

March 8, 2023

RE: Commencement 2023 Information

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Your son or daughter will be graduating soon from Grace College or Grace Theological Seminary and has indicated that they plan to participate in the 2023 Commencement ceremony this May. With the anticipation of this exciting event, we thought some important details might be helpful to you as you plan ahead.

Two commencement ceremonies will be held on **May 6, 2023** in the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center (MOCC) on the Winona Lake campus. Your graduate will participate in the ceremony according to the academic school of their degree. The schedule is as follows:

- **9:00 a.m. - Schools of Art & Sciences, Behavioral Science and Education**
- **2:00 p.m. - Schools of Business, Ministry Studies/Seminary and Professional Online Education (SPOE)**

Doors open an hour before each ceremony. All graduates are to arrive at the lower parking lot of the MOCC 60-90 minutes before the start of the event to check in, receive instructions, and line up for the processional. We strongly encourage guests of graduates to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the event. The commencement ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes with pictures and fellowship with friends and professors immediately following outside.

Each graduate participating in the ceremony will receive **six** tickets to be used for their family and friends. We will also be offering graduates the opportunity to request up to **two more** tickets at Commencement Countdown (available through the Student Services Hub after March 30). Social distancing and wearing facial coverings may be recommended depending on the prevalence of COVID in our area at our time. Please email studentaffairs@grace.edu if anyone in your group will require special seating accommodations. Each ceremony will be professionally live-streamed for those not able to attend the ceremony. The live-streamed event will be accessed through the Grace website homepage or www.grace.edu/live.

Graduates who are on or near campus can receive their tickets at a campus event, **Commencement Countdown**, on March 29, between 2:30 and 5:30 p.m., in the Gordon Health and Wellness Center (GHAWC). This open-house-style event provides graduates the opportunity to pick up regalia and tickets, enjoy refreshments, and learn more about events surrounding Commencement. Graduates who are not able to attend **Commencement Countdown** may get their regalia and tickets from the Campus Store after this event by April 22nd.

A **Commencement Information for Guests** site has been set up on the Grace College and Seminary Portal. You can access it at <https://portal.grace.edu>. You do not need login credentials on the site just

click on the words “Commencement – Guest Information” located in the Quick Links section on the left side of the screen. This portal site will continue to be updated with new information, as necessary, in the weeks leading up to Commencement ceremonies. Check it periodically for updates.

Other relevant information:

- Diplomas **frames** and Grace items are available through the Grace College Campus Store and will be on sale the day of Commencement in the MOCC. The Campus Store, located in the Gordon Health and Wellness Center, will be open limited hours on Friday and Saturday during Commencement weekend. You can also shop online [here](#).
- **Roses** will be available for purchase the day of Commencement.
- There are many **hotel accommodations** in the Warsaw/Winona Lake area (a partial list can be found at <https://www.grace.edu/visit-us/area-hotel-information/>). Additionally, Columbia City, IN is 20-25 minutes away and Fort Wayne, IN is 45 minutes away (both east of Winona Lake). Plymouth, IN is 35 minutes away from campus to our west. These would be good locations to find accommodations that you might need.

I trust this is helpful information. Again, contact us if you have questions. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in May!

Kevin Roberts, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Aaron T. Crabtree
Vice President/Dean of Student Affairs