

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 2021 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.

Three commencement ceremonies will be held on **May 14 & 15, 2021** in the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center (MOCC) on the Winona Lake, Indiana campus. Your graduate will participate in the ceremony according to the academic school of their degree. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, May 14th at 7:00 p.m. - Schools of Arts & Sciences and Education

Saturday, May 15th at 9:00 a.m. - Schools of Ministry Studies/Seminary and Behavioral Sciences

Saturday, May 15th at 2:00 p.m. - Schools of Business 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 should last 1½ to 2 hours with pictures and fellowship with friends and professors immediately following.

The three ceremonies will allow all those attending to safely social distance according to campus COVID guidelines. Each graduate participating in the ceremony will receive **four** tickets to be used for their family and friends. Seats for guests will be arranged in groups of four. Please email studentaffairs@grace.edu if anyone in your group will require special accommodations. Unfortunately, we will not be able to provide graduates with any additional tickets. 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.

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.

Graduates who are on or near campus can pick up their tickets at a campus event, **Commencement Countdown**, on April 14, 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, tickets, and learn more about events surrounding Commencement. Graduates who are not able to attend **Commencement Countdown** should pick up their regalia and tickets at the Campus Store after this event by April 30th.

A professional photographer will be taking pictures of each graduate during Commencement. Within three weeks following Commencement, graduates will receive photo proofs by e-mail and mail from the company *Grad Images*.

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](#).

Red roses will be available for purchase the day of Commencement at \$25.00 per dozen.

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!

***Of course, as with all plans in 2020 and 2021, our intentions are contingent on the pandemic. With the recent decline in cases and increase in vaccinations, we are hopeful we will be able to celebrate in-person together!*



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