Dear Degree Candidate:

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! The university acknowledges your achievement, and extends our best wishes for your future success. Please review the following information in preparation for your commencement ceremony. This information is also available at commencement.wisc.edu.

Parking and Shuttle Service

Commencement will be held on Friday, May 10 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kohl Center, 601 West Dayton Street. Campus parking lots will be free of charge and available on a first-come, first-served basis starting at noon on Friday, May 10; however, lot 91, located next to the Kohl Center, requires a special event permit. A map of campus parking lots can be found at map.wisc.edu.

The drop-off location for those with limited mobility, including ADA needs is on West Dayton Street in front of the Kohl Center and is approximately 250-300 feet from the Kohl Center. Please note that construction on Dayton Street will result in traffic congestion, please plan accordingly and add extra time due to construction conditions. Golf carts will be available, unless severe weather precludes their use, to transport those individuals for whom walking that distance would be difficult. Seating for guests with limited mobility is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and is located in the top rows of the main level throughout the arena. More information about Kohl Center accessibility can be found at commencement.wisc.edu/ceremony-and-venue-information/accessibility/.

If you are a student with accessibility needs, you must contact our office prior to the ceremony so that we may provide appropriate accommodations to meet your needs and ensure a celebratory occasion for all graduates, please email us and outline your accessibility needs at: commence@chancellor.wisc.edu.

Kohl Center Entry and Seating

Degree candidate seating will be designated by degree type on the floor of the Kohl Center. The down staircase adjacent to Gate A (West Dayton Street entrance) will lead you to the candidate seating area. Guests are not allowed in the candidate seating area prior to or during the ceremony. A candidate seating map is included with this letter to help orient you to the seating assignments. Commencement marshals, wearing cardinal red academic attire, and posted signs will be present to provide seating directions when you arrive.

Degree candidates with faculty escorts should ask their escort to sit on their left. Please review the complete information about the role of faculty escorts at commencement.wisc.edu/information-for-graduates/.

Name Reading and Graduate Portraits

We request that all candidates be in their seats no later than 5:10 p.m. (twenty minutes prior to the scheduled beginning of the ceremony). Each degree candidate’s chair will have a program, a two-part card and a pencil. The top portion of the card will be used to announce your name as you cross the stage. It is important that you carefully and clearly print your name in LARGE CAPITAL LETTERS on the card so that it will be legible to the reader. You may wish to print your name phonetically (how it sounds), as you will not have an opportunity to explain to the reader how your name is pronounced. The lower portion of the card requests your address so that the professional photographer can send you complimentary proofs of your participation in the ceremony. Photographs will be taken as you receive your diploma folder and as you leave the stage. After confirmation of degree requirements and grades (6-8 weeks after commencement) your diploma will be mailed to your permanent home address listed in your MyUW student center.

We hope that Commencement will be a wonderful experience for both you and your guests. Thank you for your participation, and once again, congratulations!

Carrie Olson
Office of the Chancellor
Items permitted: Bags no larger than 8.5” x 11”, binoculars, cameras, jackets, items related to a medical condition, flowers (with no glass vase) and diaper bags (with child).

Items prohibited (including, but not limited to): Bags larger than 8.5” x 11” (including backpacks), food, beverages, containers, strollers, baby carriers, laser pointers, banners, flags, signs, noisemakers, nooses, ropes, weapons, replicas of weapons, inflatables, video recorders, monopods, tripods, selfie sticks, drones or any items deemed dangerous or inappropriate.

All items and spectators are subject to search. Storage facilities are not available for checking prohibited items. Items left at gates will be disposed of accordingly.