



MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Unit Heads, Program Directors and Faculty of James Madison University
FROM: Heather Coltman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Kathy Ott Walter, Speaker of the Faculty Senate
SUBJECT: May 2023 Commencement Ceremonies
DATE: March 28, 2023

Commencement is an important recognition of our students' hard work and commitment to their academic studies. It is a time for family, friends and members of the university community to celebrate the graduates' accomplishments. Faculty are strongly encouraged to attend commencement to take part in this significant event in the life of the university and to celebrate the successful culmination of years of academic work by our students.

All college ceremonies for undergraduates and The Graduate School will be held indoors, at the Atlantic Union Bank Center (AUBC). The full schedule is [online](#), with door opening times indicated.

We invite all faculty to participate in regalia in the processional and be seated in the faculty section on the floor. If you plan to attend commencement as a spectator rather than as part of the processional, you must still obtain a ticket as described below.

Individuals participating in the ceremonies will gather in the Media Room (Room 0150) on the lower level of the AUBC. You should enter through the "Event Staff" entrance, which is around the right side (away from the parking deck) of the main AUBC entrance, facing E-Hall. Once inside, you may either take the stairs or elevator to the lower level to robe and enjoy light refreshments. Please plan to arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the ceremony start time. You will line up and prepare to proceed to the floor in full academic regalia. JMU staff and student marshals will assist you in the processional and guide you to your seat. They will return to escort you off the floor for the recessional.

There is no reserved faculty parking for the AUBC, as there is a large parking deck adjacent to the arena as well as abundant availability around the Festival Center. To avoid significant traffic and congestion, we encourage you to avoid University Blvd. and instead drive through campus and take Carrier Drive from the Godwin Hall area across Rt. 81 to the D1 or D2 lots, which are near the Bioscience, Physics, and Chemistry and Engineering buildings. From these lots, you may walk around the Leeolou Alumni Center and the Festival Center where you will cross the street at the stop light and walk safely to the AUBC. A parking map can be [found here](#).

You **must have a ticket** to enter the AUBC; your regalia will not suffice. Whether you are attending as a spectator or as part of the processional, faculty must reserve a ticket. Follow [this link](#) to reply and secure a ticket.

Should you require ADA parking, the Ballard parking deck at the AUBC and the D3 lot across from the Festival Center offer reserved spaces. It is a short distance from these spaces to the "Event Staff" entrance. Should those ADA spaces be full, please proceed to the loading dock entrance off of University Blvd. and speak to the parking cadet there, who will let you in.

We hope you can join us to support your students by participating in this event! Thank you very much for your service to JMU and your participation in our commencement ceremonies. We look forward to seeing you.

If you have questions that cannot be answered on the [commencement website](#), contact University Events at 568-7787 or jmugrad@jmu.edu.