



2026 Commencement Ceremony Instructions

Please monitor the Commencement page for and changes/updates

Commencement Attire

Gown: You will be able to robe when you arrive. We strongly encourage you to arrive in your gown. Please note, it can get hot, and you will be doing a lot of standing and walking, so dress accordingly. This is a rain or shine event. Please carefully consider the shoes you will wear. You will walk across the baseball field and up and down stairs. Please take the time to steam (no iron) your garments so they lay nicely for the ceremony.

Stole: (Undergraduate Degrees) Your white v-stole should be worn around your neck with the logo in front.

Hood: (Graduate Degrees) You will walk in with your hood on. We can assist you with your hood.

Caps: Your academic cap should be worn so the “mortar board” is parallel to the floor.

Tassels: (Undergraduate Degrees) The tassel should be worn on your right.
(Graduate Degrees) The tassel should be worn on your left.

Pictures: A professional photographer will be set up after check-in. You may go directly there after checking in.

Check-In

Date/Time: Saturday, May 16, 2026 – Arrive at Thomas More Stadium **no later than 8:30 A.M.**

Guest arrival: Saturday, May 16, 2026 – Gates will open at 9:00 A.M.

Location: Thomas More Stadium, 7950 Freedom Way, Florence, KY 41042
Check-in and pick up your name card outside of the stadium behind the left outfield wall/fence.

Name Card

Hold on to your name card. You will hand it to the person at the podium, and they will call your name as you get your degree.

Your name card is very important. There is room to write your name phonetically to help the announcer during the ceremony. The card also includes your line position number. The number is your position in the line-up. Line up in numerical order. This is the procession line into the ceremony. This will also help your family watch for you as they follow along in the program.

The Procession

The procession will begin at 9:30 A.M. You will be led into the field from behind the outfield wall/fence. You will walk towards the pitcher’s mound and will be led from there to your assigned seats. We will have people guiding you along the way. **Please remain standing for the invocation.**

Commencement Exercises

When it is time to present the degrees, the Dean will say “Will the candidates for degrees in the College of ____ rise and remain standing.” Your college is listed on the name card. Please stand for your college and remain standing. Once the degrees are conferred by the President, the Faculty Marshal will lead the students to the podium to be recognized individually. When you get to the podium, hand your name card to the representative. Walk across the presentation area. From the presentation area, you will be led up to the concourse area and back to your seats where you may be seated.

The Recessional

Once the ceremony concludes the recessional begins. You will be led out on the same path from when you received your degree. The faculty will be there to congratulate you and you will be led out of the stadium where you can meet up with your family. Family members and guests should remain in their places until the graduates have exited the stadium.

Diplomas

Diplomas will be distributed during the ceremony. Please note, if you have not completed all of your requirements for your degree and/or have a balance on your student bill, or you have picked up your diploma previously because you graduated in December, your diploma will not be available.