



Commencement Ceremony - Graduate Guide

Event Details

Friday, June 23, 2023

Oregon Convention Center, Portland Ballroom

777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

Portland, OR 97232

Timeline

8:30 a.m.	Graduates arrive – go to check-in table first
9:15 a.m.	Line up for dress rehearsal
9:30 a.m.	Graduate dress rehearsal
10:10 a.m.	Graduate class photos
10:30 a.m.	Guest Seating opens
10:50 a.m.	Processional lines up – same order as for rehearsal
11:00 a.m.	Commencement ceremony begins
12:30 p.m.	Approximate end time for the commencement ceremony

Day-of Information

- **Regalia.** Please come with your regalia steamed and ready-to-wear. Do not press the regalia with high heat, as it can damage the material. You will pick up your honors cords, veteran's cords, and/or master's degree stoles, if applicable, when you check in.
- **Shoes.** We recommend wearing comfortable shoes that are easy to walk in. There are 2-3 stairs up to the stage.
- **Beverages.** Coffee, tea and water will be available in the staging room.
- **Food.** We do not provide refreshments. Please be sure you eat prior to arriving or bring a snack.
- **Parking.** You may park in the underground parking garage at the Oregon Convention Center. Graduates will each receive one (1) parking voucher for the Oregon Convention Center. The voucher will be emailed to graduates closer to the ceremony date.
- **Gifts.** Guests may bring flowers or other gifts for graduates to receive after the ceremony. Items that may obscure other guests' view of the ceremony need to be placed at the side or back of the ballroom during the ceremony. **Please note that helium-filled balloons are not permitted in any part of the Oregon Convention Center (OCC). No exceptions.**
- **COVID-19 Safety.** If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, or if you test positive, please stay home and email commencement@uws.edu as soon as possible, so that we can make necessary arrangements. Please do not come in person if you aren't feeling well!
 - Currently, face coverings are optional inside the Convention Center. UWS will have extra disposable masks available at the check-in table for anyone who wishes to use one.
 - Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or has symptoms should not attend the ceremony in person. Graduates may participate in the ceremony remotely via the livestream. See uws.edu/community/commencement/ for information about the livestream.
 - Email commencement@uws.edu if your plans for participating the ceremony change.

Graduate Arrival and Dress Rehearsal

Graduates should arrive **promptly at 8:30 a.m.** at the Portland Ballroom in the Oregon Convention Center.

Enter the staging room and proceed to the check-in table.

Please come with your regalia steamed and ready-to-wear. Do not press the regalia with high heat, as it can damage the material. You will pick up your honors cords, veteran's cords, and/or master's degree stoles, if applicable, when you check in. **Put on your regalia as soon as you finish checking in.**

There are videos in the regalia section of the UWS commencement webpage showing how to wear master's and doctoral regalia. These are helpful to review prior to arrival.

Once graduates are assembled and in full regalia, you will line up and the dress rehearsal will begin.

Photography

Professional photographers from Grad Images will be taking individual and class photos at the event. Graduates may elect to fill out a card at the ceremony to provide information to Grad Images to purchase photos after the ceremony.

You may also purchase photos by going to the Grad Images website: gradimages.com/

UWS will be taking candid shots before, during and after the event that will be shared on social media.

Guests

Please forward the **Commencement Ceremony Guest Guide** to your guests so they can make the proper arrangements. No tickets are required for guests attending the ceremony and there is no limit to the number of guests you can bring.

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m., at which time guests may be seated.

If you have a guest with mobility challenges, please email commencement@uws.edu no later than June 19, 2023, so that we can assist with making proper arrangements.

Public Transportation and Parking

Graduates will each receive one (1) parking voucher for the parking garage within the Oregon Convention Center. The voucher will be emailed to participants closer to the ceremony date.

All other parking is the responsibility of the other drivers.

Details for the OCC garage can be found here: oregoncc.org/DirectionsAndParking/

Questions

Please email commencement@uws.edu or call 503-847-2541 with questions.

Participating in the commencement ceremony does not signify completion of your academic program. Please email registrar@uws.edu if you have questions about your academic status and requirements for program completion.