



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY®

**2021 WGU Commencement
Las Vegas**

Saturday, November 20, 2021

#WGUgrad

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CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL—**YOU DID IT!**

Welcome to the WGU Alumni Community! You're part of the Night Owl family, now more than 250,000 Night Owls strong!

JOIN THE NIGHT OWL NETWORK

This exclusive network is a great way to connect with other alumni, find or become an industry mentor, join professional interest groups, discover innovative ideas from other experts in your field, or even find new jobs.

JOIN TODAY wgu.edu/nightownetwork

KEEP ADVANCING YOUR CAREER

As your focus shifts specifically to career advancement, so does your support from WGU. Our Career & Professional Development team is here to help you thrive throughout your career.

GET STARTED wgu.edu/career-services

BEING A GRADUATE HAS ITS BENEFITS

As a WGU graduate, you understand that learning is a lifelong pursuit. So do we. That's why we provide alumni like you with valuable benefits for continuing education. Enjoy free access to premium services like LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight, edX, The Teaching Channel, Nurses on Boards Coalition, and more!

KEEP LEARNING wgu.edu/alumnilearn

AND THERE'S MORE...

Visit our website to find other resources and ways to stay involved. Look for military alumni resources, explore discounts, see who's in the news, shop WGU merchandise, and keep an eye on other alumni events!

JOIN THE COMMUNITY wgu.edu/alumni

COMMENCEMENT VENUE

Thomas & Mack Center

4505 S. Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89154

Schedule

Saturday, November 20, 2021

Master's Ceremony 9:30 am (PST)

Bachelor's Ceremony 1:45 pm (PST)



Venue Questions

Guests are welcome to call the Thomas & Mack Center directly at 702-895-3761 with questions.

Guest Services

Commencement day, the Thomas & Mack Center's staff will be on hand to answer venue related questions, assist with lost and found, furnish assisted listening devices, and provide wheelchair escorts. The Thomas & Mack Center staff strives to make every guest experience an enjoyable one. If you need assistance during commencement, please find an usher or visit the WGU Information desk located in the main concourse.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

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

EMT/First Aid

American Medical Response teams are at every event at the Thomas & Mack Center. The First Aid room is located at the concourse level at section 103. The team is also available at the Guest Relations Booth at section 106.

Assisted Listening Devices

Assisted listening devices are available in exchange for identification cards at the Thomas & Mack Center. Devices are located at the Guest Relations Booth located on the main concourse at portals 1 and 20.

Lost & Found Items

Lost & Found items will be held at both guest relations booths on the concourse. For lost items after an event, please call 702-895-3761, Monday - Friday, 9 am to 5 pm.

Lost Guests/Children

Lost guests/children are immediately brought to the guest relations booths on the concourse. 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 in the main concourse at the designated stroller parking area located at the Club on the main concourse. There can be no unattended strollers inside the arena seating area.

BAG POLICY

WGU COMMENCEMENT BAG POLICY

APPROVED BAGS

BAGS SMALLER THAN

14 x 14 x 6

Includes:

PURSES

DIAPER BAGS

CLUTCHES



PROHIBITED BAGS



OVERSIZE PURSES

BACKPACKS



LUGGAGE

COMPUTER CASES



DUFFLE BAGS



MESH or STRAW BAGS

GROCERY BAGS



LARGE CAMERA BAGS

TOTES

Approved bags include:

Bags that do not exceed 14"x6"x14"

Purses, Diaper Bags, Clutches

Prohibited bags include:

Large purses and diaper bags, large cases (camera, binoculars, etc.), backpacks, large fanny packs, printed pattern plastic bags, reusable grocery totes, mesh or drawstring bags, duffle bags, large totes.

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 reach 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 protocols. 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.

We encourage all graduates to wear comfortable, yet professional, dress attire under your gown rather than casual clothing. Master's degree graduates will need a hood specific to their degree. 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.
- 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 at WGU events, as determined by WGU in its sole discretion, may either not be allowed in the 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.



GUEST INFORMATION

Thomas & Mack Center

4505 S. Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89154

Doors Open:

Saturday, November 20, 2021

Master's Ceremony 8 am (PST)

Bachelor's Ceremony 12:30 pm (PST)

Tickets are not required for the commencement ceremony.



Important Reminders

- No reserved guest seating. Seating is first come, first served.
- Baby strollers are not permitted in the arena seating. Please park your stroller near The Club at the main concourse.
- 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 ask 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

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 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 ACCOMMODATIONS

Venue Questions

Guests are welcome to call the Thomas & Mack Center ADA Services directly at 702-895-0929 with questions.

Guest Services

Commencement day, the Thomas & Mack Center's staff will be on hand to answer venue related questions, assist with lost and found, furnish assisted listening devices, and provide wheelchair escorts. The Thomas & Mack Center staff strives to make every guest experience an enjoyable one. If you need assistance during commencement, please find an usher or visit the WGU Information Desk located in the main concourse.

Wheelchair Access & Escorts

Thomas & Mack staff members are available to assist you to your seats, including providing complimentary wheelchair assistance to guests with special needs. A wheelchair escort will be available at the designated drop-off zone. The elevator located between the escalators at the Executive Office entrance provides easy access to wheelchair seating or to the main concourse. Please be aware that Thomas & Mack staff will not remain with you during commencement.

Passenger Drop-Off Points

The drop-off for guests with wheelchairs or those who need mobility assistance is at the main roundabout directly in front of the Thomas & Mack Center. Please look for the wheelchair drop-off/pick-up signs.

Disabled Parking

Designated parking is available for guests with disabilities. There are multiple spaces at the Thomas & Mack Center. Please refer to the parking map on page 15.

ASL

American Sign Language interpreting is available onsite for WGU Commencement. Please proceed to the WGU information table located on the main concourse, and you will be ushered to the reserved seating for ASL. The area is designated as reserved.

Assisted Listening Devices

Assisted listening devices are available in exchange for identification cards at the Thomas & Mack Center. Devices are located at the Guest Relations Booth located on the main concourse at portals 1 and 20.

Restrooms

The Thomas & Mack Center has accessible restroom facilities throughout the venue.

Service Animals

Animals or pets of any kind are not permitted in the Thomas & Mack 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.

Emergency Evacuation Procedures

Should an emergency situation occur, guests should follow instructions from the Thomas & Mack ushers and depart through the doors marked "Exit." The venue's wide concourses allow for easy departure from anywhere in the building. Thomas & Mack 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 CEREMONY SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 20, 2021

8 am (PST) Master's Graduate Check-in
Graduate Check-in Area: Strip View 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 graduates please wear your hoods. No changing rooms on site.

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

8 am (PST) Master's Graduate Check-in, Strip View 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 am (PST) Lineup by College, Arena Tunnel

Master's ceremony graduates must be checked in and in their lineup area by college by 9 am. Graduates will receive a brief orientation and then be ushered to the processional march entrance. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

9:30 am (PST) Commencement Processional March

The stage participants and WGU faculty will enter first. College marshals will lead graduates into the arena.

After the Ceremony

Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates outside at the main entrance.

BACHELOR'S CEREMONY SCHEDULE

Saturday, November 20, 2021

12:30 pm (PST) Bachelor's Graduate Check-in

Graduate Check-in Area: Strip View 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 pm (PST) Bachelor's Graduate Check-in, Strip View 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 pm (PST) Lineup by College, Arena Tunnel

Bachelor's ceremony graduates must be checked in and in their lineup area by college by 1:15 pm. Graduates will receive a brief orientation and then be ushered to the processional march entrance. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

1:45 pm (PST) Commencement Processional March

The stage participants and WGU faculty will enter first. College marshals will lead graduates into the arena.

After the Ceremony

Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates outside at the main entrance.

COMMENCEMENT SEATING CHART

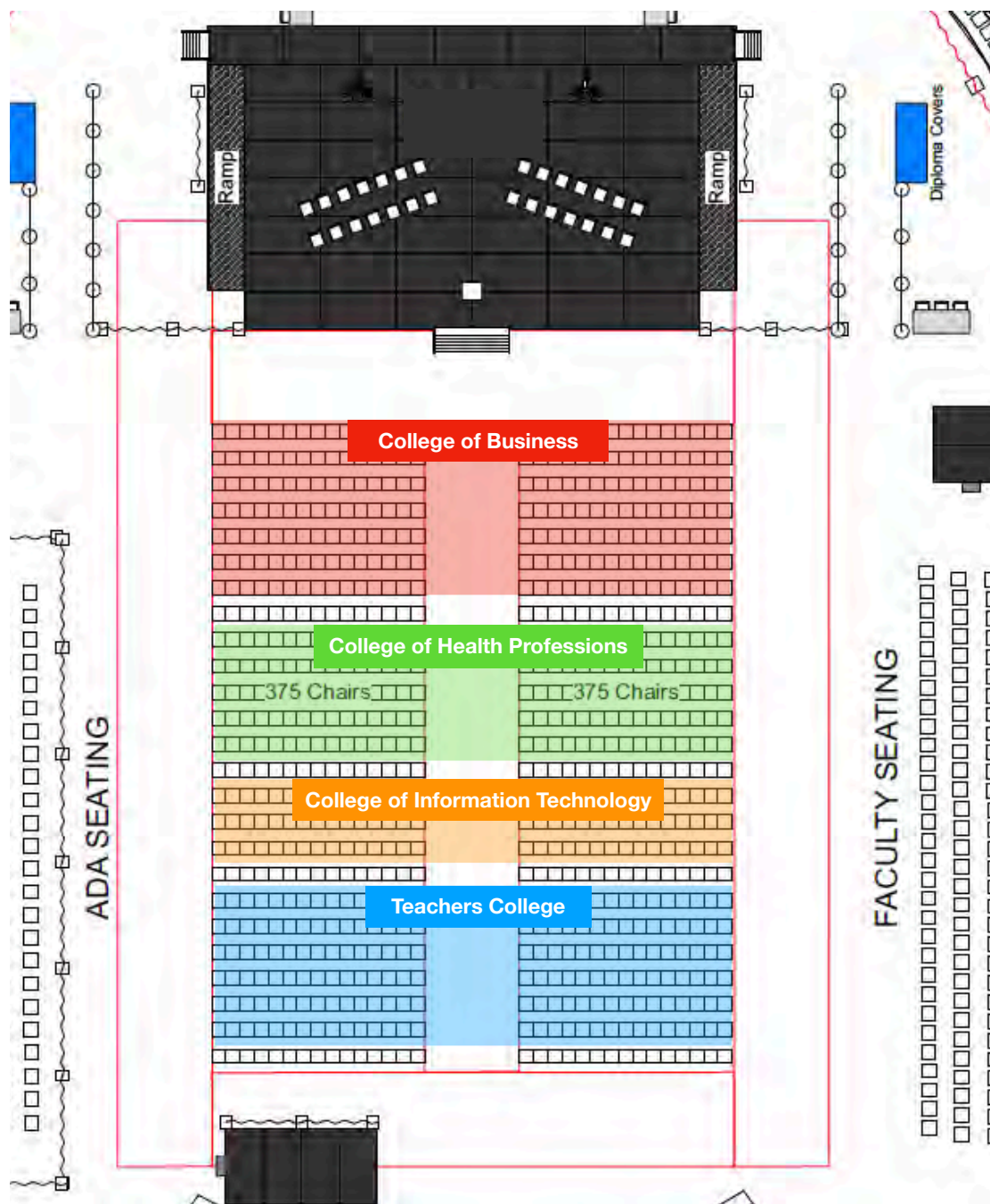
Graduate Seating

Graduates are seated by college.

Conferral of Degree Order

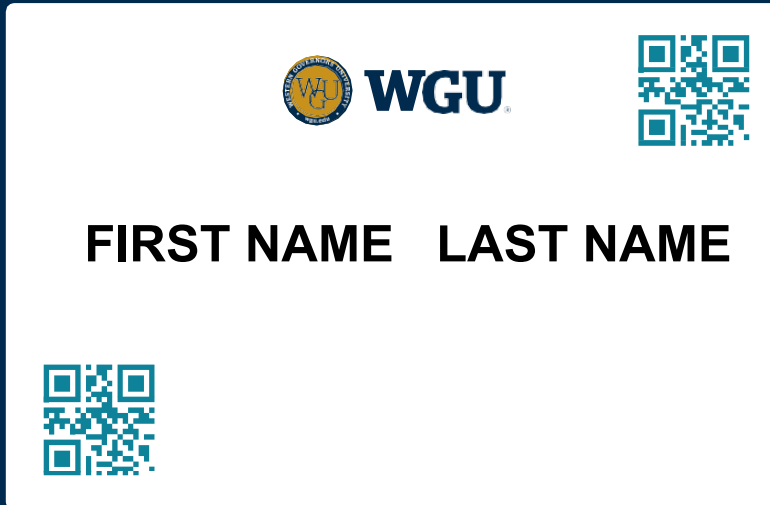
Graduates are called to stage by college and not in alphabetical order.

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 the name reader as you walk on stage to have your name announced. The QR code will be scanned to project your name on the 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 have 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 handwritten and "Congratulations, WGU graduate" will be projected on the screens.

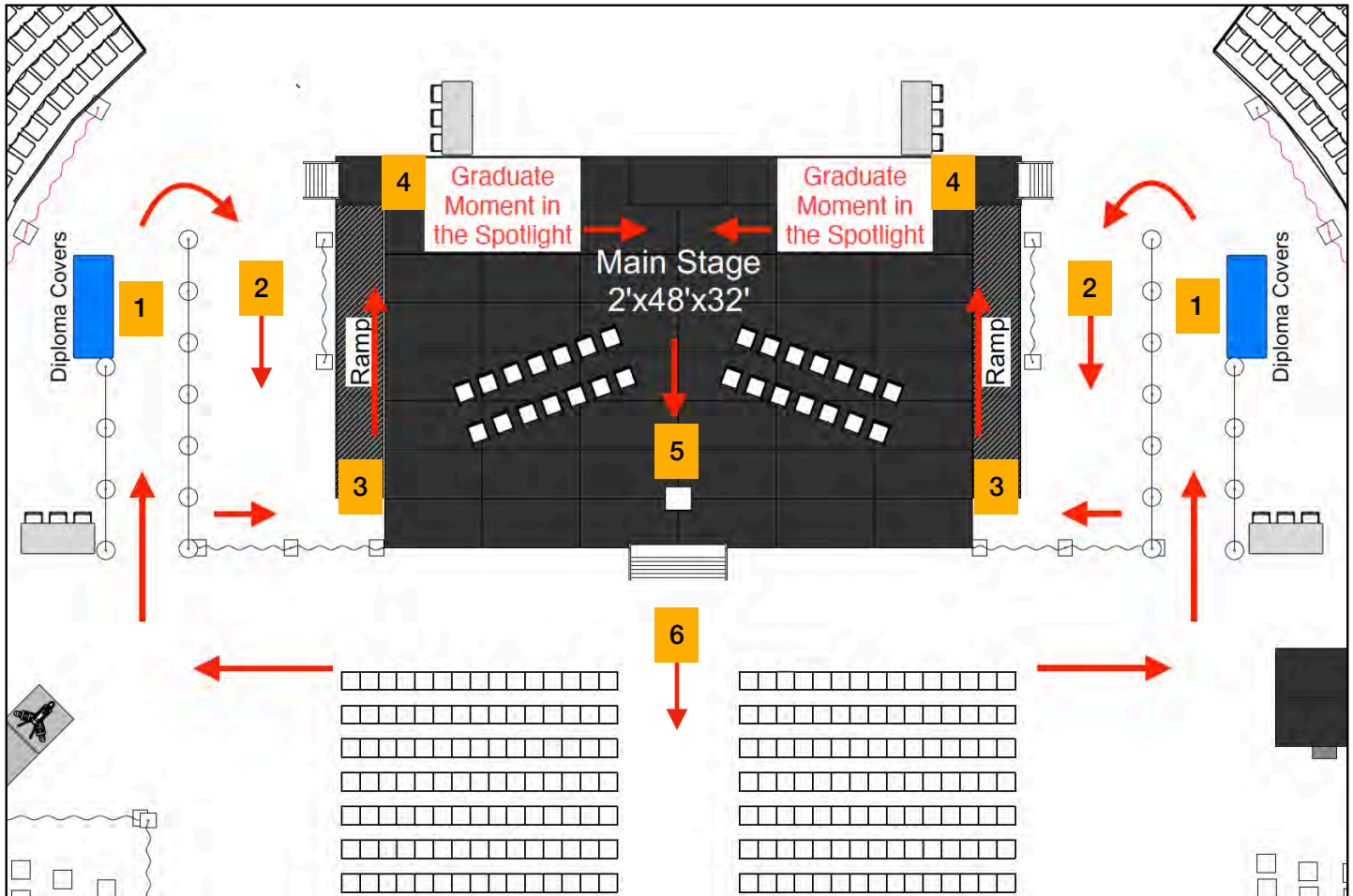
HELPFUL TIPS

- Keep your 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 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, college marshals will lead graduates by college to the stage.



- ◆ **STEP 1** - As directed by the marshals, please proceed to the table to pick up your diploma cover.
- ◆ **STEP 2** - Proceed to the photography station for your individual photo from Lifetouch Photography. Please remove your face mask at this point for your photo.
- ◆ **STEP 3** - Hold on to your face mask and proceed up the ramp.
- ◆ **STEP 4** - Hand your name card to the WGU staff member who will direct you when to step on stage. Once you are on stage facing the camera, your name will be announced; this will be your moment in the spotlight.
- ◆ **STEP 5** - Proceed to the front of the stage and then exit.
- ◆ **STEP 6** - Please put on your face mask and return to your seat.

PARKING

Parking

Please plan ample time for parking. Thomas & Mack Center information can be found [here](#).



GRADUATE / GUEST PARKING

HANDICAPPED PARKING

RIDE SHARE DROP-OFF ONLY

STAFF / RESERVED
PARKING [PASS
REQUIRED]

NO PARKING AREA

PHILANTHROPY CORD



SUPPORT YOUR FELLOW WGU NIGHT OWLS

**CONGRATS
GRADS!**

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

You can receive a blue and gold philanthropy cord to proudly wear with your cap and gown by making a gift to the WGU Fellow Night Owl Scholarship, a fund established to help current WGU students cross the finish line to graduation.



It's not too late to make a gift and receive your cord!

Donate today and visit the WGU Advancement table to pick up your cord when you arrive at commencement.

Scan the QR Code or visit wgu.edu/philanthropycords to give now.

WGU  | **ADVANCEMENT**

Learn more about WGU Advancement and how donors can make a difference at WGU by visiting wgu.edu/give.

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.

<https://www.thecommencementgroup.com/wgumain/>



WGU

WEBCAST AND CONTACT

Webcast

Family and guests who are unable to attend in person may view the [ceremony online](#). To watch the ceremony live, please visit the following link on Saturday, November 20, 2021.

9:30 am (PST) Master's Ceremony

1:45 pm (PST) Bachelor's Ceremony

Click [here](#) to watch the ceremony online on commencement day.

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: [Commencement in Las Vegas](#)