Western Governors University®

2023 Commencement in Seattle

July 15, 2023
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CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL—YOU DID IT!

Welcome to the WGU Alumni Community! You’re part of a family of more than 325,000 Night Owls, with special benefits that last well beyond your graduation.

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 access to premium services like LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight, The Teaching Channel, Nurses on Boards Coalition, and more! Offered learning resources are subject to change.

Keep learning at wgu.edu/alumnilearn

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

Get started at wgu.edu/career-services

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 at wgu.edu/nightowlnetwork

And there’s more
Visit our website to find other resources and ways to stay involved. Look for military alumni resources, explore discounts, shop WGU merchandise, and keep an eye on other alumni events!

Join the community at wgu.edu/alumni

WGU Alumni

Learn more.
wgu.edu/alumni  866.225.5948
Commencement
Saturday, July 15

Master’s Check-in Time: 8:30 am
Master’s Ceremony Start Time 9:30 am

Bachelor’s Check-in Time: 12:30 pm
Bachelor’s Ceremony Start Time: 1:30 pm

Event is open seating, first-come, first-served. Guest tickets are required. Print/Screenshot Ticket Here

Guest Services
Guest Services is available on the Main Concourse near Section 24, and in the Alaska Airlines Atrium on the Upper Concourse by the stairs and escalators on the West side.

EMT/First Aid
First Aid rooms are available on the Main and Upper Concourses. In the event of a medical emergency, please contact a Guest Services or Security team member for assistance. Trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) are available on site and can respond to any location in the arena.

Guest Seating
Seating is first come, first served. Guests should be seated with their cell phones on silent before the ceremony 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.

Parking
Garage and street parking are available near Seattle Center.
Concessions
Concession options will be available for guests. Outside food and beverage (including alcoholic beverages) are strictly prohibited.

Lost Children
Lost children/individuals should be taken to the nearest Usher or Security Guard. If you become separated from your child or guests, please proceed to Guest Services for further assistance.

Lost & Found Items
During an event, guests can report lost items or turn in found items to our Guest Services desk locations on the Main Concourse near Section 24 or on the Upper Concourse in the SW corner of the Alaska Airlines Atrium. To inquire about a lost item after an event, guests must send all lost and found item details to lostandfound@climatepledgearena.com.

Infants and Young Children
For your child’s comfort and as a courtesy to graduates and other guests, we encourage you to bring toys, 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. 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.

Sensory Room
Complimentary sensory bags containing fidget tools and noise-cancelling headphones, feeling thermometer cards and identification cards that allow arena team members to recognize that the individual has a sensory need, are available for checkout at all Guest Services desk locations. Guests may also visit the Sensory Room located on the North East side of the PitchBook Suite Level for guests who may feel overstimulated or overwhelmed at our events.

Strollers
Guests are welcome to bring strollers into Climate Pledge Arena. Strollers too large to fit under a seat can be stored at the Guest Services desk on the Main Concourse. Strollers should not be left unattended in aisles or other public spaces.

Bag Policy
For the health and safety of all guests, and to expedite the entry process, Climate Pledge Arena requests that guests do not bring a bag to the arena.

If necessary, guests are permitted to bring a bag that fits within the following specifications:

• One clear bag that does not exceed 14”x14”x6” in size
• Small clutches/purses/wallets that do not exceed 4.5”x6.5” in size

Clear Bags larger than 4.5”x6.5” will be inspected. Medical bags and diaper bags are permitted, though we encourage you bring only what is needed. All medical and diaper bags will be searched and examined.

Smoking
Climate Pledge Arena is a smoke-free venue. Smoking is not permitted in the arena at any time. Additionally, electronic smoking devices are not permitted to be used on premises.
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 the Graduate Check-in Area.

**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.
Please review the Climate Pledge Arena Accessibility Guide for more information on accessible services, programs and policies for our guests with disabilities.

**Wheelchairs**

Guests who require additional assistance because of a limitation in mobility can request a wheelchair transport from the entry doors to the Arena to their seating location.

A Guest Services Accessibility Assistant will escort guests to their seat, and pre-arrange a pick-up time if they choose to leave before the end of the event. This service is available on a first come, first served basis, and may be requested from any team member at the entry doors. Please note that arena wheelchairs cannot be left with guests during the event. If you require the use of a wheelchair for the duration of the event, please contact Guest Services.

**ASL**

American Sign Language interpreting is available onsite for each commencement ceremony. 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.

**Restrooms**

Restrooms can be found on each level of the arena. All-Gender & Family Restrooms are available on the Event Level, Main Concourse, Upper Concourse, and in the Space Needle Lounge. All restrooms are accessible and have changing tables.

**Service Animals**

Trained service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are welcome at Climate Pledge Arena. Service animals must remain on a leash or in a harness at all times, unless special circumstances exist, and are required to rest in the seating area of the guest with the disability, rather than the aisle. All other animals, pets, and wildlife are prohibited. Animal relief areas can be accessed by exiting through the East Main Entrance on the Upper Concourse. Please see a Guest Services Representative for exit and re-entry.

**Sensory Room**

Guests may visit our Sensory Room located on the Suite Level for guests who may feel overstimulated or overwhelmed at our events.

**Accessible Parking**

All parking garages on Climate Pledge Arena’s campus have ADA accessible parking spaces. Please contact the nearest on-site parking attendant upon arrival so that they may best assist you and accommodate your needs.
Kraken Team Store:
Located inside The Armory.
Non-game/Non-event Days: 11am - 6pm
Game/Concert Days: 11am - 8pm
The Lair open on game days only.

Rideshare Pick-up:
Through Campus to Taylor Ave. & Thomas Ave.

Seattle Center Monorail:
In Seattle Center Campus past Fisher Pavilion and The Armory.

King County Metro Bus:
Buses 1, 2, 8, 13, & D Line stop at the corner of 1st Ave. N. & Republican St.
GRADUATE CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

GRAD PASS

ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT

You will be sent an email with a GradPass with your own personal QR code. This code must be available on your device and visible for check-in.

1) Once you receive this email, please take a screen shot so you can easily find and access this QR code.
2) Please make sure your device is with you, your device is charged, and the display brightness is set on the brightest position.
3) When you arrive for check-in, please have your device out with the screen visible for the commencement ambassadors to see.
4) Your Grad Pass will be scanned before you cross the stage during the ceremony. Please have your Grad Pass ready to be scanned as you line up to cross the stage.

GRAD PASS:

Sage the Owl

Your College Here
Degree: Nocturnal Studies

WGU Commencement
Location
Date
Address

Note: This pass is to be used by the graduate listed above when crossing the stage. This is not a guest ticket. Please take a screen shot of this pass for easy access.

1281895494
Guests attending Commencement in Seattle to celebrate their graduate will need to show this ticket upon entry to Climate Pledge Arena.

- Please screenshot or print out the ticket and send it to your guests. They will need to show it to enter Climate Pledge Arena.
- **Note:** Tickets are unlimited.
- Graduates will show their GradPass, which will be emailed the week of commencement.
- Re-entry to Climate Pledge Arena is not permitted. Please stay for the duration of the commencement.

[Click Here to Print or Screenshot Ticket]
BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT
All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony must arrive wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, hood, and gown. No changing rooms on site.
[Video: How to Wear Bachelor’s Regalia]
[Video: How to Wear Master’s Regalia]

8:30 am Graduate Check-in
Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in Area.
At graduate check in, you will have the opportunity to pick up your philanthropy cord, military cord, and/or scholarship pin. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase and you can visit with our name readers to clarify pronunciation. If you notice that there are errors on your GradPass, please visit the Help Desk.

8:30 am - 9:15 am Graduate Pre-Seating
After checking in, graduates will be guided directly to the arena floor where they will be seated with their colleges. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

9:30 am Commencement Ceremony Begins
The ceremony will begin promptly at 9:30 am. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

Conferral of Degree Order
Graduates are called to stage by college and not in alphabetical order.
College of Business
Leavitt School of Health
College of Information Technology
School of Education

After the Ceremony
Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates outside at the main entrance.
BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT
All graduates participating in the commencement ceremony must arrive wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, hood, and gown. No changing rooms on site.

**Video: How to Wear Bachelor’s Regalia**
**Video: How to Wear Master’s Regalia**

12:30 pm Graduate Check-in

**Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in Area.**
At graduate check in, you will have the opportunity to pick up your philanthropy cord, military cord, and/or scholarship pin. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase and you can visit with our name readers to clarify pronunciation. If you notice that there are errors on your GradPass, please visit the Help Desk.

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm Graduate Pre-Seating
After checking in, graduates will be guided directly to the arena floor where they will be seated with their colleges. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

1:30 pm Commencement Ceremony Begins
The ceremony will begin promptly at 1:30 pm. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

Conferral of Degree Order
Graduates are called to stage by college and not in alphabetical order.
College of Business
Leavitt School of Health
College of Information Technology
School of Education

After the Ceremony
Families and guests: please plan to meet graduates outside at the main entrance.
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

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

You can help current WGU students cross the finish line to graduation by purchasing a philanthropy cord to wear with your cap and gown. All proceeds support the WGU Fellow Night Owl Scholarship Fund.

MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY!

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

Visit the WGU Advancement table at the Alumni Celebration or Commencement Check-in to pick up your philanthropy cord. Have a question? Email advancement@wgu.edu.
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/
**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, July 15.

**Commencement Ceremony**
Saturday, July 15, 2023

Master’s Ceremony  
Ceremony Time: 9:30 am PDT

Bachelor’s Ceremony  
Ceremony Time: 1:30 pm PDT

**Photography**
During the WGU Commencement, The Grad Team 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 week after commencement, Grad Team will post commencement photos online. Visit thegradteam.com/events/wgu to view commencement photos.

**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.

**Contact**
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 visit the Commencement website.

Please download our Seattle Commencement App.
REFER YOUR FRIENDS TO WGU!

When you send your Refer-a-Friend link to your friends and family, and they fill out the form to learn more about WGU, you earn a $30 gift card to the WGU Store!

Scan the QR Code or visit wgu.onl/wgufriends to share WGU with your friends and family.