May 2019 Graduation Newsletter

CEREMONY
Commencement will be held **Friday, May 10, 2019** at 2:00 pm at the James Brown Arena. **All graduating students must be at the arena no later than 1:00 pm.** Any changes to the scheduled time will be posted no less than 60 days prior to the event.

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 May 2019 ceremony. All other orders will be cancelled.

**All regalia orders should be placed by Sunday, March 10th.** All orders placed after March 10th will be charged a rush fee, and specific requests cannot be guaranteed (colors, sizes, etc.).

Regalia is available online through Josten’s at: [http://www.jostens.com/](http://www.jostens.com/).

For **Associate, Bachelor, Master, and Specialist graduates:**
Associate regalia are platinum. Bachelor and Master 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, April 29th. Regalia will be paid for at the time of pick-up. For a $12 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, May 15th. 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, April 22nd, 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 (30 hours at Augusta University for the associate’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.

GRADUATION AND CAREER FAIR
Augusta University will hold a Graduation and Career Fair on Friday, February 8th, 2019 in the Christenberry Fieldhouse. Josten’s will be on-site during the Graduation fair as well as The Registrar, Financial Aid, Alumni Association, and Bookstore. For more information, visit: http://www.augusta.edu/careerservices/students/job-fairs-student.php

REHEARSAL
There is no rehearsal for the commencement ceremony. 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 six (6) tickets for their guests.

- April 1, 2019 Ticket Portal Opens
- April 24, 2019 Last Day to Claim 6 ticket Allocation
- April 25, 2019 Unclaimed tickets will be made available. There is no guarantee for the opportunity, or the quantity of additional guest tickets.

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 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?affiliateld=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

NATIONAL SURVEY OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
AU Leadership wants to hear about your college experience! Please complete the NSSE survey sent to your POUNCE email account as soon as you can, using your JAGID email. The survey can also be found at https://www.nssesurvey.org/login.cfm.

MANDATORY FINANCIAL AID EXIT COUNSELING
All graduates who received a Federal Stafford Loan(s) are required to complete mandatory Exit Counseling at https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/counselingInstructions.action?counselingType=exit. 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 https://nslds.ed.gov.
- You can review repayment options at https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/formLibrary.action.
- You can calculate an estimated payment at https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/repaymentEstimator.action.
- You can obtain information about loan consolidation at https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/launchConsolidation.action.
- You can obtain your lender information at https://nslds.ed.gov.
- If additional information is needed, you may contact the Office of Student Financial Aid at 706-737-1524.

GRADUATION EXIT SURVEY
Students are required to complete the Augusta University Graduate Outcomes Survey as they exit the institution. You will receive the link via your campus email to complete this survey in late April and it must be completed between April 20 - May 10. It takes approximately 10 minutes to complete and will assist in our planning and benchmarking with peer institutions and programs.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION
Additional information on any aspect of graduation may be obtained by calling the following offices:
Financial Aid (706) 737-1524
JagStore, Summerville Campus (706) 737-1611
Registrar (706) 446-1430
Student Services (706) 721-3356