

2015 Commencement Information

(Please Read Thoroughly)

Commencement Details

- *Date:* Saturday, May 16, 2015
- *Location:* Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Drive, Tinley Park, Illinois
- *Times:* Two Commencement Ceremonies

10 a.m.

- College of Business and Public Admin.
- College of Health and Human Services

Graduate Check in is at **8 a.m.**

North Pavilion (enter at North Entrance)

Late graduates will be held in the rear of the auditorium and escorted at the appropriate time

5 p.m.

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Education

Graduate Check in is at **3 p.m.**

North Pavilion (enter at North Entrance)

GRADUATES MUST ASSEMBLE WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE COLLEGES

- *Eligibility:* graduates from fall 2014, and applicants for graduation for spring and summer of 2015.
- *Tickets:* Participants will receive **seven (7)** ~~four (4)~~ tickets for the ceremony and two (2) parking passes. At this time, extra tickets are NOT available. Ticket pick-up will take place on May 5 from 8 am to 2 pm and May 6 from 11 am to 7:30 pm in the Cafeteria Annex. A photo ID will be required. Check the Commencement website for more information.
 - All guests must have tickets to be seated (including children 2 years and older)
 - Infants and toddlers may be seated in the lap
 - Children may not sit with graduates
 - A family friendly seating area will be available to guests with children
- If you (or your guests) have a physical disability and are in need of special services, please contact Robin Sweeney, Disability Services, at 708.235.3968 or rsweeney@govst.edu.
- *Parking is limited*
 - Carpooling is strongly encouraged
 - Observe all parking signs to avoid being ticketed or towed
 - Parking lots fill up quickly.
 - Display parking pass in car window
- *Alternate parking* will be available at:
 - 80th Avenue Metra Train Station, 7760 Timber Drive, Tinley Park
 - Central Middle School, 18146 Oak Park Avenue, Tinley Park
 - Shuttle Buses will be available for transport to and from the convention center – near NORTH ENTRANCE.
- *Updates/Information:* Check the Commencement website www.govst.edu/commencement for updates and information regarding Commencement. Information will also be communicated through Facebook and Twitter.

Commencement Day Reminders

- For Graduates
 - Plan to arrive early
 - Inform guests of the college/program you are graduating from to assist with seating (i.e. College of Health and Human Services; Nursing)
 - Pre-arrange a meeting location to meet family and guests after the ceremony outside of the auditorium.
 - Please leave personal items (such as purses) with your guests or leave locked in your vehicle. Neither GSU nor the convention center is responsible for lost or stolen items.
 - Only GSU approved honors cords and stoles may be worn with regalia.
 - Graduates should not leave the ceremony floor until the appropriate time. Only Platform Guests, Faculty/Staff, and Marshals will recess out. All graduates are to remain seated throughout the ceremony unless directed otherwise by the commencement marshals or master of ceremonies.

- For Guests
 - Doors open at 8:30 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. respectively
 - Saving seats is not permitted
 - Seats are not guaranteed for late arrivals
 - Admission will be temporarily suspended at 9:50 a.m. and 4:50 p.m. respectively in preparation for the procession of graduates.
 - Remain in seats for the entire commencement ceremony
 - A family friendly seating area will be available to guests with children
 - Grad Flowers will be making variety of fresh cut flowers available for guests to purchase between the West and South Entrances
 - All flowers will be offered in a variety of colors as half dozen or full dozen
 - They will also be hand wrapped on location with baby's breath and greens with a choice of custom school colored bow.
 - Flowers are to be given to graduates AFTER the ceremony is complete.
 - No balloons or large gifts are allowed in the convention center.
 - No photographs or videotaping in the front, side or middle aisles.
 - A live webcast will be available through GSU's website on commencement day
 - DVD's of both ceremonies can be purchased in advance or on the day of the ceremony from <http://www.tgsvideo.com/Graduations.asp>
 - The Follett Bookstore will offer a 10% discount to all graduates and guests at the convention center.

- For everyone:
 - Ceremonial Etiquette:
The University wants to ensure that commencement is a dignified academic ceremony enjoyed by both the graduates and guests. **Please refrain from yelling, shouting, or whistling until all graduates have been individually acknowledged on stage.**
 - Cell phones should be turned off and remain off during the ceremony.
 - **NO BACKPACKS, NO CONCEALED WEAPONS AND NO FIREARMS.**