2015 Step-by-Step Undergraduate Commencement Guide

FIRST STEP – THE YEAR PRIOR TO THE ANTICIPATED GRADUATION DATE
Students will receive an email announcement in their junior year from the Registrar’s Office that the office is accepting Degree Applications for the graduating class of the following year. Each student must come to the Registrar’s Office to pick up and submit a degree application. You can find more information at Graduation Information Registrar.

NEXT STEPS

ORDERING REGALIA
Visit the bookstore during Senior Days to order your regalia.
Senior Days 2015:
March 17, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
March 18, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
March 19, 2015
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Location: University Bookstore, Lee Hall

COMMENCEMENT RELATED EVENT
Graduation Ball, William M. Anderson Center
May 7th 9 p.m. – 1 a.m.:
Seniors and graduate students are invited to a formal celebration with music, food, and a cash wine bar. Dress is formal to semi-formal. Each student will receive two free tickets and are welcome to bring a non-senior or non-UMW student as a date. Information on ticket pick-up will be provided at a later date. The tickets are the only means of entrance for the event and are used to receive a Grad Ball glass at the end of the evening. All attendees 21 + years of age will receive a wristband at the check-in table. The event is for seniors and graduate students who graduated in fall 2014 or are graduating in spring 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Student Activities at 540/654-1061 or sae@umw.edu.

DAY PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT
FRIDAY, MAY 8, 2015

Undergraduate Commencement Rehearsal
1 p.m.
Dodd Auditorium in George Washington Hall
All undergraduate degree candidates are expected to attend rehearsal. Students will meet in Dodd Auditorium for instructions before assembling around Jefferson Square and processing to Ball Circle for announcements from the University Administration.
DAY OF INSTRUCTIONS  
SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015

Getting there: 
Please arrive no later than 8:15 a.m. The Candidates for Undergraduate Commencement will line up around Jefferson Square at this time to be ready to process at 9:00 a.m.

The procession will begin promptly at 9 a.m. The Candidates for Undergraduate Commencement will process from Jefferson Square through the Bell Tower and down campus walk to Ball Circle.

Parking
Guests and graduates are invited to park in any parking lot or space on campus provided it is not marked as a reserved space for special guests or reserved for handicapped parking. You may also find parking on the side streets near campus and on College Avenue but be careful not to park where it is noted as residential parking. The George Washington Hall Parking Lot is designated completely for handicapped parking. There will be golf carts transporting guests from this lot to Ball Circle.

The venue
The venue for Undergraduate Commencement is on Ball Circle. The candidates are to line up around Jefferson Square where ushers will be available to assist. At 9:00 a.m. the Candidates for Undergraduate Commencement will process down campus walk and onto Ball Circle.

Academic Dress
On the day of the ceremony graduates are expected to wear the appropriate regalia that you have ordered. What you wear under your regalia is a personal decision; please make sure you are comfortable and prepared for any events following the ceremony.

Seating arrangements
Graduates will be required to sit in reserved seats. A seating plan will be distributed prior to the ceremony at rehearsal. Guests are invited to find a seat on a first come, first serve basis.

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
9:00 a.m.: 
The ceremony is open to the public. There are no tickets for the ceremony so it is advised to arrive early for prime parking and seating.

Photography
A professional photographer will take pictures of each graduate as they receive their diploma. These pictures will be made available for purchase. Guests may take photographs during the ceremony.
Post-ceremony Picnic
Immediately Following the Ceremony there is a Commencement Picnic on Palmieri Plaza. This event does require you to purchase tickets. Tickets will be made available on this website on Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

Location: Palmieri Plaza
Time: 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN
The University holds commencement exercises outdoors, even when it is raining so dress accordingly. Tickets are not required for an outdoor commencement. However, in the event of severe and dangerous severe weather, such as a severe thunderstorm, the commencement exercises will be moved inside. More detailed information on the inclement weather plan will be posted on this website closer to Commencement.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who do I contact if someone in my family needs a special accommodation?
Any person attending commencement that requires a special accommodation should contact the Events Office at (540) 654-1276 as soon as possible to arrange for accommodations.

Do I need a ticket to attend commencement?
There are no tickets or reserved seats. Seating is on a first come, first serve basis.

What time will I be allowed on the field to find a seat?
For Undergraduate Commencement guests will be allowed on Ball Circle to find seating starting at 7:30 a.m.

Do you have specific hotels where you recommend families stay for commencement?
The University hotel is the Hyatt Place Hotel and it conveniently located in Eagle Village. You can find more information at The Hyatt Place Hotel Fredericksburg. A full list of local hotels is also available on The Fredericksburg Visitors Center Website.