



COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

By tradition, the Commencement ceremony is a formal, dignified event to honor the academic achievement of scholars. To help preserve the decorum of the event, it is requested that graduates and their families exercise etiquette appropriate to the occasion. We ask that you please observe the following:

PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY

Seating:

- **Family arrive early.**
 - Please be sure your family and guests arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.
- **Family with special seating arrangements.**
 - Family members with special seating arrangements should arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the door's opening for the ceremony.
- **Attire.**
 - The Commencement ceremony is considered to be a formal event. Business casual is appropriate attire.
- **Young children.**
 - As a courtesy to other attendees, please consider making alternative arrangements for very young children. Childcare will not be provided.
 - Due to fire marshal regulations, no baby carriers or strollers will be allowed in the auditorium.

DURING THE CEREMONY:

- **No cell phones.**
 - Cell phones are to be turned off or switched to the silent operating mode. Do not speak on a cell phone or carry on a conversation during the ceremony as this prevents others from hearing and enjoying the ceremony.

- **Be respectful.**
 - Commencement is both a joyous and solemn event. Please express your excitement in ways that will not prevent others from hearing the speaker and enjoying the ceremony. Use of air horns, yelling, or stomping are disruptive.
- **Photo opportunities after the Commencement ceremony.**
 - There will be plenty of opportunities for taking photos after the ceremony. Please refrain from getting up from your seat, using the aisle or coming forward in the Sanctuary in order to take photos.
- **Remain in the auditorium through the full ceremony.**
 - As a courtesy to and out of respect for the graduates, you and your family are requested to remain in the auditorium until the conclusion of the ceremony.
 - If you have a child, or know that you may need to leave early, please sit in the back or by the balcony exits and do so as discretely as possible.
 - Coming and going in and out of this ceremony is extremely disruptive, please respect the graduates as we honor them.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CEREMONY:

- Family and friends remain in the sanctuary.
 - We ask that your family and friends remain in the Sanctuary until the graduates have exited.

We appreciate you, your family and friends observing the appropriate etiquette as stated above. This will allow everyone to share and enjoy a memorable and dignified Commencement ceremony.