



CLEARANCE FOR GRADUATION

Candidates for graduation are responsible for satisfactorily completing all general University, major department, academic, and financial requirements.

Participation in the Commencement Ceremonies, the appearance of names in the printed Program, or receipt of this information will not be considered evidence of Graduation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Graduation is a joyous and special occasion. It is a time for celebration and merriment. However, please be reminded that commencement is a formal university function. Therefore, you are requested to maintain the order and solemnity of the proceedings. It is a courtesy we owe each other and our guests.

As such, please adhere to the following:

- The University strictly prohibits "greek strolling" of any kind during the Commencement ceremony.
- Cell phones should be placed on silent.
- Graduates must remain for the entire ceremony as a sign of respect for all Graduates.

INVITATIONS

This year, Invitations are not required for your guests to be admitted. However, the University will provide you with up to ten (10) complimentary invitations. You may pick them up at the GRAD FAIR on Tuesday, March 24 in the School of Social Work Auditorium between 1:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Thereafter, complimentary Invites will be available in Room 215, Administration Bldg. Also, you may order Personalized Invitations at a cost from Jostens' (vendor at the Grad Fair).

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal will be held on *Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 1:00 pm* in the University Gymnasium. ALL graduates are required to attend rehearsal.

Important information will be provided regarding arrival instructions, seating and parking as well as any last-minute updates pertaining to the Commencement ceremony.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The Commencement Ceremony will be held on *Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 11:00 am*, with the Processional beginning at 10:45 am at the Lakefront Arena. Graduates only are to report at 9:30 am to the Auxiliary Gym entrance, which is located on the North side (lake side) of the Arena.

Please note: that balloons, large signs, and glass vases are not allowed into the Arena. Guests will be asked to leave them in their cars or check them in the Administration Office or at the Guests Services desk of the Arena to be picked up after the Ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Candid Campus Photography has been engaged to take your picture with the Chancellor as you walk across the stage. You may order your pictures directly from the photographer.

Specific details will be provided directly to you from Candid Campus Photography.

In addition, only the official SUNO Photographer and Candid Campus Photography are allowed on the floor.

ATTIRE

In order to participate in the Commencement Ceremonies, all graduates must wear the cap, gown, and hood prescribed by the university.

Suitable attire includes:

Gentlemen:

- Dress shirt and tie (*preferably white collars*)
- Dark Pants
- Dark Dress Shoes or Boots

Ladies*:

- Dark dresses
- Dark shoes

**If you wear heels, you will have to walk throughout the ceremony at your own risk.*

Attire that is not suitable: jeans, tennis shoes, work boots, flip flops, shorts.

All Graduates are to adhere to the attire requirements for Commencement. Graduates who do not comply with the proper attire, will not be allowed to participate in the Commencement ceremony.

The appropriate cap for graduates is the familiar black "mortarboard." The mortarboard is to be worn straight on the head with the point of the cap in the center of the forehead. The tassel should hang to the left of the face for undergraduate and on the right for graduate students.

Decoration of the mortarboard is acceptable with exceptions. NO profanity, 3-D objects, dangling ribbons, and any sizable accessories that distract others and yourself from the ceremony.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For any additional information regarding Commencement logistics, please contact Dr. Brenda Jackson at (504) 286-5274.