



Commencement
Hawkins Arena, University Center, Macon Campus
Saturday, May 2, 2020

- 10:00 am** **Students arrive at Hawkins Arena and put on full regalia**
- 10:30 am** **Rehearsal for all students and marshals**
- 11:00 am** **Pictures (largest program to smallest)**
Individual campus pictures will be taken at Hooding Ceremony.
- 12:00 pm** **Lunch for all graduates in the Farmer's Market**
- 1:15 pm** **Students must be at the intramural courts (*downstairs below the fitness center*)**
- 2:00 pm** **Commencement**
Reception to follow in Heritage Hall - everyone welcome
- 3:30 pm** **Military Commissioning**
- 5:00 pm** **Bus departs for Savannah**
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Rehearsal & Pictures – 10:00 a.m.

Rehearsal is **mandatory** for all graduating students. Please arrive at the University Center-Hawkins Arena area by 10:00 am. We will go through the ceremony so everyone will feel comfortable with the process. This rehearsal will address any questions you have and alert the staff to any changes that need to be made. Rehearsal and pictures will last approximately 1½ hours.

Bring your regalia to rehearsal! Do not forget your tassel. We do not have any replacements.

Program photos will be taken at the conclusion of rehearsal (11-Noon). Individual pictures will be taken during commencement. All pictures from Commencement, including regalia shots, will be on the School's smugmug site: <http://medgallery.mercer.edu/> Students have the option to download or purchase (through smugmug) their image.

There is a designated photo area for family/friends during commencement (facing the stage, the photo area is located on the left side of the arena near the stadium seats and marked with stanchions). **No one** is allowed on the arena floor during commencement.

A box lunch will be available for all graduates in the Farmer's Market following rehearsal. Do not leave the University Center between rehearsal and the ceremony.

Parking

Parking is available in the Medical School, Stetson School of Business, and areas near the University Center (UC). **Parking at University Center is limited to Handicapped parking only.**

See map of parking areas available during commencement.

Golf carts will pick up in the designated parking areas from 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm and drop off at the University Center.

After the event, golf carts will shuttle individuals from the University Center back to parking lots.

Regalia

The cap, tassel, gown, and hood are considered the formal academic attire. The academic cap is worn level at all times. Tassel is on **left side**. **DO NOT FLIP TASSEL** after receiving diploma.

Only honor society cords and honor medallions (i.e., *Phi Kappa Phi*) approved by the University will be allowed.

No other regalia or decoration is allowed. Do NOT decorate your cap.

Please hang up your gown prior to graduation day. Generally, the wrinkles will fall out after a day or two, but exposing them to steam will help hasten the process.

Suggested Commencement Attire for Graduates

Dark dress or skirt, cool fabric

Dark dress pants, dress shirt, tie optional

Dress shoes and socks. **No flip-flops and no tennis shoes.** Black, brown or navy are the best choices.

Low heel or flat shoes

No jeans

No high collars or bows at the neck as they will show above the hood

No sandals, no sneakers, no flip-flops

No corsages or jewelry on the robe

Ceremony Etiquette

Improper attire, signs, decorations on caps, and insignia are not allowed and will be removed by the marshals.

Cell phones should be turned off.

Purses, keys and other personal items can be left at the intramural courts or with your family. There will be an individual in the intramural courts assigned to watch over these items during commencement.

Guest Information

There is no restriction on the number of guests you are allowed to invite.

No balloons are allowed in Hawkins Arena.

No food or drinks allowed in the University Center.

Please share the parking, photography, and hotel information with your family/guests.

Area Hotels

Hilton Garden Inn (adjacent to campus)

1220 Stadium Drive

(478) 741-5527

TownePlace Suites by Marriott (adjacent to campus)

1550 Mercer University Drive

(478) 812-8522

Marriott Residence Inn (approximately 7 miles to campus: off I-75)

3900 Sheraton Drive

(478) 475-4280

Homewood Suites by Hilton (approximately 11 miles from campus: off I-75)

1514 Bass Rd, Macon, GA 31210

(478) 477-9776