

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Spring 2023 Graduation Candidates

FROM: Olufunke A. Fontenot, Ed.D.
Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: March 14, 2023

RE: **Spring 2023 Commencement Information**

As a candidate for spring 2023 graduation, you achieved an educational milestone. Upon your successful and timely completion of all requirements for graduation, please review the information below to ensure your commencement is memorable:

- Although commencement is a celebratory event, it also holds an important air of decorum and civility that makes it the respectful occasion that it should be. Commencement is a ceremony that recognizes your accomplishments at the University and marks the beginning of a new phase in your life. Graduates who are blatantly disrespectful (e.g., shouting, stepping, using noisemakers, etc.) during the ceremony will be fined \$500 and the organizations they represent will receive a \$500 fine. Until such fines are paid, the student will not be cleared for graduation and the organization will remain inactive on campus.
- **Guests will be required to present tickets in order to be admitted into the venue.** Each graduate will receive twenty (20) commencement tickets. Tickets can be picked up at the cashier's office daily beginning March 27, 2023, from 8:30 to 4:30. All online students, please email cagninaj@fvsu.edu from your wildcat email account with the address you would like the tickets mailed.
- Departments will notify candidates for graduation no later than, April 21, 2023, if approved to graduate pending satisfactory completion of all spring 2023 semester courses.
- Students can learn their final graduation status at the Graduation Clearance in the lobby of **Student Amenities Center** on Friday, May 12, 2023, between **10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** We distribute honor cords at this time to undergraduate honor students based on the students' institutional and cumulative grade point averages based on last semester of attendance before graduating semester.
- You must clear all financial balances with the Bursar's Office. Students who received a Perkins Loan must schedule an exit interview with the University Bursar, Mr. John Cagnina, at 478-825-6522 or cagninaj@fvsu.edu.
- Please visit studentaid.gov/app/counselingInstructions.action?counselingType=exit to complete your mandatory federal student aid exit counseling. Federal student loan borrowers are required to complete exit counseling before they graduate, leave school, or drop below half-time enrollment in preparation for repayment.
- Degrees will be distributed to graduates, if they have been fully cleared, immediately after the ceremony.
- All candidates participating in the commencement ceremony must purchase and wear the newly designed cap and gown.
- Social distancing and face coverings are encouraged along with other safety protocols which will be enforced.

- Commencement rehearsal is 8:30 a.m., Friday, May 12, 2023, at the Wildcat Stadium.
- Commencement starts at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, May 13, 2023, at the Wildcat Stadium. Students must line up by 8:15 a.m. and the processional begins promptly at 9:15 a.m. Students cannot enter the processional once it begins.
- On the day of commencement, students must enter the gate from the Ira Hicks Blvd. entrance, and park in the HPE Complex parking area. Parking at the Wildcat Stadium parking lot is for guest.
- Guest must be seated by 9:00 a.m. to view the academic processional. No one can enter until the processional finishes.
- Females should wear black, low-heeled shoes, dark dresses and, if earrings are worn, they should be small in size. Males should wear dark trousers, white shirts, black shoes, and black ties.
- Graduates must purchase graduation attire online from Herff Jones at herff.ly/fvsu no later than 11:59 pm, Friday, March 31, 2023. Orders will not be accepted after this deadline. All orders will be shipped to the address provided on the online order form. Should you need further information, please contact Herff Jones at herffjones@partnershipsalesllc.com.
- For photograph information go to gradimages.com or call 800-261-2576. Please obtain and complete the reader card with your correct mailing and email addresses along with your cell phone number. The completed reader card should be obtained from and submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs, Room 349 C.V. Troup Building or Dr. Romelda Simmons, 215 Student Amenities Center, 478-825-4601. We do not accept reader cards at commencement.
- Please visit fvsu.edu/commencement2023 frequently for commencement information and updates.

Again, congratulations on reaching this memorable milestone in life. I look forward to seeing you at commencement.

xc: Dr. Paul Jones
Mrs. Shareé Lawrence

Dr. Timothy Hatchett
Mr. John Cagnina

Mrs. Sonja Walker
Dr. Romelda Simmons