



WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

**MINNEAPOLIS, MN
AUGUST 21-22, 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



ALUMNI CELEBRATION

YOU'RE INVITED!

Friday, August 21, 2026

6:00–9:00 p.m.

TARGET FIELD

1 Twins Way
Minneapolis, MN. 55403

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

All graduates attending the 2026 WGU Commencement in Minneapolis are invited to join us for the Alumni Celebration at Target Field!

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
- Tour the various Museum of Flight exhibits
- 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

Alumni Celebration ADA and accessibility:

alumnievents@wgu.edu

Commencement questions:

commencement@wgu.edu

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



COMMENCEMENT IN MINNEAPOLIS

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

TARGET CENTER

600 1st Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55403

Saturday, August 22, 2026

CEREMONY (ALL COLLEGES)

Graduate Check-In and Pre-seating: **9:30 a.m.**

Commencement Ceremony: **10:30 a.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. We recommend all graduates leave any extra items behind with loved ones while the ceremony takes place. Having bags, keys, etc., during the graduation ceremony tends to get frustrating for graduates. Remember to attach the zipper pull that came with your regalia to your gown's zipper. This is particularly helpful for master's graduates, as it prevents your hood from pulling at your neck. To keep your hands free and personal items out of photos and videos, consider wearing bike shorts with pockets under dresses or skirts, using pockets in your attire, or bringing a venue-approved cross-body bag to wear under your regalia.

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY,
AUGUST 22, 2026**

LOCATION: Target Center
600 1st Ave N
Minneapolis, MN 55403

CEREMONY SCHEDULE

Graduate Check-In: **9:30 a.m.**

Graduate Pre-Seating: **9:30 a.m.**

Ceremony Start Time: **10:30 a.m.**

GRADUATE CHECK-IN: 9:30 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: 9:30 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: 10:30 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!**

TARGET CENTER POLICIES

GUEST SERVICES

Target Center provides many services to our guests. Guest Services Offices are located on both concourses at sections 116 and 216. If you have a question or concern during an event, please text the Guest Services Assistance Line at (952) 592-5520. Messages are checked during events and responded to accordingly.

If you are calling specifically for Lost and Found, please call (612) 673-1333.

EMT/FIRST AID

First aid facilities are available near section 120 in the lower concourse. Guests can also ask the nearest usher, security officer or event staff for assistance. Feminine hygiene products are also available free of charge at Guest Services in Sections 116 and 216, as well as in the women's and family restrooms on the concourses.

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.

BAG POLICY

Permitted items include bags no larger than 5" x 9", diaper bags and medical bags (subject to search upon entry).

****Strollers are NOT permitted inside Target Center.**

NO SMOKING

Target Center 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.



TARGET CENTER POLICIES

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

A lost and found service is available during events in the Guest Services Office located at section 116 and 216. Articles are kept at the office until the end of the event and then are stored in our security office for 15 days. For more information, please call 612-673-1333.

ACCESSIBILITY

The Target Center is fully equipped with ADA Accessibility, entrances and seating. Any patron who requires hearing or vision assisted seating may contact the Target Center Ticket Office at 612-673-1380.

NAVIGATION FOR THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED

In partnership with the American Printing House for the Blind, visually impaired guests can now navigate the Target 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 Target Center during your next event!

SENSORY INCLUSION

Target Center has a sensory friendly room available for use during all events. To gain access to this space, please visit the Guest Services Office located outside of section 116 on the 100-level concourse. The room is outfitted with bean bags, visual light panels, activity panels, bubble walls, and a custom tactile artwork created by an autistic artist. In addition, sensory bags are also available for those who might need them.

RESTROOMS

Target Center has several single-user family restrooms. These are located near sections 216, 226 and 232.

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.

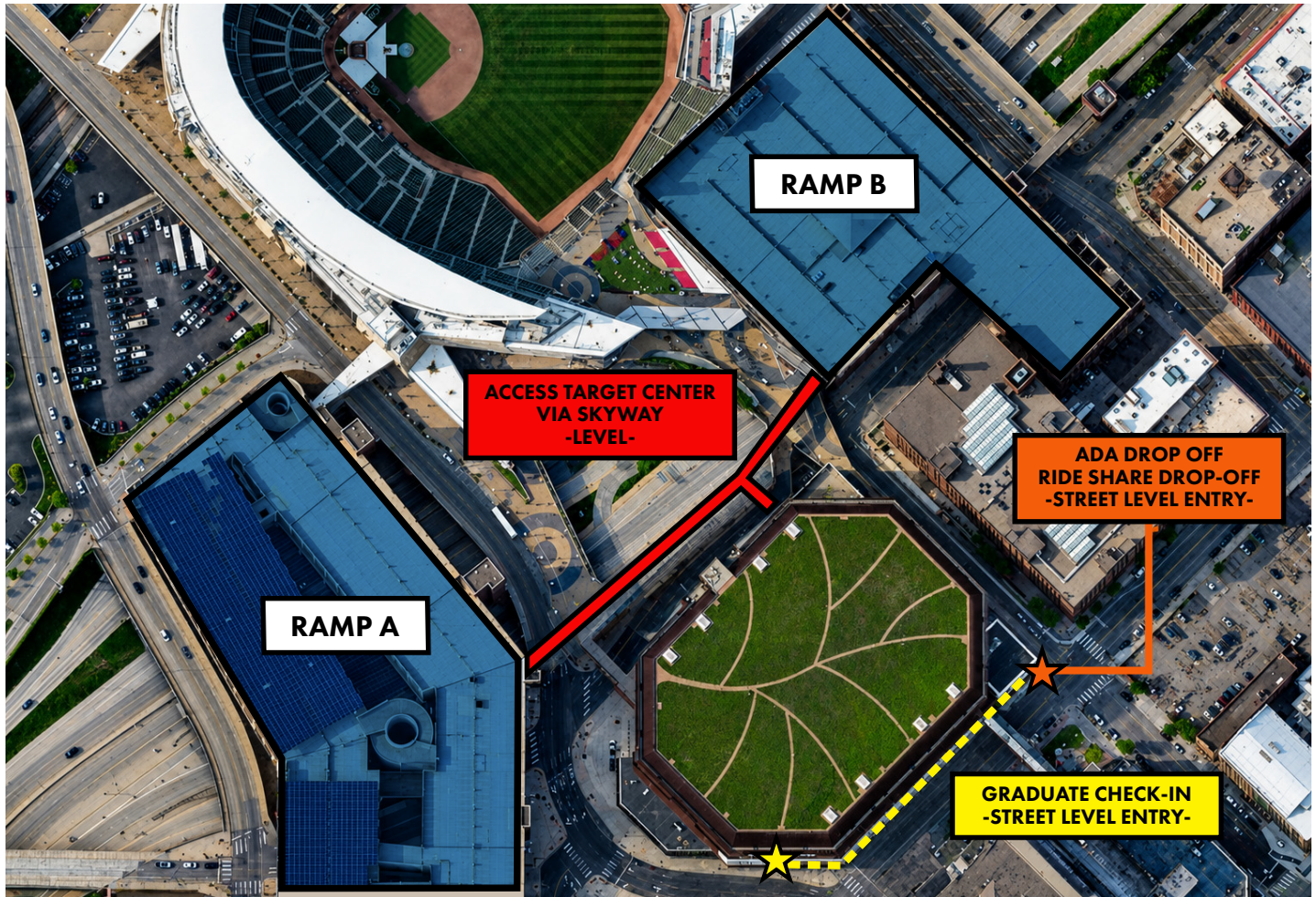


Graduates are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes.

SERVICE ANIMALS

Trained Service Animals assisting guests with disabilities are welcome inside Target Center. Service animals must always remain on a leash or harness and should stay in the seating area of the individual with the disability. Service animals may not occupy additional seats unless a ticket for the adjacent seat has been purchased. All other animals are prohibited.

TARGET CENTER MAP



PARKING

There are nearly 25,000 parking spaces in 38 parking lots and ramps throughout downtown, with most providing a short walk or convenient bus and light rail connections to Target Center.

For a map of downtown parking options, visit [MPLS Parking](#).

For Target Center Arena Policies and FAQs - [please visit this link](#).

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!

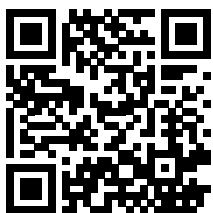
**Receive a WGU
philanthropy cord!**



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 August 22, 2026.

[Live Commencement](#)

AUGUST 22, 2026

CEREMONY

Ceremony Start Time: 10:30 a.m. CST

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/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.



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.