

2018 Celebration of Excellence

Information for Graduates

- Date:** Friday, May 11, 2018
- Time:** 12:15 p.m. – Graduates must arrive for security and event check in
1:15 p.m. – Procession begins
1:30 p.m. – Ceremony starts
- Location:** Mullins Center, UMass Amherst
- Attire:** Graduates wear their cap and gown
- Registration:** Graduates were expected to reply to the event invitation.
Seating is open and there is no limit to the number of guests.

Mullins Center SECURITY

Please be aware of security measures in place to ensure a safe and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone. All guests will be required to walk through metal detectors when entering the venue. To expedite this process, we ask that guests remove cell phones from their pockets and encourage patrons to avoid bringing bags to the facility. Purses, diaper bags, and other small personal bags are allowed but will be inspected at all entrances. Outside food or beverages, weapons of any kind, and tobacco products are not permitted inside the arena.

For a full list of prohibited items, please visit the Mullins Center website at www.mullinscenter.com/prohibiteditemslist.

NOTE: There are separate security entrance doors for guests and graduates.

- Guests: doors 1, 2, 3, and 4
- Graduates: enter alphabetically (first letter of your last name) through doors 5, 6, and 7

ARRIVAL Instructions and Information

- Arrive at the Mullins Center in your cap and gown no later than 12:15 p.m. on Friday, May 11, 2018.
- Graduates check in and line up for the procession while their guests find seating in the arena. Guest seating is unassigned and open.

Graduate CHECK-IN Procedure

1. Upon arrival at the Mullins Center, proceed to the "Graduate Check-in" tables.
2. Find the notecard with your name on it. This card will be used to announce your name as you are congratulated on stage; it will also be used by the event photographers.
 - a. Review the information on the card and correct or add information as needed.
 - b. LEGIBLY print any phonetic information that will help the reader pronounce your name correctly.
 - c. Keep this card in your possession!
3. Determine which college/school you should be seated with—graduates are called by college/school and then individually acknowledged.
4. Proceed past the check-in tables and go downstairs to line up for the procession.
5. Find the sign for your college/school and line up under it (4 across): at the start of the ceremony, marshals will lead each group (4 across) in the procession, by college/school. Groups will split evenly (forming two groups, two across) when the procession arrives at the area where you are to be seated—two will proceed to the left and two to the right.

NOTE: The procession begins at 1:15 p.m. so that the ceremony can start promptly at 1:30 p.m.

GOLD STOLE Presentation

After processing into the arena and being seated, your college/school will be called to approach the stage.

When your college/school is called:

1. Leave your hat/mortarboard at your seat (your stole will not fit over it).
2. Bring your name card with you.
3. Following the directions of the marshals and proceed, row by row, to one of the ramps on the side of the stage. There will be two awarding lines going at once; one from each side of the stage.
4. At the bottom of the ramp, a faculty member will place the stole over your head and onto your shoulders.
5. The photographer will take your picture WITH your stole on.
6. Proceed up the ramp and hand your card to the announcer at the microphone. *Quietly* say your name to the announcer to help them pronounce it properly.
7. Receive congratulations from (i.e., shake hands with) the dignitaries on your side of the stage only.
8. Proceed down the stairs at the front center of the stage and return to your seat via the center aisle.

AFTER the Event

Meet your guests outside at the entrance to the Mullins Center. If you choose to reenter the building, you will be required to walk through metal detectors again.

Parking

- Park in the lots adjacent to the Mullins Center or in the parking garage.
- Plan to park once for both events (the Celebration of Excellence and University Commencement); shuttles will be available to help graduates and guests get from the Mullins Center to the stadium.
- Traffic patterns on campus will change in the early afternoon.
- Handicap parking is available. See the University Commencement site for disability access information: www.umass.edu/commencement.