ceremony I – 9 a.m.

Ph.D., Ed.D. hooding

THURSDAY, MAY 1

Ceremony II – 9 a.m.

College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences (sciences)

Ceremony III - 1 p.m.

College of Liberal Arts and
Sciences (arts)

Ceremony IV - 5 p.m.

Mike Ilitch School of Business

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Ceremony V - 9 a.m.

College of Nursing
School of Social Work

Ceremony VI - 1 p.m.

College of Education
College of Fine, Performing and
Communication Arts
School of Information Sciences
School of Medicine (Ph.D./
master's)

Ceremony VII - 5 p.m.

College of Engineering
Eugene Applebaum College of
Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Note: Walking in Commencement does not
constitute graduation or guarantee
that you will receive your diploma.
Please check with your school or
college advisor to confirm that all
degree requirements have been met.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

All graduates must wear academic regalia for their ceremony. Oak Hall is the official university vendor for all caps and gowns. Caps and gowns may be purchased at the WSU Bookstore or at waynestate.shopoakhalli.com. Please check the site for the online order due date.

BACHELOR'S AND MASTER'S CANDIDATES

The bachelor's cap and gown is \$80.98 plus tax. The master's gown, cap and hood is \$136.96 plus tax.

DOCTORAL CANDIDATES

Doctoral candidates (Pharm.D./Aud.D./DPT/DNP) wear regalia that may be purchased through the WSU Bookstore. The regalia includes the doctoral black gown, hood and tam. The cost for doctoral regalia is \$254.94 plus tax.

PH.D./ED.D. CANDIDATES

Ph.D./Ed.D. candidates wear regalia that must be rented through the WSU Bookstore. The regalia includes a custom Wayne State University gown, hood and tam. The graduate may keep the tam. The rental fee for Ph.D./Ed.D. regalia is \$225 plus tax.

The bookstore will inform Ph.D./Ed.D. candidates of the due date for all rented regalia. Please place orders as soon as possible to ensure timely delivery of regalia and avoid additional shipping charges.

Regalia may be purchased or rented at the WSU Bookstore during normal business hours: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; closed Saturday and Sunday. The bookstore accepts cash, credit card and OneCard. Please call the bookstore at [313-577-2436](tel:313-577-2436) with any questions.

COMMENCEMENT EXTRAS

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CLASS RINGS AND DIPLOMA FRAMES

Announcements and class rings may be ordered online from Jostens (jostens.com) or Herff Jones (herffjones.com). Diploma frames may also be purchased at the WSU Bookstore.

HONORS COLLARS AND CORDS

Students who qualify for departmental or university honors will receive a special gold collar to wear with their cap and gown. Students completing the graduation requirements for the Community of Scholars will receive a blue cord to wear with their cap and gown. The Irvin D. Reid Honors College will notify you if you have met the criteria to receive either distinction. Please contact the college at honors@wayne.edu if you have any questions. The Commencement Office does not issue honors collars or cords.



TICKETS AND SEATING

Guest tickets will be available through an online ticket ordering system. Eligible graduates will receive the ordering information and link in mid-March. Be sure to check your Wayne State email for more details.

GRADUATE TICKETS

All graduates participating in commencement ceremonies will receive their ticket the day of the event at check-in.

GUEST TICKETS

Tickets are required for all guests attending Commencement. Each eligible student may receive four guest tickets. **Additional tickets are not available.** Tickets must be presented for entry to the Wayne State Fieldhouse. All guests must have a ticket, no matter the age. **Guests will not be admitted without a ticket.** Guest seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note: Strollers, car seats and infant carriers are not allowed in the fieldhouse.



WAYNE STATE FIELDHOUSE

DIRECTIONS AND PARKING

DIRECTIONS

The Wayne State Fieldhouse is located at 1290 W. Warren Avenue in Detroit.

From the west: Take I-94 east. Exit at Trumbull Avenue. Continue straight on Service Drive, then right on Warren Avenue.

From the east: Take I-94 west. Exit at Woodward/Brush avenues. Remain on Ford Service Drive to Woodward Avenue. Turn left on Woodward Avenue, going south to Warren Avenue. Turn right onto Warren Avenue. Continue west on Warren Avenue to Lodge Freeway (M-10) overpass.

From the north: Take I-75 south to Warren Avenue exit. Turn right onto Warren Avenue. Continue west on Warren Avenue to Lodge Freeway (M-10) overpass.

From the south: Take I-75 north to Lodge Freeway (M-10) north. Exit at Forest/Warren avenues. Turn left onto Warren Avenue (second light). Cross over Lodge Freeway.

From Windsor: Start out northeast on Fort Street West/M-3 toward St. Anne Street (1.2 miles). Turn left onto Lodge Freeway (M-10) North (1.5 miles). Exit at Forest/Warren avenues. Turn left onto Warren Avenue (second light).

PARKING

Complimentary parking will be available in Lot 50, located at 1200 W. Warren Avenue, and Structure 2, located at 5150 John C. Lodge.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

A limited number of handicapped parking spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis in Lot 50. A handicapped license plate or hangtag is required to access these spaces.

All parking is on a first-come, first-served basis.

TRAFFIC

Expect busier-than-usual conditions on the freeways and surface streets on campus before and after the ceremony. You are encouraged to arrive early to reduce traffic congestion.

GRADUATION DAY

ARRIVAL TIMES AND GRADUATE ENTRY

Graduates must arrive one hour before the ceremony start time and report to the Matthaei Physical Education Center for a graduate ticket.

Graduates should arrive in their academic regalia (cap and gown). Be sure to wear the tassel you were issued with your cap and gown; tassels are color-coded to signify the school or college granting the degree. Tassels should be on the right side for graduates receiving bachelor's degrees. Master's and doctoral candidates should have their tassels on the left, signifying their previous degree or degrees.

Please dress appropriately and wear comfortable footwear. As a safety precaution, spiked or high-heeled shoes are not recommended, as you will be walking on cement and will need to ascend and descend stairs during the ceremony. Note that the Wayne State Fieldhouse has a no-bag policy, so please leave coats, handbags and valuables at home or with your guests.

NAME ANNOUNCEMENT CARD

Upon arrival at Matthaei, graduates will be given a name announcement card with a QR code, which they will hand to staff during the diploma processional across the stage. You will then be directed to the fieldhouse and your school/college seating area.

GRADUATE SEATING

Graduates will be seated according to school or college and degree. There is no rehearsal prior to the ceremony. **All graduates must be in Matthaei 45 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony to receive important instructions and directions.** If you arrive late, you may not be seated with your school/college and may be seated in the overflow seating section of the fieldhouse. Please arrive on time.

GRADUATION DAY

DEGREE PROCESSIONAL

The processional from graduates' seats to the fieldhouse stage will begin after the degree conferral. Marshals will direct graduates to the stage. After proceeding across the stage, graduates should return to their assigned seats. Graduates are required to remain for the entire ceremony.

GRADUATES WITH PHYSICAL ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

If you will need assistance ascending or descending the stage during the ceremony, please contact the Commencement Office at **313-577-0300**.



GUEST INFORMATION

PROHIBITED ITEMS

The following items are not permitted in the Wayne State Fieldhouse:

- Weapons of any kind (this includes weapons accompanied by a valid CPL permit and pocket knives)
- Aerosol cans (hair spray, mace, pepper spray, etc.)
- Backpacks, luggage, grocery bags, large camera cases
- Bags and purses
- Balloons (air or helium)
- Balls (beach balls, footballs, baseballs, etc.)
- Banners
- Cameras with lenses longer than five inches
- Coolers of any kind, including small, soft-pack coolers
- Food, beverages or liquid (cans, bottles or boxes)
- Laser pointers
- Noisemaking devices (balls, horns, kazoos, whistles, etc.)
- Strollers and infant/car seats or carriers
- Umbrellas
- Utility tools

The Wayne State Fieldhouse reserves the right to expand or modify the list of prohibited items at any time. This policy is strictly enforced.

GUEST SEATING

Guests should enter the fieldhouse at the main entrance. Guest seating is open and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seats may not be saved. Please have everyone in your party arrive at the same time. University staff will assist guests with seating. All guests should be seated 30 minutes prior to the start of Commencement and are expected to remain for the entire ceremony.

GUEST INFORMATION

WHEELCHAIR/MOBILITY-LIMITATION SEATING

The fieldhouse has limited wheelchair seating. Guests arriving in a wheelchair should ask a staff member for assistance to the special needs seating area.

Guests with mobility limitations or who have difficulty walking are encouraged to bring their own wheelchair. The university does not provide wheelchairs for guests.

Every effort will be made to seat guests together; however, disability seating is limited and, due to space constraints, an escort may not be able to accompany the guest to the special seating area.

INTERPRETING SERVICES

Sign language interpreters will be provided during the ceremonies. Interpreters will not sign individual names during the diploma march.

FLOWERS

Commencement Flowers will have floral bouquets and gifts for your special graduate available for sale on the main concourse. You may pre-order floral bouquets and a commemorative T-shirt at the commencement group . com / wayne state for pickup at Commencement.

GUEST INFORMATION

FIRST AID

First aid is available during all ceremonies. Please contact a staff member if assistance is needed.

PROGRAM BOOK DISTRIBUTION

A QR code for program booklets will be near seating entrances for guests. Graduates will receive a program book as they are seated.



CEREMONY INFORMATION

COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

Commencement is an exciting and memorable occasion for all graduates, but it is also a solemn one. Leaving before the ceremony has ended is disruptive and disrespectful to others. Graduates and their guests are expected to remain for the entire ceremony.

The last graduate to cross the stage should expect to receive the same honor as the first, so please show consideration for all graduates by remaining seated until the conclusion of the ceremony.

Please refrain from excessive talking, cheering, use of noisemakers and other distractions as this takes away from the dignity of the ceremony. Cellphones, beepers and watches with alarms can also be distracting.

Out of respect for all graduates and guests, please switch any and all of your electronic equipment to silent, vibrate or off.

THE CEREMONY

Each ceremony will feature greetings by university officials, a student speaker, the conferral of degrees and the diploma processional across the stage.

ANNOUNCING OF GRADUATE NAMES

Graduates' names will be announced during the diploma processional across the stage. Name pronunciation cards will be given to each graduate upon arrival at Matthaei.

DIPLOMA PROCESSIONAL MARCH

Each graduate is presented with a special diploma cover during the diploma march. Bachelor's, master's and doctoral diplomas are mailed approximately four to six weeks after degrees have been certified. Ph.D./Ed.D. graduates are presented with their diplomas at the ceremony.

CEREMONY INFORMATION

GRADUATE PHOTOGRAPHS

GradImages, the official commencement ceremonies photographer, will be at Commencement to take graduate photos during the ceremony. You will receive information from them by email and by mail. Find out more about their services at gradimages.com.



RECESSIONAL

Following the ceremonial recognition of the graduates, the platform party and faculty will leave the fieldhouse during the recessional march. Graduates and guests should remain seated until they have exited the fieldhouse. The Commencement emcee will dismiss the graduates and guests.

MEETING AFTER THE CEREMONY

Communicate with your guests where to meet after the ceremony. We highly recommend you choose to meet outside or at a location with which you are all familiar.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PROGRAM BOOK

The graduate's name will appear in the program book as it was typed or written on the degree application. There will be no program reprints to accommodate incorrect spelling or missing names because of late degree applications. Due to publication deadlines, names and honors added to or changed on the graduation list after March 24 will not appear in the program book.

Student names were submitted for the program book by their school or college. If a student's name does not appear in the program book, they should contact their school or college degree coordinator or the Office of Records at **313-577-3531** to verify graduation eligibility.

DISTINCTION AND HONORS

Wayne State University bestows upon students completing the baccalaureate degree three separate designations for scholastic excellence reflected in the cumulative honor point average. Graduation With Distinction recognizes the top 20% of students in each school/college who have earned the highest honor point average: *summa cum laude* (top 5%), *magna cum laude* (next 5%) and *cum laude* (next 10%). To be eligible for consideration, students must have accumulated 56 or more hours in residence at Wayne State University. Graduation With Distinction will be noted in the program book and referenced on the student's diploma and transcript. This practice is observed at the undergraduate level only. If you have any questions, please contact your academic advisor.

Students who have achieved distinction by completing the requirements for department and/or university honors are designated in the program book by (DH) for department honors and/or (UH) for university honors. Students graduating with honors conferred by departments, schools and colleges, and the Irvin D. Reid Honors College are eligible to wear a gold collar in recognition of their achievements. Students will be notified by the school or college if they have met the requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

WEB BROADCAST

For friends and family members who are unable to attend, livestreaming will be available at wayne.edu/live for each ceremony.

DEGREE STATUS

Diplomas will be mailed following certification of your degree. If you have questions about the status of your diploma, please email the Office of the Registrar at graduation@wayne.edu.

Walking in Commencement does not constitute graduation. Please check with your school or college to confirm you have met all graduation requirements.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Your diploma or official transcript cannot be released if you have financial obligations to the university. For questions about financial matters, contact Student Accounts Receivable at **313-577-3653**.

DUPLICATE COPY OF DIPLOMA

To order a duplicate copy of your diploma, please visit wayne.edu/registrar/records/duplicate-diploma-request.

You may also mail a written or typed request to:

Wayne State University
Office of the Registrar
Attention: Graduation
5057 Woodward Ave., fifth floor
Detroit, MI 48202

Include your name, address, phone number, WSU identification number or Social Security number, year graduated, type of degree (example: bachelor's, master's, Ph.D., Ed.D. or certificate), and a processing fee of \$40 (payable by check or money order to Wayne State University). Credit cards are not accepted. Requests usually take 10 business days.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

LODGING

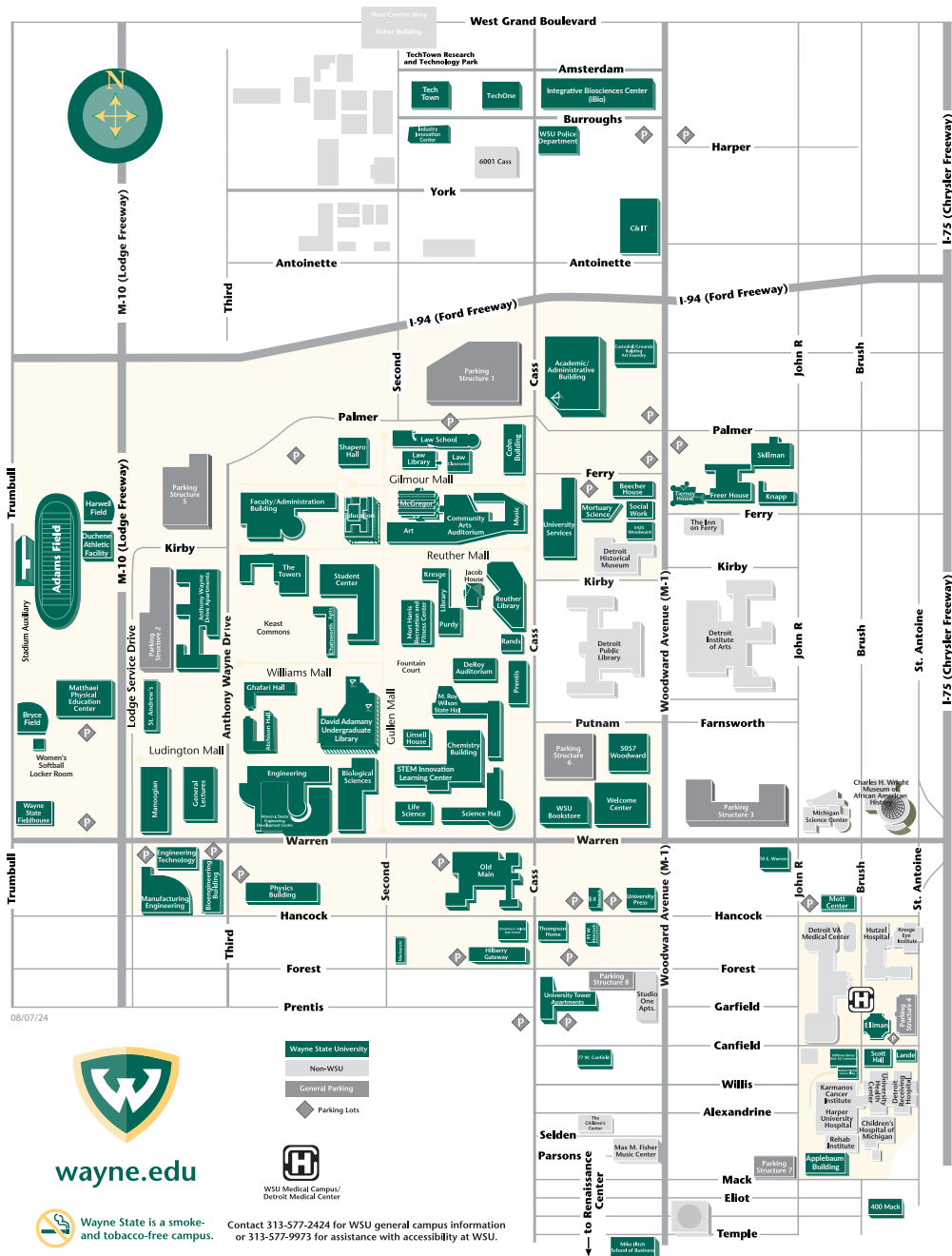
For lodging information for out of town guests, please contact the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau Visitor Center at **1-800-DETROIT (338-7648)** or visitdetroit.com.



QUESTIONS

- For questions regarding degree application or diploma status, contact your advisor or email the Office of the Registrar at graduation@wayne.edu.
- For questions concerning academic status, contact your advisor in your school or college.
- For questions regarding caps and gowns, announcements, rings, or diploma frames, call the WSU Bookstore at **313-577-2436**.
- For questions regarding the commencement ceremonies, call **313-577-0300** or visit commencement.wayne.edu.

CAMPUS MAP



NOTES

MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



WAYNE STATE
ALUMNI
THEN. NOW. ALWAYS.

Congratulations!

The Wayne State University Alumni Association is proud to welcome you to a community of more than 300,000 proud alumni.

alumni.wayne.edu



Class of 2025

Wayne State University Board of Governors

Shirley Stancato, *chair*, Bryan C. Barnhill II, *vice chair*, Danielle Atkinson,
Michael Busuito, Marilyn Kelly, Anil Kumar, Terri Lynn Land,
Sunny Reddy, Kimberly Andrews Espy, *ex officio*



STAY SOCIAL

wayne.edu/social

#MyWSUStory

Twitter/X @WayneState

Instagram @WayneState

Facebook @WayneStateUniversity



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

Commencement Office

Special Events

5700 Cass Ave., Suite 1800

Detroit, MI 48202

NON-PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
DETROIT MI
PERMIT NO 3844