



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

- **Be on time.**
 - If you arrive after the procession has begun you will not be allowed to march.
- **Rehearse stage behavior.**
 - During the rehearsal, the appropriate way to receive your diploma will be demonstrated. Although we realize you may feel like dancing, we ask that you be respectful of the solemnity of the ceremony and refrain from doing so.
- **Give personal items to family members beforehand, or leave them in the staging area.**
 - Once you enter the auditorium, you will not be allowed to see your family until after the commencement ceremony. Please make the necessary arrangements to give valuables such as purses or cameras to a family member prior to the ceremony, or leave them in the staging area.
- **Do not alter appearance of robe or cap.**
 - Do not alter the appearance of your robe or cap. These should not be altered or modified to reflect personal taste, style, or interests. We also ask that you dress appropriately; no blue jeans, flip-flops, or tennis shoes.

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.

- **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 your fellow graduates, you and your family are requested to remain in the auditorium until the conclusion of the ceremony.
 - 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.