



## COMMENCEMENT GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOL

Commencement at Southern University at New Orleans is a dignified, solemn and formal academic ceremony. It symbolizes the culmination of your academic efforts and is a most significant occasion governed by academic tradition, good manners, state and local laws. It is an exciting, life changing and memorable occasion for you, your families and friends. Therefore, it is encumbered upon you to conduct yourself with dignity, respect and SUNO Pride. The following are essential rules and guidelines for all prospective graduates:

- No alterations are to be made to the Graduation Regalia. No decorations and no writing of messages of any kind on your mortar boards.
- Men should remove their caps only for the National Anthem and the Alma Mater.
- **Ladies:** The attire is Black dresses, or suits with the ensemble not to be longer than your gown. Shorts, halter tops, ball gowns, etc. are unacceptable. **Black shoes with low to moderate height heels are to be worn. No bare feet, sandals, running shoes, flip flops, mules or After-Five shoes.**
- No facial jewelry, no large, long or dangling earrings, necklaces or bracelets.
- No purses, handbags, cameras or bags of any kind can be carried in the Processional.
- **Gentlemen:** Black dress slacks, black dress shoes; white shirt with collar and dark tie. No Bare Feet. Please be Clean Shaven.
- Kente' Cloths are an important part of the undergraduate regalia (For more information, see Mrs. Yolanda Mims, Senior Class advisor in the Bashful Administration Building, Room 204 or call 504-286-5335.
- Latin Honor Stoles (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude, Honors) are presented to the appropriate graduates during line-up on Graduation day.
- Cell phones or pagers are to be turned off during the ceremony.
- **No TALKING/TEXTING ON CELL PHONES DURING THE CEREMONY.**
- No talking, whistling, yelling, eating or any type of distraction during the processional, recessional or at your seat during commencement.
- **ACCEPT** your degree with your left hand **FROM THE CHANCELLOR** and shake with your right hand. Then, Stand with the Chancellor for picture taking. Photos will be taken by Candid Campus Photos 504-366-0607.
- No noise-making devices, air horns or bells are to be brought into arena.
- **COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL IS THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2019 AT 1 P.M. IN THE SUNO GYMNASIUM.**
- **Commencement is May 11, 2019 and begins at 4 P.M.**
- **Graduates should arrive at the Lakefront Arena at 2:30 p.m. for line-up. The Processional begins promptly at 3:45 pm. Please be on time!!**

**\*PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET YOUR GUESTS KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BRING BALLOONS, BALLS, ETC. INTO THE ARENA.**