



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

2019 WGU Commencement
Austin, Texas

Saturday, October 12, 2019

#WGUgrad

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMMENCEMENT APP	3
CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL	4
VENUE INFORMATION	5
CLEAR BAG POLICY	6
KNOW BEFORE YOU GO	7
INFORMATION FOR GUESTS	8
ADA & ACCESSIBILITY	9
ARENA ENTRANCE MAP	11
MASTER'S SCHEDULE	12
BACHELOR'S SCHEDULE	13
COMMENCEMENT SEATING CHART	14
NAME READER CARD	15
CONFERRAL OF DEGREES	16
PHOTOGRAPHY	17
PARKING	18
PHILANTHROPY CORD	19
COMMENCEMENT FLOWERS	20
WGU STORE	21
WEBCAST AND CONTACT	22

COMMENCEMENT APP

DOWNLOAD THE WGU COMMENCEMENT APP

With the WGU commencement app you'll receive up-to-the-minute info, including:

- Schedule of Events
- Maps
- Parking Info
- Ceremony Webcast
- FAQs
- Speaker Bios
- Activity Feed
- WGU Store

Download the app at
events.crowdcompass.com/wgucommencement



WGU®

CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL

WGU ALUMNI RESOURCES AND BENEFITS

JOIN THE NIGHT OWL NETWORK

Connect with WGU Night Owls worldwide. Find mentors, interest groups, or even new jobs.
Download the free WGU Night Owl Network App at alumni.wgu.edu/nightownetwork

CONTINUE LEARNING FOR LIFE

Take advantage of access to LinkedIn Learning, Hey Teach, FranklinCovey, the WGU Alumni Library, and other resources.
Keep learning at alumni.wgu.edu/learn

ENJOY DISCOUNTS AND PERKS

Receive exclusive discounts from services, retailers, restaurants, and entertainment venues.
Explore discounts at alumni.wgu.edu/perks

KEEP ADVANCING YOUR CAREER

WGU's Career & Professional Development team helps you thrive throughout your career.
Get started at alumni.wgu.edu/career

WGU  | ALUMNI

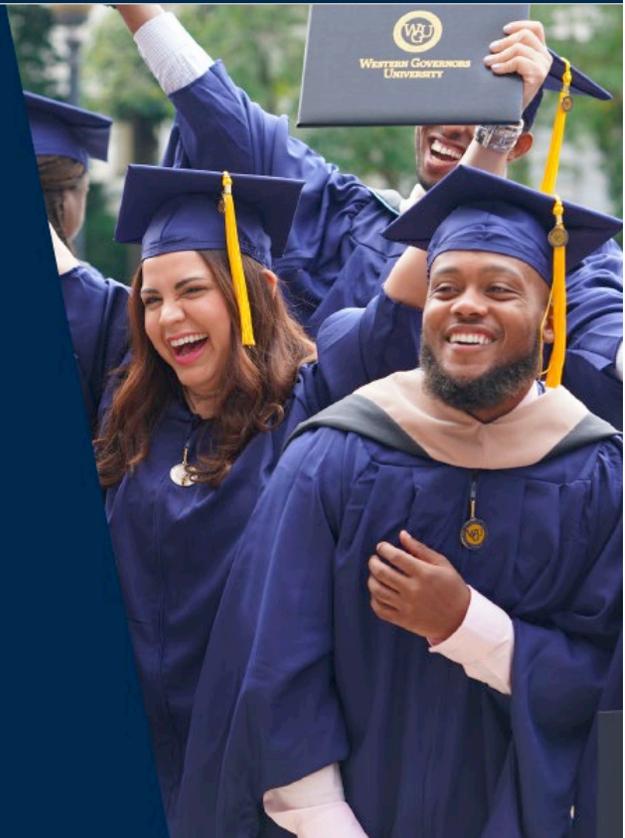
WELCOME TO THE WGU ALUMNI COMMUNITY

Congratulations, Night Owl! You did it!

As a WGU graduate, you're part of a family of more than 150,000+ alumni. Being a Night Owl doesn't end at graduation—you're a Night Owl for life!

Here's how you can get involved with the WGU Alumni community, stay connected, and start enjoying exclusive benefits and discounts.

WGU  | ALUMNI



VENUE INFORMATION

[Frank Erwin Center](#)

1701 Red River St.
Austin, TX 78701

Venue Questions

Guests are welcome to call the Frank Erwin Center directly at 512-471-7744 with questions.

Guest Services

The day of commencement, the Frank Erwin Center's staff is on hand to answer building related questions, assist with lost and found, furnish assisted listening devices, and provide wheelchair escorts. The Frank Erwin Center staff strives to make every guest experience an enjoyable one. If you need assistance during commencement, please find an usher or contact Frank Erwin Center event management staff by texting "FRANK" your issue and location to 69050. Standard message and data rates may apply. You may also visit Guest Services, which is located on the arena concourse outside of section 26/27.



Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Should an emergency situation occur; guests should follow instructions from the Frank Erwin Center ushers and depart through the doors marked "exit." The venue's wide concourses allow for easy departure from anywhere in the building. Frank Erwin Center staff members have been trained in emergency procedures to assist with evacuation of all patrons, including those with disabilities.

EMT/First Aid

The First Aid Station is located by the D doors (section 41 and 42) on the arena concourse level. This station is staffed and operated by Emergency Medical Technicians from St. David's Healthcare and Frank Erwin Center personnel. Please ask the nearest usher or event staff for any assistance needed.

Lost & Found Items

A lost and found service is available during commencement at Guest Services, located outside of section 27. After commencement concludes, Lost and Found is moved to the backdoor security desk. For more information or to check to see if an item has been found, please call 512-471-5790 or email lostandfound@austin.utexas.edu.

Lost & Found Guests/Children

Lost guests/children are immediately brought to Guest Services, located outside section 27. If you are looking for a lost guest/child or need assistance of any kind, please find the nearest usher or event staff.

Strollers

Strollers must be left at the concourse doors (entrances into the building). There can be no unattended strollers inside the seating area.

CLEAR BAG POLICY

FRANK ERWIN CENTER CLEAR BAG POLICY

APPROVED BAGS

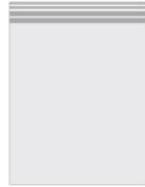
Effective for **MOST** Frank Erwin Center public events •
uterwincenter.com/security

LARGE BAGS



ONE GALLON CLEAR
RESEALABLE PLASTIC
STORAGE BAG

OR



SMALL BAGS



Small clutch bags or purses do not have to be clear but cannot exceed 4.5" x 6.5"

PROHIBITED BAGS

- Purses
- Diaper bags*
- Cases (camera, binocular, etc.)
- Backpacks
- Fanny packs
- Printed pattern plastic bags
- Reusable grocery totes
- Mesh or straw bags
- Duffel bags
- Large totes

* Items normally carried in a diaper bag must be put into a clear plastic bag for venue entry.

A clear bag policy is now in effect at the Frank Erwin Center.

Approved bags include:

Bags that are clear plastic and do not exceed 12"x6"x12"

One-gallon clear resealable plastic storage bags

Small clutch bags or purses do not have to be clear but cannot exceed 4.5"x6.5"

Prohibited bags include:

Purses

Diaper bags*

Cases (camera, binocular, etc.)

Backpacks

Fanny packs

Printed pattern plastic bags

Reusable grocery totes

Mesh or straw bags

Duffel bags

Large totes

*Items normally carried in a diaper bag must be put into a clear plastic bag for venue entry.

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Commencement Weekend is a memorable experience for graduates and their loved ones to celebrate their academic achievement. We want our graduates to experience a joyful ceremony that recognizes their hard work and the sacrifices they have made to get to this point. WGU believes mutually respectful participation by graduates and their guests is the best way to set the stage. In preparation for commencement, WGU has outlined the following protocol to make this happen. You and your guests' adherence to the following protocol will ensure a positive experience for all.

Academic Attire for Graduates

All graduating students wear approved academic attire that includes a cap, gown, and tassel. The official regalia color is NAVY, which can be purchased from our regalia vendor, Oak Hall Cap and Gown. To order, please visit [Oak Hall Cap and Gown](#).



Master's degree graduates will need a hood specific to their degree. We encourage you to wear comfortable, yet professional, dress attire under your gown rather than casual clothing. WGU graduates affiliated with an academic honor society may wear society pins or honor cords on their gowns. With the exception of WGU Scholarship pins, leis and corsages, graduates should not wear other items or decoration on their academic regalia.

[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

[Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia](#)

Graduates who indicate active duty military or veteran status on their ceremony RSVP form will receive military honor cords at graduate check-in.

Commencement Etiquette

To promote a respectful, comfortable, and enjoyable experience for graduates and their guests, all attendees are asked to observe the following guidelines. Place your cell phone on vibrate or silent during the ceremony. Participate in the recessional. Do not leave until the entire ceremony has ended. Keep cheering respectful and avoid disruptive outbursts to allow the families and guests of other graduates to hear their graduates' names when read.

WGU Commencement Decorum Policy

Please be advised any graduate or guest acting in a disruptive or disrespectful manner, as determined by WGU in its sole discretion, at WGU commencements may either not be allowed in the ceremony venue or may be escorted from the venue.

Take into consideration the following if decorating your cap for commencement: WGU does not allow content on caps that is considered, in WGU's sole discretion, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, hateful, inappropriate, profane or that might disregard another's copyright or third-party rights. All decorations must lie flat on the cap.

INFORMATION FOR GUESTS

Frank Erwin Center
1701 Red River St.
Austin, TX 78701

Doors open:

Saturday, October 12, 2019
8:00 a.m. (CDT)
Master's Ceremony

12:30 p.m. (CDT)
Bachelor's Ceremony

Tickets are not required for the commencement ceremony.



Important Reminders

- No reserved guest seating. Seating is first come, first served.
- Strollers must be left at the concourse doors (entrances into the building). There can be no unattended strollers inside the seating area.
- To promote the maximum public safety and enjoyment of WGU guests, graduates, and staff, please be advised of these rules: no smoking or chewing tobacco is allowed within the venue.
- The following items are PROHIBITED: air horns, whistles, rattlers, cowbells, or other noisemakers, balloons, signs, flags, confetti, hard-sided coolers, fireworks, laser pointers, outside food and beverages, or weapons. Facility security has the right to act in any manner necessary to ensure the safety of all attendees, as well as the dignity of the event.

Guest Seating

No reserved guest seating. Seating is first come, first served. Guests should be seated with their cell phones on silent or vibrate before the graduate procession begins. Guests should remain in their seats during the entire ceremony as a courtesy to graduates and other guests. The commencement venue allows photos and videos at the ceremony; however, we encourage you to take photos from your seat rather than from the aisles due to fire and safety regulations and as a courtesy to other guests. WGU has hired a professional photographer for this event. Images of each graduate and the ceremony will be available online for purchase.

Infants and Young Children

The commencement ceremony is broadcast live and recorded. We know that many graduates want young family members to be a part of this special event. For your child's comfort and as a courtesy to graduates and other guests, we encourage you to bring toys, refreshments, or other items to keep your child quietly entertained during the ceremony. Please bring restless or crying infants and children to the concourse to avoid disrupting the ceremony/broadcast. You can continue to watch the ceremony on the concourse monitors. To promote safety in close quarters, no babies or children will be allowed on stage or to sit with graduates. By observing these guidelines, we can have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable commencement.

ADA & ACCESSIBILITY

Venue Questions

Guests are welcome to call the Frank Erwin Center directly at 512-471-7744 with questions.

Guest Services

The day of commencement, the Frank Erwin Center's staff is on hand to answer building related questions, assist with lost and found, furnish assisted listening devices, and provide wheelchair escorts. The Frank Erwin Center staff strives to make every guest experience an enjoyable one. If you need assistance during commencement, please find an usher or contact Frank Erwin Center event management staff by texting "FRANK" your issue and location to 69050. Standard message and data rates may apply. You may also visit Guest Services, which is located on the arena concourse outside of section 26/27.

Wheelchair Access & Escorts

Frank Erwin Center staff members are available to assist you to your seats, including providing complimentary wheelchair assistance to guests with special needs. A wheelchair escort can be requested at Guest Services or any arena entrance. An elevator located near the Red River street level entrance provides easy access to wheelchair seating. Please be aware that Frank Erwin Center staff will not remain with you during commencement. When necessary, a guest's wheelchair will be stored by an exit door and returned at the end of ceremony, or whenever requested.

Passenger Drop-Off Points

There are two passenger drop-off areas for guests with mobility impairments.

- Lot 118 (located north of the venue). Guests may enter the arena through entrance C doors. Please note this is an approximate 50-yard walk on a flat surface to get to the C doors.
- Guests with wheelchairs may be dropped off at the Red River Street level doors. There is a small pullover at the Red River doors. This entrance is best suited for wheelchairs.

Disabled Parking

Parking spaces for guests with mobility impairments are available in Lot 108 (located south of the venue) for a fee with valid mobility impaired plates or stickers. Spaces are first come, first served. Please plan accordingly. Additional spaces are available in nearby university garages, such as Trinity Garage and Health Center Garage, as well as state garages. If you have additional questions, please call UT Parking and Transportation Services at 512-471-PARK (7275).

ASL

ASL interpreting is available onsite for WGU Commencement. Report to the ASL seating section located at section 47.

Assisted Listening Devices

Assisted listening devices are available free of charge at Guest Services, located on the arena concourse outside of section 26/27. Guests will be required to leave a valid government-issued ID.

Concessions

Concession condiment tables have been modified for easy access to wheelchair guests. Drinking fountains are installed for guests using wheelchairs and are accessible in all areas of the concourse.

Restrooms

Restrooms are equipped with lower lavatories. Stalls have grab rails, extra wide doors, and raised bowls.

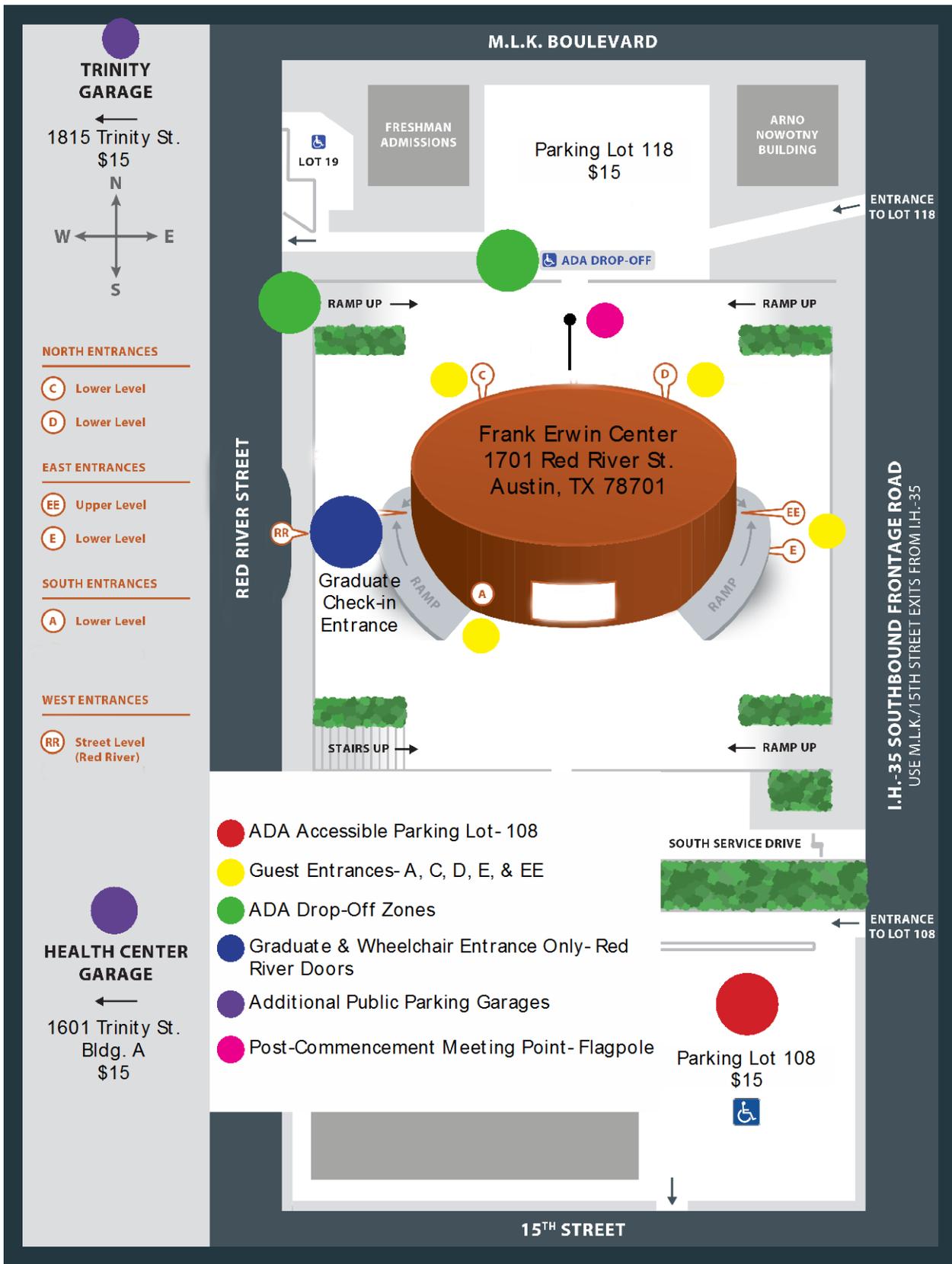
Services Animals/Guide Dogs

Animals or pets of any kind are not permitted in the Frank Erwin Center, with the exception of trained service animals and service animals in training for guests with disabilities. Service animals are welcome inside the venue but must remain on a leash or in a harness at all times. Service animals must display proper documentation.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Should an emergency situation occur; guests should follow instructions from the Frank Erwin ushers and depart through the doors marked "exit." The venue's wide concourses allow for easy departure from anywhere in the building. Frank Erwin Center staff members have been trained in emergency procedures to assist with evacuation of all patrons, including those with disabilities.

ARENA ENTRANCE MAP



MASTER'S SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 12, 2019
8:00 a.m. (CDT) Master's Graduate Check-in
Frank Erwin Center
Graduate Check-in Area: Lone Star Room
Follow signs to Graduate Check-in.

BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT

Please eat breakfast. Wear comfortable shoes. All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony **must arrive** wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, hood, and gown. Master's: **please wear your hoods**. No changing rooms on site.

[Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia](#)

8:00 a.m. (CDT) Master's Graduate Check-in, Lone Star Room

Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in Area

Please pick up your name reader card, listing your name and degree. Also located in the graduate check-in room: philanthropy cords, military cords, scholarship pins, WGU employee pins, limited regalia, and name readers.

9:00 a.m. (CDT) Pre-Seating by College, Arena Floor

Master's ceremony graduates must be checked in and in their seats by college by 9:00 a.m. Master's graduates will receive a brief orientation and then be ushered to the processional march entrance.

9:30 a.m. (CDT) Commencement Processional March

Recessional Exit

The stage platform party and faculty will exit first. Row marshals will lead graduates out of the arena.

After the Ceremony

Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates at the flagpole located north of the building.

BACHELOR'S CEREMONY SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 12, 2019
12:30 p.m. (PDT) Bachelor's Graduate Check-in
Frank Erwin Center
Graduate Check-in Area: Lone Star Room
Follow signs to Graduate Check-in.

BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT

Please eat lunch. Wear comfortable shoes. All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony **must arrive** wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, and gown. No changing rooms on site.

[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

12:30 p.m. (CDT) Bachelor's Graduate Check-in, Lone Star Room

Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in Area.

Please pick up your name reader card, listing your name and degree. Also located in the graduate check-in room: philanthropy cords, military cords, scholarship pins, WGU employee pins, limited regalia, and name readers.

1:15 p.m. (CDT) Pre-Seating by College, Arena Floor

Bachelor's ceremony graduates must be checked in and in their seats by college by 1:30 p.m. Bachelor's graduates will receive a brief orientation and then be ushered to the processional march entrance.

1:45 p.m. (CDT) Commencement Processional March

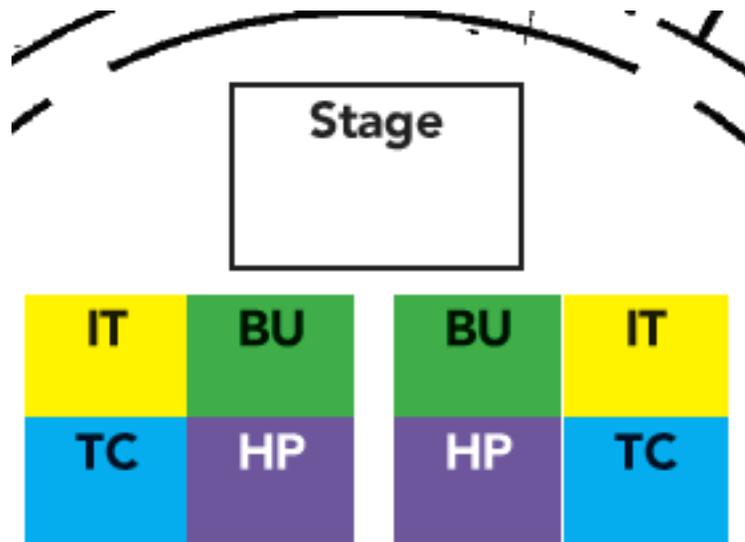
Recessional Exit

The stage platform party and faculty will exit first. Row marshals will lead graduates out of the arena.

After the Ceremony

Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates at the flagpole located north of the building.

COMMENCEMENT SEATING CHART



← North

Graduate Seating

Graduates are seated by college.

Conferral of Degree Order

Graduates are called to stage by college and not in alphabetical order.

1. College of Business (BU)
2. College of Health Professions (HP)
3. College of Information Technology (IT)
4. Teachers College (TC)

NAME READER CARD

NAME READER CARD



WHAT IS MY NAME READER CARD?

It is the card you hand to the name readers as you walk on stage to have your name announced. The QR code will be scanned to project your name on the LED screens as it appears on the card.

WHERE DO I PICK UP MY NAME READER CARD?

You will receive your card at check-in.

Note: if you have two last names, please be sure to visit both check-in lines.

WHAT IF MY NAME IS MISSPELLED?

During check-in, go to the card reprint table to get your name reprinted.

WHERE DO I GO AFTER I HAVE MY NAME CARD?

Wait for further instructions from the graduate lineup team. They will prepare you for the processional march.

WHAT IF I LOSE MY NAME READER CARD?

Ask the commencement team for a generic card. Your name will be hand written and "Congratulations, WGU graduate" will be projected on the LED screens.

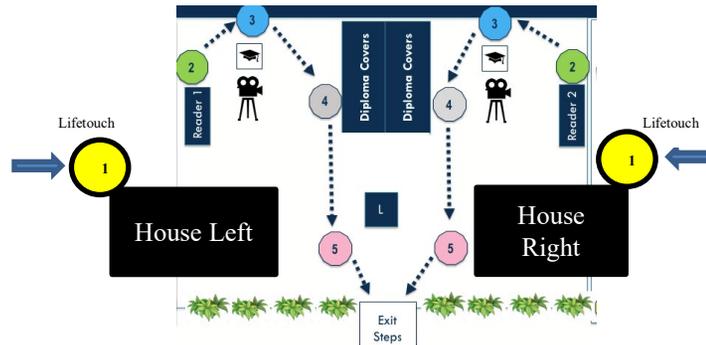
HELPFUL TIPS

- Keep your name reader card with you until you hand it to the name reader when you walk on stage.
- Do not fold or get your card wet. Damaged cards will not scan properly.
- Avoid contact with the QR codes on your card. If the QR codes are damaged, your name will not be projected on the LED screens.

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

The conferral of degrees will take place in this order: College of Business, College of Health Professions, College of Information Technology, and Teachers College. Graduate names are not read in alphabetical order but by college order.

After the conferral of degree announcement, WGU staff will lead graduates by college to the stage.



	<p>Before graduate walks on stage, Lifetouch will take an individual photo of the graduate at the bottom of the ramp. The graduate will be sent to the name reader table.</p>	
	<p>Graduate stops at the name reader table and presents their name reader card.</p>	
	<p>Graduate is sent to a taped box, facing the front of the video camera for a face shot. Then, the graduate's name is announced while their image is projected onto the video screens.</p>	
	<p>Graduate walks to diploma cover table and receives a diploma cover.</p>	
	<p>After receiving diploma cover, the graduate proceeds to front of stage for a handshake with a WGU official, exits down the steps, and returns to seat.</p>	

PHOTOGRAPHY

During the 2019 WGU Commencement, Lifetouch Photography will be taking candid photos, speaker photos, and graduate portrait shots. There is no obligation to purchase.

How to access your commencement photos:

A few weeks after commencement, Lifetouch Photography will post commencement photos online. Visit <http://events.lifetouch.com/wgu> to view the commencement photos.

Any questions may be addressed to

specialevents@lifetouch.com, 800-505-9496, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. ET, or via the website <http://events.lifetouch.com/wgu>.

Special Note:

A graduate's appearance and participation is recorded at commencement. This may include but not be limited to broadcast video, online web video, and photos in print materials. WGU may use some of these images for educational and informational purposes.

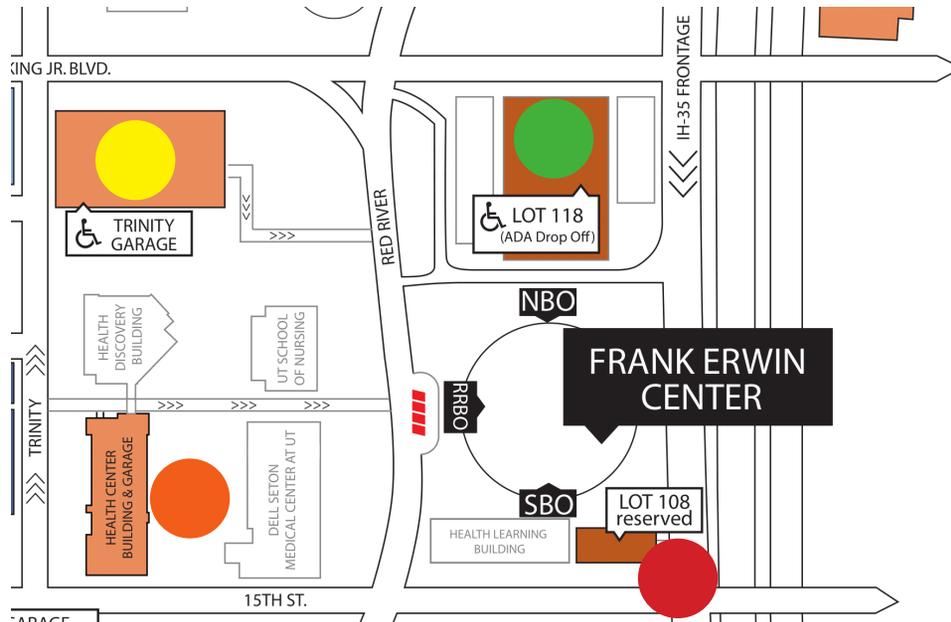


PARKING

Frank Erwin Center
1701 Red River St
Austin, TX 7870

Parking

Please plan ample time for parking. [Frank Erwin Center parking information can be found here.](#)



- Lot 108 (\$15 credit only)- Enter from southbound Frontage Road of I-35.**
- Health Center Garage (\$15 cash or credit)- Enter from Trinity Street Entrance. 1601 Trinity St. (Exit Level 1)**
- Trinity Garage (\$15 cash or credit)- Enter from Trinity Street Entrance. 1815 Trinity St. (Exit Level 4)**
- Lot 118 (\$15 credit only)- Enter from southbound Frontage Road of I-35.**

Parking is free with Disabled Veteran License Plates

PHILANTHROPY CORD



SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW WGU NIGHT OWLS

CONGRATS GRADS!

DONATE TO THE WGU FELLOW NIGHT OWL SCHOLARSHIP FUND AND RECEIVE YOUR PHILANTHROPY CORD.

Text WGUCORD to 41444 to give.

As you look back on your accomplishments, we ask you to help your Fellow Night Owls look ahead. With a gift of \$22 or more, you'll earn a WGU Philanthropy Cord to be proudly displayed with your regalia at commencement.

100% of your donation will go to the Fellow Night Owl Scholarship to help current WGU students.



WGU founded WGU Advancement in 2018 as its official fundraising arm dedicated to attracting, allocating, and putting dollars to work so more students have access to an affordable, quality education. It's the next step in WGU's ever-growing obsession with students' success, and the perfect way for the growing number of WGU graduates, donors, and partners to pay it forward.

COMMENCEMENT FLOWERS



CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATE'S ACCOMPLISHMENT WITH FLOWERS!

Pre-order online at the link below, or purchase bouquets onsite. Pre-ordered flowers will be available for pickup at the commencement flowers kiosk the day of commencement.

A percentage of each sale will be donated to the WGU Scholarship Fund.

thecommentmentgroup.com/westerngovernorsu



WGU

WGU STORE

CONGRATS, GRAD! YOU DID IT!

Show your Night Owl pride with swag from the store!

[WGUforlife.com](https://www.wguforlife.com)

Use code TXGrad15 at checkout for 15% off!



WGU  | ALUMNI

WEBCAST AND CONTACT

Webcast

Family and guests who are not able to attend in person may view the [ceremony online](#). To watch the ceremony live, please visit the following link on Saturday, October 12, 2019.

- 9:30 a.m. CDT Master's Commencement Ceremony
- 1:45 p.m. CDT Bachelor's Commencement Ceremony

<https://www.wgu.edu/about/students-graduates/commencement.html>

Contact us

During commencement week, the most efficient way to reach the WGU Commencement Office is by sending an email to commencement@wgu.edu. You may also call 385-428-2085. Visit the Commencement Website: wgu.edu/alumni/commencement/upcoming-commencements/austin.html