

2017 SPRING COMMENCEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Participation in the Spring Commencement exercises is an obligation of every faculty member who is not specifically excused. All part-time regular faculty with the rank of instructor, and all graduate instructors, are automatically excused. Other faculty members who find it necessary to be absent should request to be excused by the dean of their school or college. The request should be in writing, with reasons furnished as to why such an absence is considered necessary. **(These instructions do not apply to emeritus faculty.)**

Faculty members should have received information about caps, gowns, and/or hoods from the Ole Miss Bookstore.

This year we will again hold our Commencement Convocation in the Grove. The morning ceremony will be for all graduates. There will be separate ceremonies for Liberal Arts, Law, Engineering, Education, Pharmacy, Business Administration, Patterson School of Accountancy, Applied Sciences, Meek School of Journalism and New Media, and those receiving the Bachelor of General Studies. A separate ceremony will also be held for Master's degree students in the College of Liberal Arts. Academic deans will distribute specific information.

The morning ceremony begins at 9:00 a.m. Faculty members will line up at the Thad Cochran Research Center grouped by their respective college or schools no later than 8:30 a.m. The procession will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Faculty members will process into the Grove (led by class marshals and academic deans) and be seated in a reserved section. (Please see the attached color-coded map for details.) There will not be a recessional at the close of the morning ceremony.

In case of rain, the ceremony will be moved to the Pavilion. If the weather is threatening, a decision on moving the ceremony indoors will be made by 8:00 a.m. and announced through media outlets, text messaging, email, and the UM website. A message will also be posted on 662.915.1040. (The detailed rain plan is attached.)

Doctoral degrees will be awarded during a separate ceremony in the Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for Performing Arts on Friday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. Dissertation directors will receive information regarding their role directly from the Graduate School.

Everyone will wear appropriate academic dress. The tassel will hang over the left front of the mortarboard. Because of the grounds in the Grove, it may be advisable for women to avoid high heels.

The street around the Grove and the Circle will be closed on Saturday until the afternoon ceremonies have concluded.

ADA Information: The University's Department of Parking and Transportation will offer a limited shuttle service that will be available Saturday, May 14 to assist people with disabilities and the elderly. All guests who require assistance are asked to park at the new parking garage on Hill Drive and Manning Way. Guests will be transported to and from ceremony venues and may call 662-915-7235 to request assistance.

For addition information go to **<http://olemiss.edu/commencement>**.

Thank you for your attention.

2017 Commencement
May 13 - Commencement Ceremony Rain Plan

Rain Plan: In the event of rain, a decision to move the ceremony will be made by 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 13. If moved, the morning commencement ceremony will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the **Pavilion**, and there will NOT be a processional. Platform party members should report to the Pavilion media area. All attendees (faculty, staff, graduates, and families) should report to the Pavilion. Graduates should sit with their families and should be seated in the chairs on the Pavilion floor first. Faculty will have reserved seating in sections 113 and 114 and should use the northeast entrance.

Time: The ceremony will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Location: Pavilion

Seating: General Seating – Graduates should sit with their families and should be seated in the chairs on the Pavilion floor first. Faculty will sit in sections 113 and 114. There will not be a processional.

How will you know? A decision will be made no later than 8:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, and you should check one of the following resources:

IF THE RAIN LOCATION IS USED:

- A RebAlert text message will be sent to those who have registered their cell phone numbers.
- The announcement will be posted on the UM Website as a banner and details will be posted at emergency.olemiss.edu.
- A blast email will be sent to students, faculty, and staff.
- Announcement will be sent using @RebAlert Twitter account.
- Signs will be posted on the Grove Stage.

- An alert will be sent to devices that have the Ole Miss App installed.
- You may call (662) 915-1040 to hear a recorded message.

If the Grove commencement ceremony is moved to the Pavilion because of rain, all other School or College commencement ceremonies will also take place at the rain locations.

Please post this information in your areas.