



# **WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT**

**FORT WORTH  
OCTOBER 19, 2024**

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# CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL—TODAY YOU BECOME AN ALUMNI!

All of your hard work and sacrifices have paid off, graduate! You're joining more than **350,000** Night Owls who make up our alumni family. It's time to enjoy more benefits that come with your achievement.

## COMMIT TO LIFELONG LEARNING

Professional and continuing education extend beyond your time at WGU as a graduate. We are here to support your ongoing professional development by offering access to premium services such as LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight®, the Teaching Channel®, Nurses on Boards Coalition®, and more!

Keep learning at the forefront of your mind at [wgu.edu/alumnilearn](https://wgu.edu/alumnilearn).

## PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Taking time to engage in professional development opportunities not only keeps you cutting edge in your field, it also allows you to network with other professionals and develop your professional brand—all of which can advance your career. WGU's Career and Professional Development team is here to help you thrive.

Get started at [wgu.edu/career-services](https://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](https://wgu.edu/nightowlnetwork).

## STAY CONNECTED

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](https://wgu.edu/alumni).

## Learn more.

[wgu.edu/alumni](https://wgu.edu/alumni) 866.225.5948



**JUSTIN H.**  
M.S. Management and Leadership  
WGU Graduate

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## Alumni Celebration

**Friday, October 18**

**6:00–9:00 p.m.**

Fort Worth Zoological Association  
1989 Colonial Parkway  
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

**All graduates attending the 2024 WGU Commencement in Fort Worth are invited to join us for the Alumni Celebration at the Fort Worth Zoo.**

**This family-friendly, come-and-go event is free to attend, and we encourage graduates and guests to dress in business attire.**

### Parking

Free parking is available on-site.

### Contact Information

Alumni Celebration: [alumnievents@wgu.edu](mailto:alumnievents@wgu.edu)

Alumni Celebration ADA and accessibility: [alumnievents@wgu.edu](mailto:alumnievents@wgu.edu)

Commencement questions: [commencement@wgu.edu](mailto:commencement@wgu.edu)

### At the celebration, you can:

- Pose for professional portraits: Elevate your LinkedIn profile with free professional portraits, courtesy of WGU!
- Meet with local employers for career opportunities.
- Reconnect with Alumni in your area.
- Visit our affiliated partnership booths to receive career advice, purchase WGU swag, pick up your WGU Philanthropy Cord, and more.
- Take photos in our social photo booth and share using #WGUgrad.
- Meet Sage the Night Owl!
- Enjoy light appetizers, refreshments, and self-pay bars.
- Hit the dance floor or play family-friendly games with a fun WGU twist.

**Please note: 2024 Fort Worth graduates are allowed to bring up to five (5) total guests, and invited special alumni guests are allowed to bring up to three (3) total guests.**





# COMMENCEMENT AT DICKIES ARENA

**Saturday, October 19**

**Dickies Arena**

1911 Montgomery Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

**Leavitt School of Health and  
School of Education**

Graduate Check-In: 8:30 a.m.

Commencement Ceremony: 9:30 a.m.

**School of Business and School of  
Technology**

Graduate Check-In: 12:30 p.m.

Commencement Ceremony: 1:30 p.m.



**All graduates must check in  
before the ceremony!**

**Graduates must check in before the ceremony.**

Grads, please have your GradPass pulled up on your phone screen to be scanned.

All guests and bags are subject to search. Bags are not to exceed 12"x6"x12". A clear tote, small purse, small fashion backpack, small clutch, plastic storage bags and drawstring bags are acceptable if they don't exceed the size of 12"x6"x12".

After the ceremony—families will meet their graduates outside on the plaza.

# LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024**

**LOCATION:** Dickies Arena, 1911 Montgomery Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

**Leavitt School of Health and School of Education**

Graduate Check-In: 8:30 a.m.

Ceremony Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

## **GRADUATE CHECK-IN: 8:30 A.M.**

At graduate check-in, you will have the opportunity to pick up your philanthropy, military, and/or scholarship cord. 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.

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

## **GRADUATE PRE-SEATING: 8:30 A.M.**

After checking in, graduates will be guided directly to the arena floor where they will be seated with their schools. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

## **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: 9:30 A.M.**

The ceremony will begin promptly. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

### **Conferral of Degree Order**

- Leavitt School of Health
- School of Education

*Note: Graduates are called to the stage by schools and not in alphabetical order.*

## **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 are available.

## **AFTER THE CEREMONY**

Families will meet their graduates outside outside on the plaza.

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

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



**Remember to follow  
signs at check-in!**

# SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2024**

**LOCATION:** Dickies Arena, 1911 Montgomery Street  
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

## **School of Business and School of Technology**

Graduate Check-In: 12:30 p.m.

Ceremony Start Time: 1:30 p.m.

## **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 are available.

## **AFTER THE CEREMONY**

Families will meet their graduates outside on the plaza.



**Remember to follow  
signs at check-in!**

## **GRADUATE CHECK-IN: 12:30 P.M.**

At graduate check-in, you will have the opportunity to pick up your philanthropy, military, and/or scholarship cord. 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.

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

## **GRADUATE PRE-SEATING: 12:30 P.M.**

After checking in, graduates will be guided directly to the arena floor where they will be seated with their schools. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

## **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: 1:30 P.M.**

The ceremony will begin promptly. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

## **Conferral of Degree Order**

- School of Business
- School of Technology

***Note: Graduates are called to the stage by schools and not in alphabetical order.***

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

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



# DICKIES ARENA POLICIES

## GUEST SERVICES

Guest Services is located on the main plaza concourse across from Section 117. Trained Guest Services professionals are readily available to assist guests with any needs. Please stop by for more information regarding Dickies Arena events, directions, or assistance.

## EMT/FIRST AID

Trained Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) will be available to assist guests at all events. First Aid is located on the Plaza Level across from section 117; however, EMTs are mobile and can assist anywhere in the building.

Dickies Arena is equipped with Automatic External Defibrillators (AED), which have been placed throughout the building. Designated staff members, including EMT staff, have been properly trained on how to operate the AED. If assistance is needed, contact a staff member immediately.

## 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.

## PARKING

Please park in the YELLOW lots or in the CHEVROLET GARAGE.

Parking is \$20 per vehicle.

## CONCESSIONS

Dickies Arena offers a wide variety of menu offerings and service styles throughout the arena. Outside food and beverages are not permitted. Guests with specific dietary needs due to medical conditions or religious requirements should email us at [accessibility@dickiesarena.com](mailto:accessibility@dickiesarena.com) to learn of available offerings and/or coordinate special food entry options. Containers such as bottles, cans, thermoses, or coolers are prohibited from entering the building, except plastic baby bottles containing formula.

## LOST CHILDREN

Guests are encouraged to register their child in the Missing Guest Prevention Program before the start of the event at Guest Services in Section 117. Each participating child will be given a bracelet containing parent/guardian contact information. Lost children/guests should be directed to the Guest Services office located on the concourse at Section 117. Parents/guardians looking for a lost guest should reach out to a member of the Dickies Arena Guest Services and Security team immediately.

## BAG POLICY

All guests and bags are subject to search. Bags are not to exceed **12"x6"x12"**.

A clear tote, small purse, small fashion backpack, small clutch, plastic storage bags, and drawstring bags are acceptable if they don't exceed the size of **12"x6"x12"**.

**Graduates and guests are encouraged not to bring bags with them to the event.**



# DICKIES ARENA POLICIES

## MOTHERS' LOUNGE

Nursing mothers' rooms are available at all arena events. To utilize the nursing rooms located across from Sections 117 and 217, please notify Guest Services at Section 117 or see a Dickies Arena Guest Services or Security team member. This room is first come, first served and will close at the end of each event. Guests looking to access these spaces can check in at a guest services location, and a representative will assist. Housekeeping team members will be deployed to sanitize the rooms between each guest.

## LOST-AND-FOUND ITEMS

Any guest who has lost an item during an event will be directed to Guest Services, located at Section 117. All found items should be returned to the same location or given to any guest service/security team member. Guests inquiring about lost items post-event should call **817-502-0053** or reach out via email at **lostandfound@dickiesarena.com**. All items not claimed 30 days after the event will be discarded.

## ACCESSIBILITY

All Dickies Arena staff are committed to providing a memorable and safe experience for all our guests, including those with disabilities and special needs. If you need assistance during an event, please visit **Guest Services at Section 117** or see any available staff member.

Accessible/disabled seating is available on all levels of Dickies Arena. Accessible seating is reserved for guests with accessibility needs and their companions.

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING & ACCESS MAP

Parking for guests displaying a state-issued handicapped placard or license plate is available in all lots. Accessible parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Parking rates apply and may vary in conjunction with the event and/or parking area.

Guests who are seeking ADA parking are encouraged to park in the yellow Lots on Trail Drive. Guests can access an elevator to the left of the southeast circle stairs that will take them to the Simmons Bank Plaza.

See below for accessible routes to all our main entrances:

**North Entrance:** A wheelchair ramp allows guests to access the north doors when they are dropped off or coming over from the Will Rogers Complex.

**East Entrance:** The northeast corner of the Simmons Bank Plaza has an elevator to assist disabled guests from the Will Rogers Complex. Guests parking in accessible spaces in the yellow lots have access to an elevator outside the southeast corner of the arena that will bring guests to the Simmons Bank Plaza.

**South Entrance:** Guests parking in the Chevrolet Garage can utilize the garage elevators to assist them to Level Three, where an accessible pedestrian bridge will lead guests to the south doors at the Simmons Bank Plaza.

**West Entrance:** The ground-level entry doors are accessible to all guests walking from Montgomery Street or nearby neighborhoods.

For a map of the Yellow Lot/ADA parking, [please click here](#).

# DICKIES ARENA POLICIES

## SENSORY INCLUSION

Dickies Arena has a Sensory Needs Room, which is located on the northwest corner of the 200 level. This space is available to any guest. Guests looking to access this space can check in at a guest services location (Section 117), and a representative will assist. Housekeeping team members will be deployed to sanitize the rooms in between each guest.

## RESTROOMS

All public restrooms are accessible to our guests with disabilities. Accessible family restrooms are also available throughout Dickies Arena.

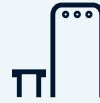
## SERVICE ANIMALS

Animals or pets of any kind are not permitted into Dickies Arena, with the exception of trained service animals and service animals in training for guests with disabilities. Service animals must be leashed at all times unless performing a necessary task for their handler, which requires removing the leash. Handlers are responsible for cleaning up after their service animal and for any damages caused by the service animal. An animal relief area is provided in the East Plaza. A guest whose service animal threatens the safety of other guests and/or employees may be asked to escort the animal off the premises. To better accommodate guests with service animals, please notify our Guest Services department at [accessibility@dickiesarena.com](mailto:accessibility@dickiesarena.com) or call **817-402-9000** before your arrival for an event.

## NO SMOKING

Smoking is not permitted inside Dickies Arena, inside the Chevrolet Garage, or 30 feet from any public entrance at any time. This policy includes electronic cigarette devices and vape pens.

## GRADUATES



There will be a metal detector—bring only your phone with you!



Please have your GradPass up on your phone screen.



Please do not bring any bags or purses with you to the ceremonies.

# PARKING AND ENTRANCE MAP



# COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM



## ABOUT

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, rewarding, and distraction-free ceremony that recognizes their hard work and the sacrifices they have made to reach this point. WGU believes that mutually respectful participation by graduates and their guests is the best way to accomplish this shared intention. In preparation for Commencement, WGU has outlined a protocol. Your and your guests' adherence 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 their gowns rather than casual clothing. Master's degree graduates will need a hood specific to their degree. 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.

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 lay flat on the cap.

## 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.

## MILITARY




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.

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

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

## COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

To promote a respectful, comfortable, and disturbance-free experience for our 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.
-  • Cheer respectfully and avoid disruptive outbursts to allow the families and guests of other graduates to hear their graduate's name when read.



# WGU ACADEMIC CORDS AND HOODS

## GRADUATE CORDS:



### **MILITARY**

Red, white, and blue



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Gold and white



### **PHILANTHROPY**

Navy, gold, and light blue



### **WOMEN IN TECH**

Purple and white



### **NSLS**

Black and silver

## MASTER HOODS:



### **SALMON**

Master of Science in Integrated  
Healthcare Management



### **DRAB**

School of Business



### **APRICOT**

Nursing



### **SAGE**

Master of Health Leadership



### **BRIGHT GOLD**

School of Technology



### **LIGHT BLUE**

School of Education



# GRADUATE CHECK-IN PROCEDURE GRADPASS



The week of 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 screenshot 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 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 GradPass will be scanned before you cross the stage during the ceremony. Please have your GradPass ready to be scanned as you line up to cross the stage.

## SAMPLE GRADPASS




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



**EMILY B.**  
M.S. Secondary Ed. Mathematics  
WGU Graduate

# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

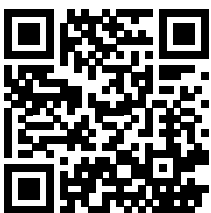
**Receive  
a WGU  
philanthropy  
cord!**



**Donate \$25 or more 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, too, 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](https://wgu.edu/philanthropycords)

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](mailto:advancement@wgu.edu).



# WEBCAST AND CONTACT INFO

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, October 19, 2024.

[Live Commencement](#)

## DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19

Leavitt School of Health and School of Education

Ceremony Start Time: 9:30 a.m. CT

School of Business and School of Technology

Ceremony Start Time: 1:30 p.m. CT

## PHOTOGRAPHY

During the WGU Commencement, the Grad Team 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, the Grad Team will post commencement photos online.

Visit [thegradteam.com/events/wgu](https://thegradteam.com/events/wgu) to view Commencement photos.

## SPECIAL NOTE:

A graduate's appearance and participation are recorded at Commencement. This may include but is not 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 visit the [Commencement website](#).

Please [download](#) our Commencement app.



**DAVID L.**  
M.S. Curriculum and Instruction  
WGU Graduate



# REFER YOUR FRIENDS TO WGU!

Share WGU with  
your friends and  
family by using your  
Refer-a-Friend link.

You'll earn **500 points**  
in the Owl's Nest once  
they've completed  
their application!



Scan the QR Code or visit [wgu.onl/wgufriends](https://wgu.onl/wgufriends)  
to share WGU with your friends and family.