

Spring, 2019

To the Families of our Class of 2019 Degree Candidates,

The 2019 Commencement Planning Committee would like to invite you to attend our Commencement Ceremonies, beginning on Thursday, May 9th through Saturday, May 11th. All ceremonies will be held under the tent on the Quad. ***Tickets are required for the undergraduate ceremony (only).*** In April, each undergraduate candidate will receive 4 tickets allowing tent entry. Information for Family & Friends is posted on the [WPI 2019 Commencement website](#).

The Graduate Commencement Ceremony:

The Graduate Commencement Ceremony will occur on Thursday, May 9th, at 5:00 p.m. This ceremony is for students receiving their Masters and Doctorate degrees.

The ROTC Joint Commissioning Ceremony:

The Commissioning Ceremony for Air Force, Army and Navy will occur on Friday, May 10th, at 12:00 p.m.

The Baccalaureate Ceremony:

The Baccalaureate Ceremony will occur on Friday, May 10th, at 5:30 p.m. The program is planned by seniors, and involves speeches and musical performances that reflect on their undergraduate experiences as a WPI student.

The Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony:

The Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony will occur on Saturday, May 11th, at 10:00 a.m. This ceremony is for students receiving their Bachelor's degree.

Auxiliary Viewing & Live Streaming:

Family members who cannot travel or be seated under the tent will be able to watch the Commencement Ceremony via live streaming media. A link will be posted on the Commencement webpage prior to the start of each ceremony. Ample indoor auxiliary seating will be available in various on-campus locations, so that guests who are not under the tent can sit comfortably indoors and view the ceremony as it occurs.

Overnight Accommodations & Dining:

Local area [hotels, local traveling resources](#) or [local dining establishments](#) may help our out-of-town visitors.

Photography:

Professional photographers will be on-site to photograph graduates as they receive their diplomas. [Commencement Photos Inc.](#), is providing this service. You may order on-line or call them with questions at (978) 851-5924. The photographer provides a close-up of each graduate receiving their diploma from President Laurie Leshin.

Yearbooks:

Many parents purchase a yearbook as a graduation gift. Order your Yearbook [here](#).

Lastly, we have included a ***Frequently Asked Questions*** page to help in your planning. The [Commencement website](#) will be continually updated as we get closer to the ceremonies!

Sincerely,

Adam Epstein, Emily Perlow, Gregory Snoddy, Bill Battelle
Commencement Administrative Marshalls

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT WPI's 2019 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

How do students learn about their Commencement Ceremony?

All undergraduate or graduate candidates received an e-mail this spring with information about the Commencement Ceremonies. The [Commencement website](#) will be regularly updated, and we encourage parents and students to visit the website often.

What time should I arrive?

The graduates will be instructed to arrive for check-in 90 minutes prior to the ceremony. As noted previously, tickets are required for the undergraduate ceremony. Guests for the graduate ceremony on Thursday do not need tickets. For Thursday, guests can arrive anytime, since seating is first come, first serve. There are large projection screens and sound inside the tent, as well as plenty of indoor auxiliary viewing locations.

How long does the Commencement Ceremony last?

We anticipate that the graduate ceremony (Thursday) will be approximately 2 hours, and the undergraduate ceremony (Saturday) will be approximately 2 ½ hours.

How do students order their cap & gown, class ring and graduation announcements?

Caps & gowns must be [ordered online](#). In April, they will be delivered to the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Rubin Campus Center. Payment will be collected at pick-up. Students receiving both a Masters and Bachelor's degree should purchase a Masters gown. Announcements and class rings must be [ordered directly from Balfour](#).

Where do I park?

Commencement parking is available in the Park Ave Garage, which is closest to the Quad. For overflow, the various parking lots around campus are available. Some lots provide shuttle vans to transport guests from the parking lot to the Quad and back. Please see the parking map under the [Family and Friends](#) tab.

What do we do if we need handicap accommodations?

If you or your guests require handicap accommodations, we will use a "Handicap Drop-off Area" and a golf-cart vehicle to assist you to a designated seating area on the Quad; seating is limited in this area, and does require a ticket. Dedicated handicap parking will be available at the Park Ave Garage, Einhorn Lot and West Street Lot. Please look at the parking map located on the [Family and Friends](#) tab of the Commencement webpage.

Who do I contact in case of an emergency?

There will be an increased police presence on and around campus and you can ask anyone in uniform for assistance or call Campus Police dispatch at 508-831-5433.

When do graduates receive their diploma?

Graduates will receive their personalized diplomas at the ceremony. This is why we place each candidate in exact alpha order! See the Commencement Program to gain an understanding of the diploma dissemination order.

Will I be able to take pictures during the ceremony?

Several professional photographers will be taking pictures of all students as they cross the stage to receive their diploma. Parents and friends may not approach the stage area during the ceremony. Instead, after the ceremony, we suggest you take photos at Earle Bridge, Boynton Hall, Higgins House, or on the stage!

Who should students contact regarding their graduation status?

They should contact the Registrar's Office at 508-831-5211.