Subject: 2019 Universitywide Commencement Instructions

Degree candidates not planning to attend the Universitywide Commencement Ceremony on May 23, 2019 may disregard this e-mail communication.

All degree candidates from all divisions of Johns Hopkins University are eligible to participate in the universitywide Commencement ceremony. Degrees will be conferred on this date for all 2019 spring candidates who have been formally approved by their respective Faculty Boards prior to Commencement. Degrees were previously conferred for any 2018 fall or summer candidates participating in the ceremony.

ESSENTIAL UNIVERSITYWIDE COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION:

DATE: Thursday, May 23, 2019

TIME: Arena doors will open at noon. Candidates must report to their line up locations by **12:30pm** as outlined below. Procession will begin promptly at 1:30pm.

LOCATION: Royal Farms Arena, 201 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD [http://www.royalfarmsarena.com/plan-your-visit/directions](http://www.royalfarmsarena.com/plan-your-visit/directions)

PARKING: Public parking is limited near the Arena, so JHU will be offering free parking on a first come, first served basis on Homewood campus and operating a shuttle service from campus to the Royal Farms Arena. The shuttle is scheduled to depart from Mason Hall every 10-15 minutes from 9:30am to 1:00pm, with return service from the Royal Farms Arena to Homewood campus beginning at 4:00pm. The trip should take approximately 30 minutes.

- Graduates planning to take the shuttle should be on a shuttle departing **no later than noon**.
- Graduates planning on driving to the Royal Farms Arena for the ceremony, should allow ample time to find parking at one of the **nearby public parking garages**.

REGALIA: 
**Cap and gown are mandatory** for any student participating in the commencement ceremony. Wearing military dress uniform is part of accepted academic protocol and may be worn in lieu of regalia at the ceremony.

Your cap and gown will be shipped directly to the address you provided when it was ordered. If you missed the April ordering deadline, a limited number of extras are available for purchase/rental with an added late fee at the Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins Bookstore at 3330 St. Paul Street, Baltimore. These will be available on a first come, first served basis. No reservations, phone or fax orders will be accepted at this point.

**All graduates may keep the tassel from the mortarboard. Bachelor and Master Candidates may keep their regalia. Doctoral rentals, must be returned.**

DOCTORAL REGALIA: 
Doctoral candidates must return your regalia to Barnes & Noble Johns Hopkins no later than Thursday, May 23. If you attend the Universitywide Commencement at Royal Farms Arena on May 23, a regalia return area will be clearly marked in the lower level of the arena to return gowns after the ceremony. Students will be charged for items not returned by May 23.

LINEUP: Graduates must report to the lower level of the arena for line up no later than 12:30pm. Attached is a list of line up sections by school and degree program along with a map of the arena for reference. Please find your degree group and remember your assigned line up number and location. Candidates will line up in single file with your fellow
graduating degree group in reverse alphabetical order by last name. **Candidates with more than one major will line up with their first (primary) major.**

Each Bachelor and Doctoral candidate will receive a pre-coded reader card which will display his/her name and degree on the jumbo screen as he/she crosses the stage. Each candidate should hold onto his/her card while approaching the stage. Please be sure you do not fold, destroy or lose your card before crossing the stage.

The reader card will display a candidate’s division, full name, pronunciation, and degree. The number printed on the bottom right corner is the sequence where you fall in line for your major. If any of the information is incorrect, please notify the line up staff member immediately and they will provide you with a blank card to fill in.

**NOTE:** Candidates who arrive late to the procession may not be able to receive their pre-coded reader card and, therefore, will not have a degree or name displayed on the jumbo screen. Candidates arriving late but before their degree group has been called to cross the stage will be placed in line by a staff member. Hand-written cards may be provided so that their names are announced. **Any students who arrive after their degree group has already crossed the stage will not be called to walk across the stage.**

**ACADEMIC PROCESSION:**
The Procession will begin promptly at 1:30pm. Undergraduate candidates will lead the procession followed by graduate candidates. All candidates will process in three lines simultaneously down the aisles and be directed to your appropriate seating area. All candidates will remain standing until after the National Anthem. Men will remove their caps before the Invocation and replace them following the National Anthem.

**CONFERRING OF DEGREES:**
During the ceremony, the appropriate Deans will present the candidates for degrees to the President of the University. As each degree group is presented, that group will stand while the President confers the degree. Masters candidates will not be called to walk across the stage at this ceremony, they will be recognized from their seats. All divisional Doctoral candidates and Baccalaureate candidates from Peabody, Engineering, and Arts and Sciences will walk across the stage individually, according to degree.

When approaching the stage, Bachelor and Doctoral candidates will present their pre-coded reader card which will briefly display their degree and name on the jumbo screen as they are announced. Candidates will then proceed to cross the stage and shake hands with the President and Dean. Please follow directions from the on-stage marshals.

Be advised that you may not be returning to the exact same seat after crossing the stage. Out of respect for fellow graduates, after crossing the stage, all candidates should return to their seats and remain until the ceremony has concluded.
DIPLOMAS
Spring diplomas will be distributed to Bachelor candidates from Engineering and Arts and Sciences. All other spring diplomas will be direct mailed. All fall and summer graduates should have already received diplomas by mail. Please note that diplomas will not be released with outstanding holds on your student account.

ACADEMIC RECESSION:
Following the University Ode, graduates will remain standing at their seats until the recession of the principals, officials, and members of the faculty is complete. Graduates will then recess down the same aisle they processed in from, starting with the first row from the stage. Please follow the marshals’ directions.

GUESTS:
Tickets are not required for guests attending the universitywide Commencement ceremony. It is recommended that guests arrive early if they wish to select a particular seating area. Arena doors will open at noon. The main entrance is at the corner of W. Baltimore Street and Hopkins Place. Another entrance is on S. Howard Street, across from the Light Rail station.

Please review the attached document for items not permitted in the arena. Graduates should leave any personal belongings with their guests before entering the lower level of the arena for line up. Guests are not allowed to enter the lower level with graduates.

For family and friends not able to attend the ceremony, a live webcast will be available online beginning at 1:30pm at https://commencement.jhu.edu/stories-pictures/webcast/.

If you have questions regarding the universitywide ceremony, please review the attached Commencement FAQ’s document or visit https://commencement.jhu.edu/.

We look forward to seeing you at Commencement!

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Johns Hopkins is committed to promoting the full participation of all individuals with disabilities in the Commencement exercises. Please contact the Commencement Office at commencement@jhu.edu or 410-516-7711 to request ASL Interpreters, Assisted Listening Devices, and large-print or Braille program booklets. In all situations, a good faith effort (up until the time of the event) will be made to provide accommodations.

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