

2022 COMMENCEMENT STUDENT GUIDE

Saturday, May 7 at 2:00pm
Hawkins Arena, Macon



SCHEDULE

Commencement will take place on Saturday, May 7 in Hawkins Arena, which is located in the University Center on the Macon campus. It will begin promptly at 2:00pm. Doors will open at 1:00pm to allow time for guests to arrive and take their seats. Please encourage your guests to be seated no later than 1:45pm.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
7:00am	Savannah bus* begins boarding (departs 7:15am)	Savannah campus parking lot
7:45am	Columbus bus* begins boarding (departs 8:00am)	Columbus campus parking lot
10:00am	Rehearsal for student and faculty marshals	Hawkins Arena
10:30am	Check in and put on regalia	Intramural courts**
11:00am	Class pictures	Hawkins Arena
12:00pm	Commencement instructions	Report to your assigned seat on the intramural courts*
12:30pm	Boxed lunch	Intramural courts**
1:15pm	Graduates line up	Intramural courts**
2:00 pm	Commencement	Hawkins Arena
3:30 pm	Military Commissioning	Hawkins Arena
4:00 pm	Buses depart for Columbus/Savannah	Middle UC lot

*Students taking the bus from Savannah or Columbus are required to wear a mask.

**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.

REGALIA AND ATTIRE

- 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. (Tassel should be pinned in place with a safety pin to avoid losing them.)
- Dark attire looks best under the fabric of the gowns. Dark dress slacks or a dark skirt in black, brown or navy are best.
- 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.

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. Encourage your guests to hold applause until after ALL names have been read as well.
- Purses, keys and other personal items may be left in the intramural courts or with family. (The intramural courts will be monitored during commencement.)

PARKING

- **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 lot marked red on this map. You will NOT enter through the main entrance to Hawkins arena, but through a side door near the volunteer parking lot.



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 Road
(478) 477-9776

COMMENCEMENT FAQS

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

A. *At this time tickets are not required and there is no limit on guests.*

Q. When do doors open and when should I arrive?

A. *Check-in for students is at 10:30am with class pictures beginning promptly at 11:00am. Please arrive with plenty of time to check in and put on your regalia. Doors to Hawkins Arena will open at 1:00pm to allow time for your guests to arrive and take their seats.*

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 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 that is found on page 2 of this guide.*

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

A. *No balloons, strollers, food or drinks are allowed inside Hawkins Arena.*

Q. When will I receive my diploma?

A. *MD students will receive their diploma 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 that are 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.*