

# Graduate Commencement Ceremonies

Monday, May 20, 2024 | 12:00p .m. | 6:00 p.m. | WP Sports and Recreation Center

## IMPORTANT NOTES



### Arrival

Please arrive at the Sports and Recreation Center at the following times for line-up:

**12:00 p.m. CEREMONY:** Arrive by 10:45 a.m. | Procession will begin at 11:40 a.m.

**6:00 p.m. CEREMONY:** Arrive by 4:45 p.m. | Procession will begin at 5:40 p.m.

### Staging Area

Graduates will gather in the Soccer Park behind the Sports and Recreation Center. Covered tents will be marked; look for the sign indicating your academic program. **NOTE:** The Soccer Park field is turf, so please wear appropriate footwear. University staff will assist with line-up.

**GRADUATES:** Please bring your regalia (cap, gown, hood, and tassel) and your **GRADPASS** with you to the staging area. You must present your **GRADPASS** at the stage to be scanned to have your name announced; it cannot be scanned from your phone. Volunteers will be available to assist you as needed inside the robing tents. Doctoral candidates will carry their hoods into the arena.

Personal belongings cannot be left in the staging area. Please plan accordingly.

### Parking

The **Sports and Recreation Center** is located in Parking Lot No. 6. Please account for travel time. Parking is available in Lot 6 on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional parking will be available in Lot 5, with shuttle access to Lot 6. Anyone needing handicapped drop-off will be guided by University police. **NOTE:** Strollers are not permitted in the arena. Guests will be instructed to return strollers to their car or leave it outside the venue at your own risk.

### Tickets

**E-tickets (printed or on a phone) are required for guests to enter the Sports and Recreation Center.** Each graduate candidate was eligible for six tickets. Graduates and children ages 2 and under do not require a ticket. Fire code prohibits children sitting on laps of adults. All bar-coded e-tickets will be scanned for entry into the Sports and Recreation Center.

Family members and guests who have e-tickets are requested to go directly into the Sports and Recreation Center. Doors will open for admittance of guests at the following times:

**12:00 p.m. Ceremony:** Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

**6:00 p.m. Ceremony:** Doors open at 5:00 p.m.

Guests requiring extra assistance may arrive 15 minutes prior to door opening times.

Each ceremony will be livestreamed on the University's home page at [www.wpunj.edu](http://www.wpunj.edu).

## Bags and Other Items

Bags are allowed, but due to limited space, we recommend leaving large personal items behind. Strollers are not permitted into the Rec Center and must be left in your car, or outside the venue at your own risk. The following items are prohibited: alcoholic beverages; illegal drugs; balloons; beach balls; frisbees; signs, banners, and flags larger than 14" x 14"; noisemakers such as horns; laser pointers; flashlights; fireworks; selfie sticks; and outside food and beverages.

## Important Ceremony Information

Graduates will process into the Sports and Recreation Center in two lines walking through faculty on both sides of the arena floor prior to entering the rows. Commencement staff will support you through this process and every seat must be filled. When it is time to collect your diploma cover and proceed to the stage to be recognized, staff will lead you to either side of stage. Please have your printed **GRADPASS** out and ready for scanning. Your **GRADPASS** must be printed; it cannot be scanned from your phone. Photos will be taken at various points while you proceed to and from the stage.

**NOTE:** Guests must remain in the stands; they will not be permitted to go to the floor to take photos.

As a reminder, decorum at the ceremony and respect for your fellow graduates is important. Your degree is not conferred by the President until after all students have been recognized on stage. You are expected to remain in the arena until the end of the ceremony. The recessional begins with the Platform Party, followed by the faculty and then the new graduates. WP items will be provided upon exiting the arena as part of the recessional.

## Accessible Accommodations

If you or a guest requires special accommodation, please notify the Accessibility Resource Center at [arc@wpunj.edu](mailto:arc@wpunj.edu).

## Graduate Gifts and Concessions

Vendors will be available in front of the Sports and Recreation Center selling celebratory items such as flowers, teddy bears, Commencement t-shirts, etc. Water and light refreshments will be available for purchase in the lobby.

## For More Information

Please visit: [wpunj.edu/commencement](http://wpunj.edu/commencement)

Commencement emails and phones will not be checked after 12:00 p.m. on **Friday, May 17**.

**The 12:00 p.m. Ceremony** will conclude by 2:00 p.m.

**The 6:00 p.m. Ceremony** will conclude by 7:30 p.m.

Both ceremonies will be livestreamed on the University's home page at [wpunj.edu](http://wpunj.edu).