December 2019 Graduation Newsletter

CEREMONY
Graduation will be held Friday, December 13, 2019 at 2:00 pm at the James Brown Arena. All graduating students must be at the arena no later than 1:00 pm.

As part of the ceremony, each student will walk across the stage and be recognized. In order to accomplish this, each student is assigned to a specific section prior to entering the arena. Please locate the staging area for your degree in the exhibit hall and line-up accordingly.

ACADEMIC REGALIA
Official Augusta University regalia is used by all participants in the Graduation Ceremony. Orders for regalia are limited to graduates participating in the December 2019 ceremony. All other orders will be cancelled.

All regalia orders should be placed by Friday, October 11th. All orders placed after October 11th will be charged a rush fee, and specific requests cannot be guaranteed (colors, sizes, etc.). Regalia will be available online through Josten’s September 11th at: http://www.jostens.com/

For Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Specialist graduates:
Associate regalia are platinum. Bachelor, Master, and Specialist regalia are black. Regalia will be paid for at the time the order is placed and shipped directly to the student (address will be entered as part of the online ordering process). Students will need to use their AU email address to complete their order. All Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Specialist graduates will keep their regalia at the conclusion of the event. Graduate may donate their regalia for future graduates by placing the garments in marked bins at the arena.

For Doctoral graduates:
Doctoral regalia packages are rental only and will be available for pick up at the Summerville Campus JagStore beginning Monday, November 25th. Regalia will be paid for at the time of pick-up. For a $15 shipping fee, your regalia can be shipped to a home address. Please contact the JagStore at bookstore@augusta.edu with your name, ship to address and phone number.

Doctoral students will return their regalia after the ceremony. The JagStore will have an area designated for returns at the lower level of the James Brown Arena immediately following the ceremony. If you do not return your rental at that time, you may do so at the JagStore on the Summerville or Health Sciences Campus. The return deadline is Wednesday, December 18th. A $30 late fee will be charged for rentals returned after this date. Doctoral students may inquire about regalia purchases by contacting the JagStore at 706-737-1611.

GRADUATION ATTIRE
Recommended attire for Commencement includes dark shoes and clothes for ladies and dark pants and shoes for men. Women should not bring purses to the ceremony.
**DIPLOMAS**

Diplomas are produced by the Registrar’s Office. The name on the diploma will be your legal name as listed on your academic records at Augusta University. If your legal name has changed, please provide documentation to the Registrar’s Office.

Diplomas will reflect the name of the consolidated university. Any currently enrolled student who matriculated to Georgia Regents University, Georgia Health Sciences University, Augusta State University, or the Medical College of Georgia will be eligible to also receive one commemorative diploma. Only students earning multiple degree types will receive two diplomas. Multiple diplomas for double majors under the same degree type are not issued. Diplomas will be available 6-8 weeks following Graduation. Diplomas will be mailed to the student’s address listed on their graduation application.

**UNDERGRADUATE HONORS**

Undergraduate students graduating with honors will be designated in the commencement program. These honors are based on the cumulative grade point average at the end of fall semester. Some students, however, may also become eligible to graduate with honors after spring semester grades are compiled. (It is not possible to designate these students in the graduation program.) Qualifying students may pick up their undergraduate honor cords from the Registrar’s Office beginning Monday, November 25, 2019.

In order for a student who completes all coursework at Augusta University to be eligible for graduation with honors, the student’s grade point average must meet one of the following requirements:

- 3.50 – cum laude
- 3.70 – magna cum laude
- 3.90 – summa cum laude

Students who transfer to Augusta University are eligible to graduate with honors only if the student’s GPA for his/her entire university career meets one of the above requirements and the student has completed at least 60 hours of coursework at Augusta University for a bachelor’s degree. The portion of the GPA earned at Augusta University must meet the above requirements in order to be considered for honors. The lower of the two grade point averages will determine honors designation. Honor designations are only awarded to students seeking undergraduate degrees.

**LEGACY**

Generations of families have continued Augusta University's rich tradition, and we celebrate this unique relationship by listing graduates whose parent or grandparent graduated from Augusta University or one of her legacy institutions.

Graduates who are part of our Jaguar legacy family will receive a specially designed cord for commencement to recognize their family’s Augusta tradition. Information on how to indicate your status as a legacy graduate will be sent via email.

**REHEARSAL**

There will be no rehearsal for all graduating students. Directions will be given from the podium during the ceremony. Ushers will also direct students to and from the podium during the ceremony. Please be attentive!
MARCHING ORDER / NAME CARDS
Section line-up will be posted in the exhibit hall at the James Brown Arena. During the lineup for the ceremony, students will be given their name card. This card is to be given to the announcer on stage as the graduate steps onto the platform.

FACILITY REGULATIONS
The James Brown Arena prohibits the following items: umbrellas; outside food and beverage of any kind; laser pointers, aerosol cans, noisemakers, and balloons; backpacks or any other oversized bags; weapons/firearms. The arena staff may ask individuals to leave the facility if this policy is violated.

GUESTS
Tickets will be required for guests attending the Commencement Ceremony. Each student who registers to attend Commencement will be able to claim up to eight (8) tickets for their guests.

- Nov. 1, 2019  Ticket Portal Opens
- Dec. 12, 2019  Last Day to Claim 8 ticket Allocation

All ticket information will be announced through Augusta University email. Students are required to use their augusta.edu email address and student id number to log in to the portal at augustacommencement.com.

All seating is general admission. Guests are not allowed on the arena floor before or during the ceremony. The doors to arena will open approximately ninety minutes prior to the start of the ceremony. The event will also be webcast at www.augusta.edu/stream

PARKING
The arena address is 601 7th St, Augusta, GA 30901. Graduation guests are encouraged to park in the main arena parking lots, the Bell Auditorium lot and on streets adjacent to the arena. Handicap parking spaces are reserved in the main arena parking lot across from the marquee on Seventh Street. A state handicap parking permit is required. DO NOT park in the U.S. Post Office parking lot, at 525 8th Street. It is a strictly enforced tow-away zone.

DISABILITY ACCESS
If your guest requires special accommodations for a disability, special seating is available on a limited first-come, first-served basis. Due to limited seating in the handicapped areas, a maximum of one person will be allowed to accompany the handicapped person in the designated seating area.

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS
Additional graduation items may be ordered directly from the Jostens website at http://www.jostens.com/apps/jcom/graduationannouncements.mvc?affiliateId=1039911.

PHOTOGRAPHS
A still picture of each student receiving his/her diploma will be offered at no obligation to purchase. The University assumes no responsibility. For additional information, students may contact GradImages Customer Service at (1-800-261-2576) or via their website at www.gradimages.com
WEBCAST & VIDEO
Augusta University is proud to present the Commencement Ceremony as a live webcast. You can view the webcast and video playback of the ceremony at www.augusta.edu/stream.

MANDATORY FINANCIAL AID EXIT COUNSELING
All graduates who received a Federal Stafford Loan(s) are required to complete mandatory Exit Counseling at http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/SaEcNavigate1.do. Graduates must complete the mandatory Exit Counseling requirement before a diploma can be issued.

For additional information regarding your Stafford Loan(s):
- You can obtain your total indebtedness at http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/.
- You can review repayment options at http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/RepayCalc/dlindex2.html.
- You can calculate an estimated payment at http://www2.ed.gov/offices/OSFAP/DirectLoan/calc.html.
- You can contact your lender at http://www.direct.ed.gov/callus.html.
- If additional information is needed, you may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 706-737-1524.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
Additional information on any aspect of graduation may be obtained by calling the following offices:

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<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JagStore</td>
<td>(706) 737-1611</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>(706) 446-1430</td>
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<td>Student Services</td>
<td>(706) 721-3356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financial Aid</td>
<td>(706) 737-1524</td>
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