Drop-Off Area For People with Disabilities

There will be a drop-off area for guests and students with mobility impairment concerns in front of the Tubby Graves Building. The drop-off area can only be accessed from the northbound lanes of Montlake Blvd. Those dropping off guests can then proceed on to their parking lots.

Please note that after the ceremony this area will be closed for approximately 30 minutes until the traffic has dissipated. This is done for the safety of our guests. If you need to pick someone up at this location please allow for the extra time.

Commencement Program

Only those students who received degrees Summer 2015, Autumn 2015, Winter 2016, and the candidates of Spring 2016 are named in this year’s Commencement Program. If you are receiving a degree during Summer Quarter 2016, your name will be listed in the following year’s Commencement Program. Please contact the Office of Ceremonies to request a copy of next year’s program.

Commencement Apparel

All gowns are fastened in the front. Mortarboards should be adjusted to remain level on your head and your tassel should hang on the left side at all times.

If you have a problem or question regarding your apparel, please contact the Office of Ceremonies at (206) 543-2592. Oak Hall will have booths in the lining up areas on Commencement Day, to address any last minute needs or confusions about how to wear your apparel.

Conduct Appropriate to the Ceremony

By participating in Commencement you agree to observe the following guidelines during the ceremony.

Commencement is intended to be a festive occasion celebrating the accomplishments of our students. However, it is also ceremonial. Students are expected to remain in their seats during the entire ceremony, unless utilizing the restrooms (inside the NW tunnel). Students are required to be in their seats for the address by our commencement speaker. (Restrooms will be closed at this time.) Wandering around the floor of the stadium and visiting with friends and relatives in the stands, or along the sidelines, is prohibited.

Cell phones are permitted, but out of courtesy for other participants, students are asked to make judicious use of phones and not use them during the formal speaking portions of the ceremony.

It is particularly important that students respect their fellow students and the faculty, administrators and guests who have come to witness and participate in the conferring of their degrees. For this reason graduates are expected to return to their seats after they walk and remain there until all students have walked and the members of the stage party have exited the stage. Please plan post-ceremony activities accordingly.

Alcohol Policy

Alcohol is prohibited in Husky Stadium and the Lining Up areas. Students in possession of alcoholic beverages in the Commencement lineup area or transporting alcoholic beverages into the stadium will have the beverage confiscated. Drunk or disorderly behavior may result in legal citation or arrest. You are asked to respect the dignity of the Commencement Ceremony and comply with the provisions cited here.

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Office of Ceremonies
6200 NE 74th St. Suite 010B
Seattle, WA 98115
(206) 543-2592
commence@u.washington.edu

Master’s Instructions
All Schools and Colleges

Ceremony Instructions

Lining Up

Candidates from all Schools and Colleges should arrive at the Outdoor Practice Field, east of the stadium, promptly at 12:30 p.m., properly robed in specified apparel. Candidates must have a purple or gold student entrance ticket and UWID or other appropriate identification to gain access to the line up areas, and should be prepared to open their gowns for visual inspection. You may not change your line up area unless given permission by the Office of Ceremonies.

Candidates holding purple tickets will check in at the purple entrance to the Outdoor Practice Field (see diagram). Those with gold tickets will check in at the gold entrance. Once inside, line up behind the “MASTER” banner (see diagram) in four parallel lines. Faculty marshals will assist you. If you wish to sit beside someone during the ceremony, you should march directly behind or in front of one another as the four parallel lines split during the procession.

Procession

Faculty marshals will direct you during the procession. Follow their instructions and do not step out of your line. The procession will move from the east (stage) end of the stadium to the west end. Faculty marshals will then direct you down the proper aisles, back toward the stage, and into your seating row. Move to the end of the row and immediately sit down so as not to impede the seating of others. Please stay out of the center aisle until the deans and President’s parties have entered. Academic caps may be removed while candidates are seated, but must be worn while standing. Caps should be removed during the playing of the “Star-Spangled Banner.”

If you arrive late you will need to fall in at the end of the procession. Once the procession has begun there is no further opportunity for anyone to join his or her proper group.
Conferring of Degrees

Note: only those receiving Doctoral degrees will have their names called.

- Master candidates will be seated in the second section of seats. The Dean of the Graduate School will call the various Master’s Degrees.

- When you hear your degree please stand. The Dean will present the master’s candidates as a group to the President. The President will present them to the Chair of the Board of Regents, who will confer the degrees. You will then come forward, guided by the faculty marshals. Remember to place your program materials on your chair before rising.

- Faculty marshals will direct you to the stage. Four lines of candidates move to the stage simultaneously—two up the north ramps to the stage and two up the south ramps.

- Go across the stage. Accept your diploma memento with your left hand and shake hands with your right hand. Please be aware that your picture will be taken as you receive your memento.

- Return to your seat via the center ramps and aisle and sit down. The marshals will help direct you. Students are expected to remain in their seats until the completion of the recessional.

Recessional

After all degrees have been conferred, the graduating class rises for the singing of the school song. Graduates are to remain standing at their seats until all the members of the stage party have left the stage and walked down the center aisle to the back of the student seating section.

When the ceremonial (classical) music has ended and pop music begins, you are dismissed. Family and friends are welcome to join you outside the stadium but they are not permitted on the field.