

2025 COMMENCEMENT GENERAL INFORMATION

Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 pm | Hawkins Arena, Macon



Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at Hawkins Arena, which is located in the University Center on the Macon campus. The ceremony will start promptly at 2:00 pm. Doors to Hawkins Arena will open at 1:00 pm for guests to arrive and take their seats. Entry before 1:00 pm will not be permitted.

SCHEDULE

TIME	GRADUATE SCHEDULE
10:00 am	Check-in and put on full regalia <i>Intramural Courts*</i>
10:30 am	Commencement instructions <i>Report to your assigned seat in Hawkins Arena</i>
11:00 am	Class pictures <i>Hawkins Arena</i>
11:00 am	Rehearsal for student and faculty marshals <i>Hawkins Arena</i>
12:00 pm	Boxed lunch <i>Intramural Courts*</i>
1:15 pm	Processional/Recessional instructions <i>Report to your assigned seat in Intramural courts*</i>
1:30 pm	Graduates line up <i>Intramural courts*</i>
2:00 pm	Commencement <i>Hawkins Arena</i>
4:00 pm	Military Promotion Ceremony <i>Hawkins Arena, near the main stage</i>

TIME	FACULTY SCHEDULE
11:00 am	Rehearsal for student and faculty marshals <i>Hawkins Arena</i>
11:30 am	Lunch <i>Presidents Dining Room</i>
12:30 pm	Check in and put on regalia <i>Intramural courts*</i>
1:00 pm	Faculty check in closes <i>Intramural courts*</i>
1:15 pm	Processional/Recessional instructions <i>Report to your assigned section in Intramural courts*</i>
1:30 pm	Faculty lines up <i>Intramural courts*</i>
2:00 pm	Commencement <i>Hawkins Arena</i>
4:00 pm	Military Promotion Ceremony <i>Hawkins Arena, near the main stage</i>

*The Intramural Courts are located on the lower level of the University Center below the fitness center. To access the lower level, please use the elevator or stairs just inside the fitness center.

PARKING

- Parking is available in the Medical School, Stetson School of Business, and areas near the University Center (UC).
- **Parking at the UC is limited to Handicapped parking only.**
- See the last page of this packet for a map of parking areas available during commencement.
- Golf carts will pick up in the designated parking areas and drop off at the UC.
- After the event, golf carts will shuttle individuals from the UC back to parking lots.

TICKETS

- At this time, this is not a ticketed event, and there is no limit on the number of guests.

REGALIA AND ATTIRE

- **Please hang up your gown prior to graduation day.**
- Cap, tassel, gown, and hood are required and should be free of wrinkles. (Follow instructions provided with gowns.)
- Cap must be worn flat on the head.
- Place tassel on the **left side**. **DO NOT FLIP TASSEL** after receiving diploma. (MD students should pin their tassel in place on their tam with a safety pin to avoid losing them).
- Dark attire looks best under the gown fabric. Dark dress slacks/skirts or a dark dress in black, brown or navy are ideal.
- Wear dark dress shoes. Low heels or flats are strongly encouraged.
- No flip-flops, casual sandals, slides or sneakers.
- Only honor society cords and honor medallions (i.e., Phi Kappa Phi) approved by the University will be allowed.
- All regalia worn should pertain only to the degree you are earning. Improper attire, signs, decorations on caps, and insignia are not allowed and will be removed by the marshals. **Do NOT decorate your cap.**

COMMENCEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

- During commencement instructions we will run through the ceremony so everyone will feel comfortable with the process. You will also have the chance to address any questions you have and alert the staff to any changes that need to be made.
- Attendance is **mandatory** for all graduating students. **Please arrive at the University Center-Hawkins Arena area by 10:00 am.**
- **Bring your regalia to rehearsal!** Do not forget your tassel. We do not have any replacements.
- Rehearsal and pictures will last approximately 1½ hours.

PICTURES

- Professional photographs, including class photos, individual photos on stage with Dean Sumner, and candid photos from the ceremony, will be available for download on the School's [SmugMug site](#).
- **No one** is allowed on the arena floor during commencement.

LUNCH

- A boxed lunch will be available for all graduates following rehearsal.
- It is best if you do not leave the University Center between rehearsal and the ceremony.

ARENA REGULATIONS

- No balloons are allowed in Hawkins Arena.
- No food or drinks are allowed in Hawkins Arena.
- No strollers are allowed in the seating area of Hawkins Arena.

CEREMONY ETIQUETTE

- Turn off all cell phones.
- No gum.
- Be respectful of your classmates and hold all applause and celebratory outbursts until after **ALL** names have been read so that each name can be heard.
- Purses, keys and other personal items may be left in the intramural courts or with family. (The intramural courts will be monitored during commencement.)

ACCESS AND ACCOMMODATION

- Accessible seating is available on the main floor of Hawkins Arena around the perimeter.
- All accessible seating is first come first serve for individuals with a disability and one companion.
- **Complimentary wheelchairs for transportation to seats:**
 - Mercer University has collaborated with Scott's Pharmacy to provide wheelchairs to be used by guests for travel to seating. Guests transported with the chairs will be assisted by family members, and Mercer staff will accompany them to return the chair to the drop-off location for the next guest.
 - After the ceremony's completion, guests may again use the chairs to assist guests to the drop-off station only.
 - We encourage you to bring a personal chair, if a wheelchair is needed for seating during the ceremony.

For questions and additional information, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at **(478) 301-2652**. Please make requests for any accommodation including but not limited to: seating, closed-captioning, and interpreting or other accommodations by **April 15, 2025** to ensure access. We will continue to make a good faith effort to provide accommodations received after this date.

EXTENDED BOOKSTORE HOURS FOR MAY 3

Main Store: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm

Hawkins Arena Box: 1:00 pm until 30 minutes after event conclusion

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 just off I-75)
3900 Sheraton Drive
(478) 475-4280

Homewood Suites by Hilton (approximately 11 miles from campus just off I-75)
1514 Bass Road
(478) 477-9776

COMMENCEMENT FAQs FOR GRADUATES

Q. Do friends and family need tickets to attend commencement?

A. At this time this is not a ticketed event and there is no limit on the number of guests.

Q. When should I arrive?

A. Check-in for students is at 10:00 am. Students are expected to be dressed in regalia and seated in Hawkins Arena at 10:30 am for commencement instructions and class photos at 11:00 am. Please arrive with plenty of time to check in and put on your regalia (including hood and honor cords).

Q. When do doors open for guests to take their seats?

A. Doors to Hawkins Arena will open at 1:00 pm to allow time for your guests to be seated before the start of the ceremony, which starts at 2:00 pm sharp.

Q. Can my guests visit me in the intramural courts before the ceremony?

A. No, family and friends are not allowed on the arena floor or in any of the students areas.

Q. Can I drop off a guest with mobility concerns near the entrance and then park my vehicle?

A. Yes, a passenger drop-off area is located in front of the entrance to Hawkins Arena.

Q. Is there a shuttle service from the parking lot to the entrance of Hawkins Arena?

A. Yes, shuttles will be running from the lots marked on the map located on the following page.

Q. Are there any items that are not allowed inside Hawkins Arena?

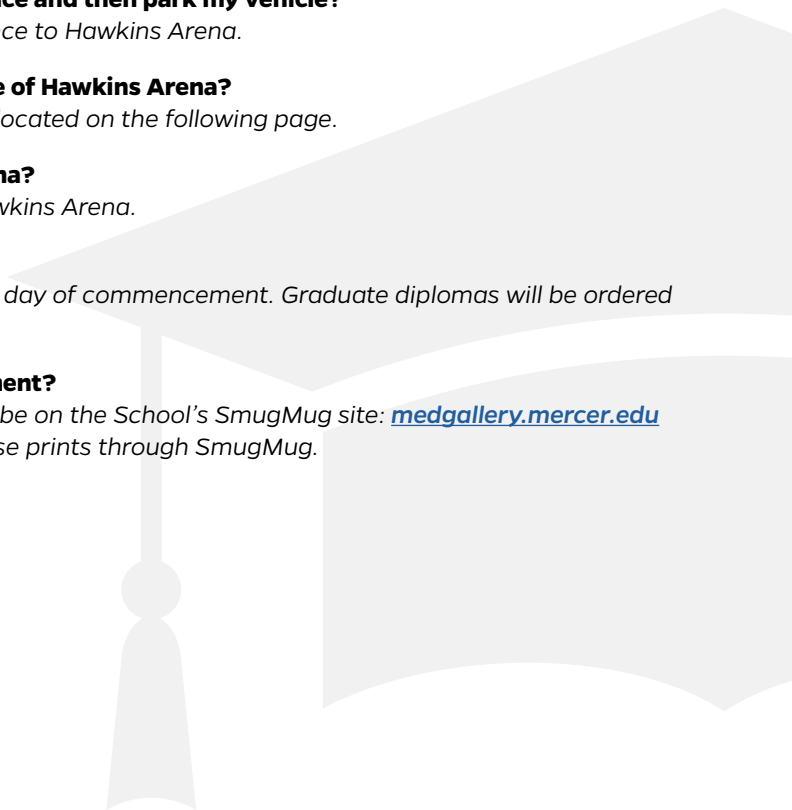
A. Balloons, strollers, food or drinks are not allowed inside of Hawkins Arena.

Q. When will I receive my diploma?

A. Doctoral program graduates will receive their diplomas on the day of commencement. Graduate diplomas will be ordered and mailed to students upon completion of requirements.

Q. How can I get a copy of the photos taken during commencement?

A. All pictures from Commencement, including regalia shots, will be on the School's SmugMug site: medgallery.mercer.edu
You will have the option to download digital images or purchase prints through SmugMug.



2025 COMMENCEMENT PARKING MAP

- **Graduates and faculty (lots marked in orange):** Please park in the lot behind Willet Science Center or in the School of Medicine lot. For those parking at the School of Medicine, shuttles will be provided to the main entrance of Hawkins Arena.
- **Guests (lots marked in purple):** Please park in the University Center lots. Shuttles will be provided to the main entrance.
- **Volunteers (lot marked in red):** Please park in the middle UC lot marked red on this map. You will **NOT** enter through the main entrance to Hawkins Arena, but through a side door near your designated parking area.

