Western Governors University®

2023 WGU Commencement Weekend in Washington D.C.

April 21 - April 22, 2023

#WGUgrad
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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 300,000 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
Schedule of Events

Commencement Ceremony
(All Graduates)
Friday, April 21
Check-in Time: 3 pm EDT
Ceremony Time: 4 pm EDT

Convocation Ceremonies
Saturday, April 22

College of Business & College of IT
Check-in Time: 8:30 am EDT
Ceremony Time: 9:30 am EDT

Leavitt School of Health & School of Education
Check-in Time: 12:30 pm EDT
Ceremony Time: 1:30 pm EDT

Guest Services
Representatives are ready to assist you with any questions or concerns you may have at our Guest Services location across from Portal 4 on the West side of the building.

EMT/First Aid
EagleBank Arena has a medical professional on-site to assist with medical needs and emergencies during an event. Guests in need of emergency medical attention should contact the nearest staff member for assistance. The First Aid station is located across from Portal 17.

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
Due to the arena’s location on George Mason University’s campus, guests are encouraged to arrive early to ensure timely entry into the arena. Park in lots A or L for the best access to the arena entrances.
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 (across from Portal 4) for further assistance.

Lost & Found Items
Immediately following each event, EagleBank Arena is cleaned and any items left in the arena are recovered and given to our Lost and Found department. If you think you may have left some of your personal belongings behind while attending an event at EagleBank Arena, please contact Donna Whitaker at (703) 993-3002.

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. 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.

Quiet Room
EagleBank Arena provides a waiting area/lounge for parents or other persons who are waiting for others in attendance at an event. All Quiet Room patrons enter via the administrative entrance on the lower level.

Strollers
Strollers are permitted at the venue. However, their use cannot inhibit guest movement or block any aisles. Smaller, umbrella-style strollers can be stored underneath a seat if it does not create an obstruction for other guests.

Bag Policy
Only bags that are smaller than 14 inches long, 14 inches tall and 6 inches wide are permitted at EagleBank Arena and all bags will be searched upon entering the arena. No luggage. EagleBank Arena reserves the right to refuse items which may cause a danger or disruption to the event or to other guests, or which are in breach of building policies and/or the list of prohibited items. Any guest who declines to be searched or is in possession of prohibited items may be denied entry or ejected from the facility.

Smoking
EagleBank Arena is a smoke-free facility. Our smoking guests may exit at the East entrance to smoke outside on the balcony. For some events this location is otherwise utilized and another entry may be used instead. EagleBank Arena reserves the right to prohibit smoking entirely for some events.
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.
Wheelchairs
Guests in need of a wheelchair may request wheelchair assistance at the WGU Information Table, located inside the guest entrance. A limited number of wheelchairs are available for transporting guests to/from their seats. Wheelchairs cannot be left with the patron for the duration of the event. WGU Staff and ADA assistance teams will not be allowed to assist in transfers.

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.

Restrooms
The venue has accessible restroom facilities on both the concourse level and arena floor.

Service Animals
Animals or pets of any kind are prohibited with the exception of trained service animals. Service animals are welcome inside of EagleBank Arena and must remain on a leash or harness at all times.

Quiet Room
EagleBank Arena provides a waiting area/lounge for parents or other persons who are waiting for others in attendance at an event. All Quiet Room patrons enter via the administrative entrance on the lower level.

Accessible Parking
Parking is available for guests with disabilities at both the South and West entrances, including a drop-off location near the West entrance. Van accessible parking spaces are located adjacent to the South entrance. These spaces are well-marked and are monitored by our staff. Please remember that all vehicles must display state-issued accessible parking tags or placards to park in these spaces.
There is no charge to park at EagleBank Arena for WGU grads and their Guests.

ENTER THE LOTS from Po River Rd. via Roanoke River Rd. Enter campus from Braddock Rd. for easiest access.

Park in Lots L or Lot A for best access to arena entrances.
Friday, April 21, 2023
3:00 pm EDT Graduate Check-in
Follow signs to Graduate Check-in

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 Master’s Regalia]
[Video: How to Wear Bachelor’s Regalia]

3:00 pm EDT 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 cord. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase and you can visit with our name readers.

3:00 pm - 3:45 pm EDT 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.

4:00 pm EDT Commencement Ceremony
The ceremony will begin promptly at 4:00 pm. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

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

8:30 am EDT 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 cord. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase and you can visit with our name readers.

8:30 am - 9:15 am EDT 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 EDT 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
College of Information Technology

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

12:30 pm EDT 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 cord. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase and you can visit with our name readers.

12:30 pm - 1:15 pm EDT 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 EDT 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.
Leavitt School of Health
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 AND CONTACT INFO**

**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 Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22.

**Commencement Ceremony (All Graduates)**
Friday, April 21  
Ceremony Time: 4 pm EDT

**Convocation Ceremonies**
Saturday, April 22

- College of Business & College of IT  
  Ceremony Time: 9:30 am EDT
- Leavitt School of Health & School of Education  
  Ceremony Time: 1:30 pm EDT

**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](http://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](mailto:commencement@wgu.edu). You may also call 385-428-2085 or visit the Commencement [website](http://www.wgu.edu). Please [download](http://www.wgu.edu) our Washington, DC 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.
ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT (ALL CEREMONIES)

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

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 QR code on the screen and visible for the ambassadors to scan.

GRAD PASS:
Thomas Jefferson
College of Information Technology
M.S. Cybersecurity and Information Assurance

WGU Commencement in DC - College of Business &
College of IT Convocation Ceremony
Saturday, April 22, 2023 at 9:30 AM
EagleBank Arena
4500 Patriot Cir, Fairfax, VA 22030

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