

Graduate Commencement Ceremonies

Thursday, May 22, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. | 1:30 p.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:

9:00 a.m. CEREMONY: Arrive by 8:30 a.m. | Procession will begin at 8:45 a.m.

1:30 p.m. CEREMONY: Arrive by 1:00 p.m. | Procession will begin at 1:15 p.m.

6:00 p.m. CEREMONY: Arrive by 5:30 p.m. | Procession will begin at 5:45 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 **STAGEPASS** with you to the staging area. You must present your **STAGEPASS** at the stage to be scanned to have your name announced. It must be printed. 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. We strongly recommend leaving them in your vehicles. 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. 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:

9:00 a.m. Ceremony: Doors open at 8:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m. Ceremony: Doors open at 12:30 p.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.

Bags and Other Items

Bags are allowed, but due to limited space, we recommend leaving large personal items in your car. Balloons and strollers are not permitted inside the arena. You will be asked to return them to your vehicle. 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; strollers; 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 proceed to the stage to be recognized, staff will lead you to either side of stage. Please have your printed **STAGEPASS-NAMECARD** out and ready for scanning. Your **STAGEPASS** must be printed. 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 guests. Students will exit out the back doors and meet their guests in the parking lot. 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.

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

Commencement emails and phones will not be checked after 12:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 21**.

The 9:00 a.m. Ceremony will conclude by 10:30 a.m.

The 1:30 p.m. Ceremony will conclude by 3:00 p.m.

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

All three ceremonies will be livestreamed on the University's home page at wpunj.edu.