

COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduation Exercises 9:00 a.m., Monday, May 18, 2009

Thomas K. Hearn Jr., Plaza

GUESTS

SEATING: Tickets are required for this ceremony and must be ordered from the commencement website <http://www.wfu.edu/commencement/>. Guests are seated on a first-come basis.

WHEELCHAIR SEATING: In reserved area near the stage on the Bookstore side of the Plaza.

GRADUATES

SECURITY: Please check the website <http://www.wfu.edu/commencement/> frequently for security updates.

WHEN TO ASSEMBLE: Arrive no later than 8:00 a.m.

WHERE TO ASSEMBLE: In the parking lot between Davis and Taylor residence halls (between the bank and the bookstore). Graduate School staff and marshals will assist you with lining up in the correct order.

WHAT TO WEAR All graduates will wear their caps, gowns and hoods to the ceremony. Honor cords or other decoration may not be worn for the commencement ceremony. Light, comfortable clothing is recommended along with low heels. Also, candidates should not carry anything in their hands during the ceremony. Please be sure to turn off your cell phone or pager before you enter the plaza.

ABSENTEES: Students who plan to graduate in absentia must notify the Graduate School Office immediately. **The names of absentees will be removed from the Commencement List at 8:30 a.m. on Monday morning.**

PROCESSIONAL: The marshals will direct your degree group to seats. Leave no vacant seats in the row. Remain standing until after the invocation.

CONFERRING DEGREES: The Ph.D. degrees will be conferred first. All doctoral students will be asked to stand. The President will then confer the degree to this group. Next, you will follow the marshal in a line to the foot of the stairs to the stage. Wait on the side until your name is called. When your name is called you will walk across the stage, 1) accept the diploma cover from the Registrar, 2) shake the President's hand, 3) then walk down the stairs on the opposite side of the stage, go back through the center aisle of students, and sit down immediately. The Masters' degrees will be conferred following intermission in the same way.

RETURNING DOCTORAL GOWNS: Doctoral graduates are required to return their cap, gown, and hood. This must be done during intermission in the Graduate School Office, Room 6, Reynolda Hall. (Master's students keep their cap, gown and hood).

RAIN PLAN

If rain seems a possibility at 7:00 a.m. Monday, announcements will be made on local radio and TV stations for the rain plan schedule. Commencement will be at 9:30 a.m. in the Lawrence Joel Veterans Memorial Coliseum. You must be in your degree group by 8:30 a.m.

WHERE TO ASSEMBLE: After entering the main entrance of the coliseum, line up in the hallways as directed by the marshals. There will be signs directing you to your degree group. You will line up with your degree group in alphabetical order in a single file line, proceed to the floor of the coliseum for the ceremony, after which you will recess to where you started, following the marshals. The ceremony will take place as during the regular plan.