



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

ATLANTA, GA

OCTOBER 9-10, 2026

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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 **500,000** 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.

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.

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.

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.

Learn more

wgu.edu/alumni | 866.225.5948



ATLANTA ALUMNI CELEBRATION

YOU'RE INVITED!

Friday, October 9, 2026
Flight One & Flight Two

GAS SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER

6400 Sugarloaf Parkway
Duluth, GA 30097

WGU CELEBRATION SESSION: FIRST FLIGHT

Celebration Session 1 | 5:00–6:30 PM

Doors Open: 5:00 PM

Location: Gas South Convention Center – Grand Ballroom

WGU CELEBRATION SESSION: SECOND FLIGHT

Celebration Session 2 | 7:30–9:00 PM

Doors Open: 7:30 PM

Location: Gas South Convention Center – Grand Ballroom

Please arrive during your assigned Celebration Session.

CELEBRATE YOUR WGU JOURNEY

Kick off your commencement weekend with an exclusive WGU Alumni Celebration honoring the Class of 2026 at the Gas South Convention Center – Grand Ballroom!

All graduates attending the 2026 WGU Commencement in Atlanta are invited to join us for an evening filled with celebration, connection, and fun alongside fellow graduates, alumni, family, and friends.

YOUR CELEBRATION SESSION

To create a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone, each graduate and their guests will be assigned to one of two Celebration Sessions. Your session assignment will be provided several weeks before the event.

When you arrive, please have a copy of your Celebration Session email available for check-in. You will also need your stage pass, which will be emailed to you during commencement week.

Upon arrival, you and your guests will receive a Celebration wristband identifying your assigned session.



ATLANTA ALUMNI CELEBRATION

WHAT TO EXPECT

At your Celebration Session, you can:

- Receive a complimentary professional portrait (graduates only) to elevate your LinkedIn profile, courtesy of WGU.
- Connect and network with alumni in your area.
- Visit partner and affiliated booths to purchase WGU swag, pick up your WGU Philanthropy Cord, and more.
- Capture memories at our interactive photo booths and share your experience using #WGUgrad.
- Meet Sage the Night Owl.
- Enjoy light appetizers and refreshments, with self-pay bars available.
- Dance, mingle, and participate in family-friendly activities with a fun WGU twist.

GOOD TO KNOW

This family-friendly, come-and-go celebration is free to attend. Graduates and (6 - max) guests are encouraged to dress in business or cocktail attire and come ready to celebrate this exciting milestone.

Come for the networking. Stay for the celebration.

We can't wait to celebrate you and welcome you into the WGU Night Owl alumni community!

This event is RSVP-only. If you have not submitted an RSVP, your name will not be on the guest list, and you will not be permitted entry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Alumni Celebration:

alumnievents@wgu.edu

Alumni Celebration ADA and accessibility:

alumnievents@wgu.edu

Commencement questions:

commencement@wgu.edu



COMMENCEMENT IN ATLANTA

Saturday, OCTOBER 10, 2026

GAS SOUTH ARENA

6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy
Duluth, GA 30097

MORNING CEREMONY

Graduate Check-In and Pre-seating: **8:30 a.m.**

Commencement Ceremony: **9:30 a.m.**

After the Ceremony: Families will meet their graduates outside on the plaza.

AFTERNOON CEREMONY

Graduate Check-In and Pre-seating: **12:30 p.m.**

Commencement Ceremony: **1:30 p.m.**

After the Ceremony: Families will meet their graduates outside on the plaza.



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

GRADUATES MUST CHECK IN BEFORE THE CEREMONY.

Please have your Stage Pass pulled up on your phone screen to be scanned.

TICKETS

All guests will need a ticket to attend the event and enter Gas South Arena. Tickets are free. Tickets are obtained by the graduates through email. An email will be sent to the email address they put on their Atlanta Commencement RSVP with the option to claim up to 8 guest tickets. If additional guest tickets are needed, please email commencement@wgu.edu with the number of additional tickets requested as well as an email address to send the tickets to.

MORNING CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 2026**

LOCATION: Gas South Arena
6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy
Duluth, GA 30097

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

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

Graduate Pre-Seating: **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 Stage Pass, 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!

Note:

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

Graduates will receive their complimentary diploma cover after the conclusion of the ceremony.

REGALIA

Graduates can wear their regalia through security as long as it is unzipped. Please do not zip up your gown until you get through security. Caps are okay to wear through security, you may be subject to extra security checks. We will have a team of WGU employees who can help you with your cap, gown, cords, masters hoods, etc during your check-in process.

[Video: How to Wear Regalia](#)



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

AFTERNOON CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 2026**

LOCATION: Gas South Arena
6400 Sugarloaf Pkwy
Duluth, GA 30097

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

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

Graduate Pre-Seating: **12:30 p.m.**

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

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 Stage Pass, 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!

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[Video: How to Wear Regalia](#)



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

GAS SOUTH ARENA POLICIES

GUEST SERVICES

The Guest Services desk is located immediately to the left in the lobby of the main entrance. The personnel manning the desk are available to answer any questions about the facility, upcoming events and available services.

EMT/FIRST AID

First aid personnel can be found to the left in the main lobby at Section 100/122. If you are in need of medical attention, please contact the nearest Event Staff member to contact first aid.

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

Use Lot A and Deck 2. Arena event parking in those lots typically begins two (2) hours before the scheduled event time. Please visit the [Directions & Parking](#) page for general parking information and rates.

CONCESSIONS

Please visit the In-Venue Dining Options page for more information and a list of concessions at Gas South District®. We are a cashless venue, and all concessions purchases must be made with a credit or debit card, Apple Pay or a Proof of the Pudding gift card.

LOST CHILDREN

Guests looking for their lost child/person should report directly to the Guest Services desk, Concierge desk, or ask an Event Staff member for assistance.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

If you lose an item during an event, please contact any Gas South District® team member for assistance. Found items can be turned in to Guest Services. After an event, all items are turned over to our Security Department. Our Security Department is available 24 hours a day and can be reached at (770) 813-7540. Gas South District® is not responsible for lost items. Found items are held for up to 30 days.

BAG POLICY

Gas South District® encourages all fans to arrive early and travel light.

- In the interest of enhancing existing security measures and enforcing the most touch-free experience possible, Gas South District® requires clear bags.
- The safest and fastest way to enter the venue is to not bring a bag at all.
- No clear bag, purse, or drawstring larger than 12" x 12" x 6" will be permitted.
- All bags are subject to search before being allowed into the venue. Guests not allowing inspection of their bags or purses will be refused entry into the building.
- Backpacks are not permitted.
- Diaper bags for guests accompanied by infant(s) will be permitted.
- Medically necessary bags that are required to transport medical equipment will be permitted.
- Graduates can wear their regalia through security as long as it is unzipped. Please do not zip up your gown until you get through security. Caps are okay to wear through security, you may be subject to extra security checks.

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

NO SMOKING

Gas South District® is a NON-SMOKING facility. Smoking is not allowed in public areas of the facility, but there are designated smoking areas for patrons. Anyone observed smoking inside the facility will be asked to extinguish the item immediately. Any person who refuses to comply with the policy, after an appropriate warning, shall be subject to be removed from the facility. Please check with the nearest Event Staff member if you cannot locate the designated smoking areas. Electronic cigarettes are permitted through Security for events, but they may not be used inside the building. E-Cigarettes are permitted in designated smoking areas.

GAS SOUTH ARENA POLICIES

RESTROOMS

All public restrooms at Gas South District® are accessible for our guests with disabilities.

MOTHER'S LOUNGE

Gas South Arena® offers a small, private area for nursing mothers with a comfortable chair and access to power outlets for breast pumps. The room can be locked to ensure the mother's privacy. The Nursing Mothers room is located on the Arena concourse between Sections 100 and 101.

Please see a Guest Services representative for assistance in the Convention Center and Theater.

SERVICE ANIMALS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines service animals as "dogs that are individually trained to do work or perform tasks for people with disabilities." Service animals are welcome inside the Gas South District®. A service animal must be under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks. In that case, the individual must maintain control of the animal through voice, signal, or other effective controls. Service animals will rest in the seating area of the individual with a disability, rather than in the aisle. A guest whose service animal poses a threat to the safety of other guests and employees may be asked to escort the animal off the premises.

Animals that simply provide emotional comfort do not qualify as service animals under the ADA. Therefore, Emotional Support Animals (ESA's) are not permitted inside the Gas South District®.

SENSORY INCLUSION

A level-one sensory room space is accessible to guests. They can reach the sensory room via the West Suite elevator or the staircase located behind the escalator. Please reach out to the Gas South Arena staff for help getting to/from the sensory room.

GRADUATES



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



Please have your Stage Pass up on your phone screen.



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



Graduates are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes.

ACCESSIBILITY

Gas South District® meets or exceeds all public facility structural and service requirements as set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please visit our [Accessibility Guide](#) page for details.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING & ACCESS

A limited number of designated handicap parking areas are located at the front of the Arena. The designated handicap parking spaces are available on a first-come, first served basis and cannot be reserved in advance. Please contact a Parking Attendant to assist with drop-off or pick-up arrangements. Guests in wheelchairs should enter the building at the main entrance. The Arena has ADA parking on all levels of the parking deck and ADA parking in the front lot. Drop-offs for ADA should use Arena Drive (traffic light on Sugarloaf Parkway) and may be dropped off at the front of the Arena near the crosswalk.

GAS SOUTH ARENA GRADUATE AND GUEST ENTRANCE



GUESTS ENTER DOORS 2-3-4-5

Please have your guest tickets available prior to entry.



GRADUATES ENTER DOOR 102

Please have your Stage Pass and your *regalia unzipped* for security entrance.
(WGU ambassadors will be available to assist with regalia dressing)



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 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:

Graduates who have earned honor cords may pick them up from the affiliated partner tables during the Alumni Celebration on Friday night or during grad check-in on Saturday. Please reach out to the appropriate departments for more information about your cord eligibility.



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 STAGE PASS



The week of Commencement, you will be sent an email with a Stage Pass 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 Stage Pass will be scanned before you cross the stage during the ceremony. Please have your Stage Pass ready to be scanned as you line up to cross the stage.

SAMPLE STAGE PASS



STAGE 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 screenshot of this pass for easy access.



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CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

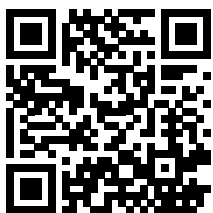
**Receive a WGU
philanthropy cord!**



Make a gift of \$25 or become a Sustaining Supporter with \$3/month to receive a commemorative Philanthropy Cord to wear at commencement.

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 fundraise.givesmart.com/f/269b/n?vid=1opwws

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.

ONLINE VIEWING

Family and guests who are unable to attend in person may view the ceremony online. To watch the ceremony live, please visit the [online link](#) on Saturday, October 10, 2026.

[Live Commencement](#)

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2026

MORNING CEREMONY

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

AFTERNOON CEREMONY

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

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 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.

You may also visit the [Commencement website](#).

Please [download](#) our Commencement app.

You can also visit the Help Desk at graduate check-in.



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 to share WGU with your friends and family.