

# Your Guide to... Grace Commencement 2024

## Interesting facts about this year's celebration...

- 1) There are **TWO ceremonies**. *Make sure you attend the correct one & your tickets match your ceremony!*
  - Saturday, May 4, 9:00 a.m. **Schools of Arts & Humanities, Behavioral Sciences, Education, and Science & Engineering.**
  - Saturday, May 4, 1:00 p.m. **Schools of Business, Ministry Studies/Seminary, and Professional Online Education (SPOE), Nursing (from Bethel University)**
- 2) There will be **no rehearsal**. *This sheet of paper IS your rehearsal!*
- 3) There will be a **Presidential Dessert** on May 3rd from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Rodeheaver Auditorium (Formerly Winona Heritage Room - 901 Park Avenue, Winona Lake). Come and enjoy great refreshments with your favorite faculty members and administrators. Parents and family are also invited.

## Looking GOOD at Graduation

- **Your REGALIA** (“Regalia” is a fancy word for “graduation attire,” i.e. the cap, gown, cords, stoles, etc.)
- Try on your gown as soon as you receive it (*Seriously, don't leave it in your back seat*) and contact the Registrar's Office immediately if there are problems.
  - If you qualify for “**Honors**” - based on GPA at the conclusion of the Spring A session - honor cords will be dispersed to you with your regalia. It is your responsibility to remember to wear these.
  - **Grad Hack #002:** After you try it on, hang your regalia - on a sturdy hanger - to get wrinkles out.
  - **Grad Hack #311:** If there are still wrinkles after hanging a week or two, try to remove them with a cool iron or steamer, or hang the gown in a steamy room for 20-30 minutes.
  - Please do not add decorations, corsages, messages, or designs to your graduation cap or gown.
  - When you put on your graduation cap (AKA *mortarboard, trencher, corner-cap, square, academical*, or - to sound really educated - *Oxford cap*), affix the tassel securely to the button on the top of the square.
  - If you are receiving your undergraduate (bachelors) degree, the tassel should initially fall to your **right**. Blended students receiving both degrees should also wear them on the **right**. Masters degree students (having previously received a bachelor's degree) should wear their tassels to the **left**.
  - Masters degree recipients will also receive a hood - it's a bit complicated to put on, and we don't want you accidentally choking yourself, so just remember to bring it with you on May 4 and we'll help you.

→ **UNDER Your Regalia** [*Please adhere to the following attire guidelines*]

*Women:*

- Dark dress pants, dresses, or skirts (length not longer than regalia gown) - no shorts or jeans
- Dark dress shoes with a closed heel or strap around the heel - no “high” heels /stilettoes, sneakers, or sandals.

*Gentlemen:*

- Dress shirt & dress pants - no shorts or jeans
- Ties are optional, but encouraged (any variety: *necktie, bowtie, ascot, bolo, clip-on, cravat...*)
- Dark socks & dress shoes - no sneakers, sandals, crocs, or flip flops

## Your Personal Cheering Section

- Each graduate is given 4 tickets for family and friends. Up to 4 additional tickets may be requested at Commencement Countdown or at the Registrar's Office after March 27.
- All guests entering the MOCC must have a ticket. [*Including your friends walking in the other ceremony.*]
- Guests with accessibility needs may be dropped off at the lower entrance to MOCC. Special accommodations for guests should be arranged by emailing [studentaffairs@grace.edu](mailto:studentaffairs@grace.edu).
- The MOCC upper doors open 1 hour before the ceremony. **Grad Hack #048:** Tell your guests to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the event. [*Late guests will not be allowed to enter until AFTER the processional!*]
- Each ceremony will be live-streamed (link will be found on [www.grace.edu](http://www.grace.edu)) on Grace's YouTube channel.

*Please note: This guide and other information pertaining to Commencement may be accessed on the [Grace Portal-Campus Life homepage](#). If you have ANY questions, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at extension 6488 or the Registrar's Office at extension 6414.*

# How to Graduate from Grace College & Seminary like a Pro

## 1) Arrive on time, to the right ceremony, with all your regalia

- All graduates should arrive 60-90 minutes before the ceremony (Don't be late!)
- Please park at your residence hall or the McClain parking lot and walk - or have someone drop you off. Lower Alpha and MOCC Parking lots are reserved for guests.
- **Grad Hack #567:** Don't drop your tassel walking over to the MOCC.
- Do not bring phones, keys, or purses. Leave them locked in your car or with family/friends.
- Check-in at the Registration Tent in the lower MOCC Parking Lot. At check-in, you will receive your **PLACE CARD** with important information: Your name as it will be read, your # in the line-up, category of academic honors (if applicable), and an opportunity to indicate the pronunciation of your name. *It is very important to us that we announce your name correctly as you walk across the stage!*
- 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony, graduates will line up under the large white tent in the lower MOCC parking lot (according to your line #) and prepare for the processional.
- **Grad Hack #008:** Remember, unless you were previously conferred a bachelor's degree, tassels to your right!

## 2) Stay in line, follow the student marshals, watch Aaron Crabtree - you can't mess this up!

- Throughout the ceremony our student marshals (*we affectionately call them "red robbers" because they will be wearing red robes*) will direct you 1) into the arena to your seat, 2) from your seat to the stage, 3) from the stage back to your seat, and finally, 4) from your seat back to the lower parking lot to celebrate with your friends, families, and professors. *Think of the student marshals as your personal trail guides for the day.*
- When you get to your seat, there will be a program. The program will generally tell you when to stand and sit.
- **Grad Hack #799:** When you leave your seat to receive your diploma, leave your program on your chair - you'll look silly carrying a program across the stage.
- Men, keep an eye on Dr. Aaron Crabtree (Dean of Students/VP) - when he wears his cap, you wear your mortarboard/academical. When he takes his cap off, you remove your Oxford cap/square. Women, you may keep your corner cap/trencher on the whole time - *you can even pin it to your head.*
- **Grad Hack #176:** Do not lose your PLACE CARD. Seriously.

## 3) Follow these specific instructions at these specific times.

- **Processional** - follow the person in front of you, listen to the student marshals, fill every seat.
- **Recognition of Honors** - if you are graduating with honors, listen carefully for when your category of honors is invited to stand. *Your PLACE CARD will indicate which type/category of honors you earned.*
- **Presentation of Candidates** - Just prior to the *conferring of degrees* [i.e. the time everyone walks across the stage], Dr. Kevin Roberts will formally present the graduates to Dr. Flamm as "candidates for degrees." He will say "*Candidates for Grace College degrees please stand.*" At that time, everyone should (*you guessed it!*) stand up together and Dr. Flamm will read a formal statement declaring you've met the requirements for your degree. [*The only exception is Grace SEMINARY graduates - in that ceremony, there is a separate presentation of Grace Seminary masters and doctoral candidates.*] After everyone stands and Dr. Flamm reads his statement, the front row will be led to the stage. Everyone else can then be seated until your row is led to the stage.
- **Walking across the stage** - When you get to the top of the ramp, you will hand your PLACE CARD to a student marshal. Do not move until your name is read. Then, proceed across the stage to Dr. Flamm (who will hand you a diploma cover), and then to your academic dean (who will turn undergraduate tassels from right to left), then off the opposite side of the stage.
- **Photo** - After you walk across the stage, you will proceed to the back of the arena for a photo in the lower entryway. After the photo, you may take a bathroom break (if needed) before re-entering the arena to your seat.
- **Recessional** - all graduates will be led from the MOCC arena back to the large tent in the lower parking lot - please keep walking all the way to the tent before stopping or you will cause a backup. Your family and friends will meet you in the lower parking lot after the ceremony. *Hugs and tears are likely outcomes of this gathering.*
- **Before you leave**, please return your diploma cover to the registration tent. Your actual diploma and cover will be mailed to you within a month, if you've completed all of your degree requirements.
- **Grad Hack #632:** Always remember to "*Follow the red robbers!*"