



**WESTERN GOVERNORS  
UNIVERSITY  
COMMENCEMENT**

**LOUISVILLE, KY**

**JUNE 6, 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](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/nightownetwork](https://wgu.edu/nightownetwork).

## 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



# ALUMNI CELEBRATION

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Friday, June 5, 2026

6:00–9:00 p.m.

### CHURCHILL DOWNS FIRST TURN CLUB

700 Central Ave

Louisville, KY 40208

Kick off your commencement weekend with this exclusive alumni celebration in honor of our graduates!

All graduates attending the 2026 WGU Commencement in Louisville are invited to join us for the Alumni Celebration at Churchill Downs.

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

### AT THE CELEBRATION, YOU CAN:

- Free professional portraits (graduates only): 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
- Come for the networking, stay for the fun.
- Photo op lines close 15 minutes before the event ends (subject to change); arrive early to make the most of your evening

## 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)

Please note: 2026 Louisville graduates are allowed to bring up to six (6) total guests.



# COMMENCEMENT IN LOUISVILLE

**Saturday, June 6, 2026**

Leavitt School of Health, School of Education,  
School of Technology, & School of Business

## **KFC YUM! CENTER**

1 Arena Plaza  
Louisville, KY 40202

## **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.**

KFC Yum! Center encourages all guests to arrive early and travel light. In the interest of enhancing existing security measures and enforcing the most touch-free experience possible, KFC Yum! Center 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 14" x 14" 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.

Please note that helium balloons will not be permitted in the building

Please bring your cell phone with you to access your Stage Pass and minimal personal belongings.

# MORNING CEREMONY SCHEDULE

## DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

**LOCATION:** KFC Yum! Center  
1 Arena Plaza  
Louisville, KY 40202

## 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!

## CONFERRAL OF DEGREE ORDER

- Leavitt School of Health
- School of Education
- School of Technology
- School of Business

**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.*

## 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. Graduates are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes. Please have your Stage Pass pulled up on your phone screen to be scanned.

[Video: How to Wear Regalia](#)



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

# AFTERNOON CEREMONY SCHEDULE

## DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

**LOCATION:** KFC Yum! Center  
1 Arena Plaza  
Louisville, KY 40202

## 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!**

# KFC YUM! CENTER POLICIES

## GUEST SERVICES

Fan Assist (guest service) has plenty of on-site staff to assist patrons regarding general inquiries, seating questions, ticketing issues, accessible needs and assistance and information on future events. Fan Assist is available when the doors officially open for an event until the show's main act takes the stage.

Guest services staff including greeters, ushers, ticket takers, and security is available to assist patrons with general inquiries throughout the duration of an event.

## EMT/FIRST AID

First Aid is located on the Main Concourse's south-west corner by section 103.

## 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. There is no re-entry during events.

## PARKING

The KFC Yum! Center has a convenient multi-level garage located under the facility operated by PARC. There are also many other parking options in the surrounding area.

## CONCESSIONS

The KFC Yum! Center has portable points of concessions that offer something for everyone's taste.

## LOST CHILDREN

Please alert KFC Yum! Center guest services if a member of your party is lost during an event.

## BAG POLICY

All bags are subject to search upon entering the arena. Backpacks of any kind, including drawstring, fanny packs, computer bags, and camera bags are prohibited. Please plan accordingly to help facilitate a quick and efficient entry process. Please report suspicious bags to a KFC Yum! Center team member.

Bags no larger than 14" x 14" x 6" will be allowed into the arena for events.

Medical and parenting bags are permitted and subject to search.

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

## NO SMOKING

The KFC Yum! Center is a non-smoking facility. We ask that all patrons refrain from smoking until after leaving your event.

## MOTHER'S LOUNGE

Nursing Mother Rooms are located on the Main Concourse. A KFC Yum! Center Arena team member can help direct you to the closest location.

## LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Items found before, during, or after an event may be given to the KFC Yum! Center security office. During an event, please visit Fan Assist to inquire about lost items. Patrons may also contact the facility at (502) 690-9000 to inquire about lost items. The KFC Yum! Center and its staff are not responsible for lost or stolen items. Lost items not claimed within 30 days are donated to local charities.

# KFC YUM! CENTER POLICIES

## ACCESSIBILITY

The KFC Yum! Center is fully equipped with ADA Accessibility entrances and seating. Any patron who requires hearing or vision assisted seating may contact the KFC Yum! Center Ticket Office at (502) 690-9090. Wheelchair/mobility accessible seating may be purchased in person at the KFC Yum! Center box office. Guests that require ADA Accessibility Seating must request this at the time of ticket purchase.

Disabled or elderly patrons that need an ADA accessible entrance may utilize the drop-off area in front of the KFC Yum! Center on Main St. between Second and Third Streets. Patrons will be able to access the main entrance to the facility with the use of the ramps on the Pepsi Plaza.

Galt House Hotel and the PARC-operated garage located at the KFC Yum! Center are the two parking facilities that allow for direct interior access to the KFC Yum! Center and are ADA accessible. Patrons parking at the Galt House garage will enter the venue through use of the skywalk. Additional ADA accessible parking is available in a variety of parking garages, street lots, and on-street parking near the KFC Yum! Center. For more information, visit our [Directions & Parking](#) page.

## NAVIGATION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind, visually impaired guests can now navigate the KFC Yum! Center without assistance. GoodMaps technology transforms any smartphone into an audio guide that tells users exactly where they are in the venue and guides them — turn by turn, step by step — to elevators, restrooms, concession stands, arena seating areas and more. Download the GoodMaps Explore app for an Apple device or Android device today and easily navigate the KFC Yum! Center during your next event!

## 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.

## CERTIFIED SENSORY INCLUSIVE

After the arena's staff received training by leading medical professionals, the KFC Yum! Center was certified Sensory Inclusive by KultureCity in Fall 2018. To enable guests with sensory sensitivities or challenges to more fully enjoy events at KFC Yum! Center, the arena will provide sensory bags equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads. These items are available now at the Fan Assistance booths. We also have a sensory-friendly quiet space that will be available during all events for patrons located behind section 112 on the main concourse.

# KFC YUM! CENTER POLICIES

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING & ACCESS

Galt House Hotel and the PARC-operated garage located at the KFC Yum! Center are the two parking facilities that allow for direct interior access to the KFC Yum! Center and are ADA accessible. Patrons parking at the Galt House garage will enter the venue through use of the skywalk. Additional accessible parking is available in a variety of parking garages, street lots, and on-street parking near the KFC Yum! Center. For more information, visit our [Directions & Parking](#) page.

## SENSORY INCLUSION

KultureCity® has once again partnered with the KFC Yum! Center to make this location and all its programs and events Sensory Inclusive™. To enable guests with sensory sensitivities the arena will provide sensory bags equipped with noise-canceling headphones, fidget tools, verbal cue cards, and weighted lap pads. These items are available at the Fan Assistance booth.

We also have a sensory-friendly quiet space that will be available during all events for patrons located behind section 112 on the main concourse.

## RESTROOMS

Accessible restrooms are located throughout the Arena. Restrooms are accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. There are also accessible family restrooms located throughout the Arena.

## SERVICE ANIMALS

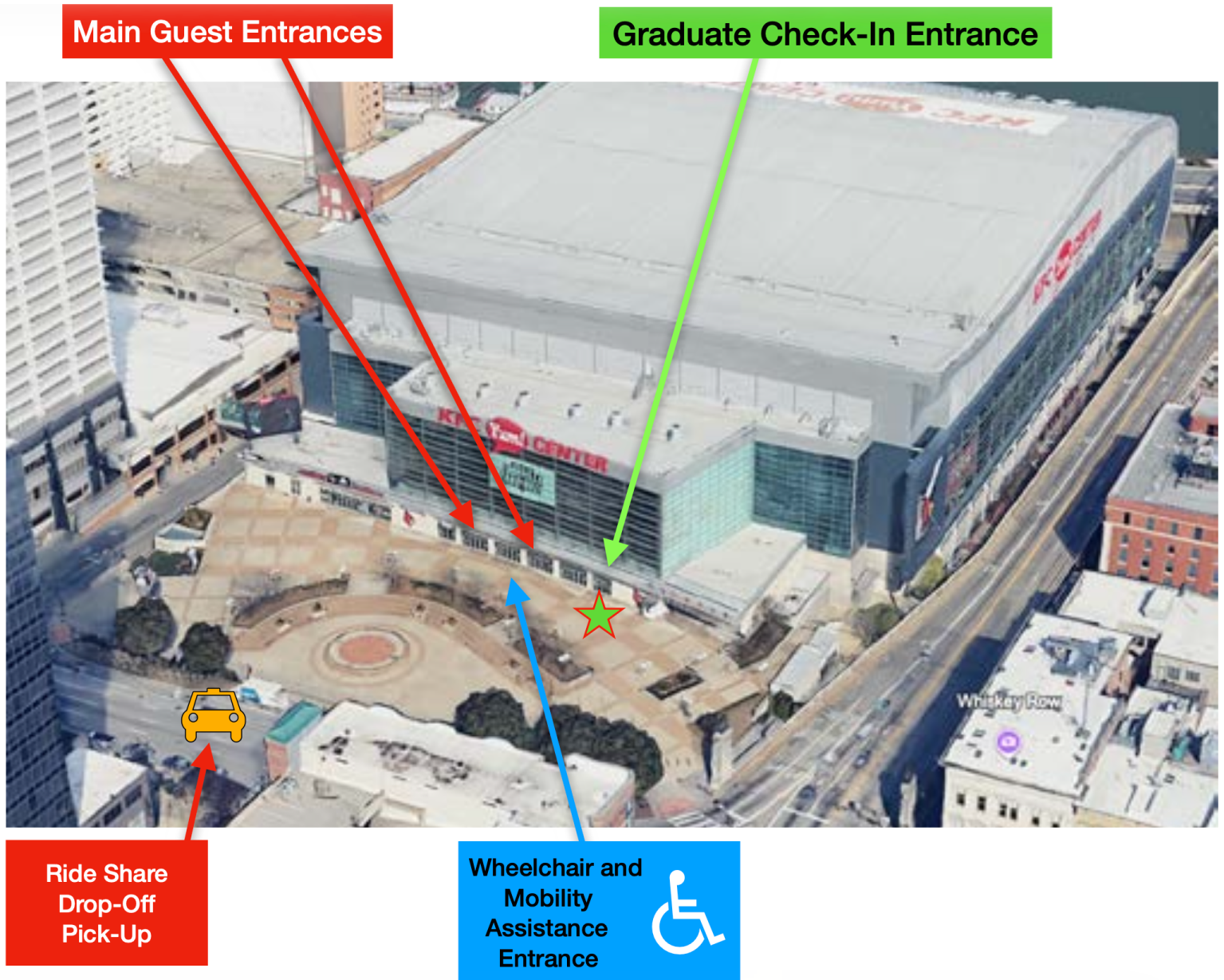
Pets are not permitted at the KFC Yum! Center. Guests with a disability who are assisted by a service dog may bring the service dog as permitted by the ADA. Guests who require assistance from their service dog while at the arena are encouraged to call the box office at 502-690-9090 in advance to confirm seating locations or seat relocations.

## BALLOON DROP

There will be a balloon drop during the close of the commencement ceremony. If you have a latex allergy, please alert a member of the WGU staff or Guest Services before the ceremony begins. They will assist you out of the arena prior to the balloon drop.



# KFC YUM! CENTER ENTRANCE & PARKING 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 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 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



# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

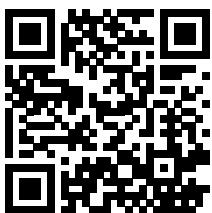
Receive a WGU  
philanthropy cord!



**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=topwws](https://fundraise.givesmart.com/f/269b/n?vid=topwws)

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).

# 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, June 6, 2026.

**DATE: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 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](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.

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](https://wgu.onl/wgufriends) to share WGU with your friends and family.