

Commencement
May 16, 2026
Student Procession Instructions

Entering the Arena

Procession begins with the Mace Bearer followed by the Administration, Governing Board, Program Chairs, and Faculty. There will be a pause and then once Pomp & Circumstance begins to play, Marshals will lead the students into the arena. Follow the directions of the Marshalls. Students will be in two lines and walk down the center aisle. You will enter your respective row in front of the chairs, moving all the way to the end of your row (outside edge). **Please remain standing until you are directed to sit down by Chairperson Castrodale.** Programs will be on your seat.

Receiving your Diploma & being Hooded

When your degree program is called, everyone in the respective degree program will stand.

Students in the right section (facing stage) will move toward their right and the outside aisle. Students in the left section will move toward their right and the center aisle. Once you reach the center aisle, you will walk away from the stage, behind the right section of chairs to the aisle. From there you will move forward towards the stage.

Undergraduate students - Once students get to the stage, you will proceed up the right-hand stairs and your name will be called. Continue towards Dean Corsello who will hand you your diploma. You will continue towards President Uzarksi, shake her hand and then you will turn and face the audience to have your photo taken with the President. You will then continue across the stage and shake the hand of your Program Chair prior to leaving the stage.

Graduate students – After your name is called, proceed across the stage and STOP in front of the table (before going to Dean Corsello) with your hood draped over your right arm, with the small portion facing out. Your Program Chair will take your hood, you will turn and face the audience and be hooded. You will then proceed to Dean Corsello to receive your diploma. You will continue towards President Uzarksi, shake her hand and then you will turn and face the audience to have your photo taken. You will then continue across the stage and exit the stage.

Returning to your Seat

When you reach the bottom stairs after exiting the stage, you will stop again to have your photo taken. After your photo, proceed down the outer aisle (of the left section of chairs). For those seated in the right section...you will walk down the center aisle and return to your row (just as you did when entering), moving as far into the section (towards the outside aisle) as you are able. Those in the left section will return to your row/seat from the outside aisle, moving as far into the section (towards the center) as you are able.

End of the Program/Exiting/Picking up Diploma

At the end of the ceremony, those on the stage and the faculty will exit first. Once they have left, all students will stand and exit the arena just as you entered, returning to the dressing area. **You will be able to pick up your actual diploma and alumni gift in the Dressing Area.** After picking up these items, students in the nursing and MOT pinning ceremonies can pick up their lunch and get ready for the Nursing and MOT Pinning events. Students may also visit with family and friends outside of the dressing area. Please follow the instructions of the Marshalls and staff members.