

**February 28, 2020**

**RE: News about Preparations for Commencement 2020**

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 2020 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.

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 Saturday. Check it periodically for updates.

**The College, Graduate School and Seminary Commencement Ceremony will be on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at 9 a.m.** in the Manahan Orthopaedic Capital Center (MOCC) on the Winona Lake, Indiana campus. Doors open at 8 a.m. All graduates are to arrive at the MOCC at 8 a.m. to line up for the processional. We strongly encourage guests of graduates to arrive before 8:30 a.m. The Commencement Ceremony should last 2 to 2 ½ hours with pictures and fellowship with friends and professors immediately following.

Due to the large number of graduates who will be participating in Commencement this year, tickets are required for entry into the Commencement ceremony. Your graduate has been informed of the process of securing tickets. Only graduates can request tickets. Graduates may request four (4) tickets and place themselves on a waitlist for the potential of a few more.

Graduates will receive their total number of tickets (which will include any waitlisted tickets that can be given to them) in late March/early April. Guests without tickets who come to campus can enjoy Commencement in a wonderful overflow area, Alpha Dining Commons. This venue has multiple monitors broadcasting the ceremony live. Additionally, those family or friends not present on campus may watch Commencement via the internet live feed by accessing the Grace website homepage or [www.grace.edu/live](http://www.grace.edu/live). We strongly encourage updating to the latest Adobe Flash for best quality.

Graduates who are on or near campus can pick up their tickets at a campus event, **Commencement Countdown**, on March 25, 10:30 am - 6 p.m., in the MOCC. This open house style event provides graduates the opportunity as well to pick up regalia and learn more about events surrounding Commencement. Graduates who are not around or near campus those days will have their regalia and tickets mailed to them.

**Commencement Rehearsal** and class photos will be on Friday, May 8, at 8:30 a.m. in the MOCC. This is a required event for all college, graduate school, and seminary graduates.

The **Presidential Dessert** event for College and Graduate School graduates, is Friday, May 8, from 7-8:30 p.m. at Westminster Banquet Rooms. Dr. and Mrs. Katip, as well as many faculty, would like to meet any family and friends who will be here for Commencement. No tickets or RSVP are required for this event.

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.

Commencement will be videotaped, and DVD's can be ordered through the Advancement Office. The cost for a 2020 Commencement DVD is \$25.00. The order form will be available soon on the Commencement Portal site that graduates can access.

Diplomas frames 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 Recreation Center, is expected to be open until 6 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday during Commencement week.

Roses will be available for purchase the day of Commencement with a variety of colors at \$25.00 per dozen.

There are many hotel accommodations in the Warsaw/Winona Lake area. 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 at the 2020 Commencement ceremony!

Laurie Owen, Ph.D.  
Vice President for Academic Affairs

Aaron T. Crabtree  
Dean of Students