

# **Graduate Class of 2023 Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement Schedule and Information**

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**Baccalaureate Mass in Celebration of all members of the  
Class of 2023 (graduate and undergraduate)**

**Friday, May 19, 2023**

**Christ the King Chapel**

*Mass begins 4:30 p.m.*

*Doors open at Christ the King Chapel at 3:45 p.m.*

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Tickets are not required for the Baccalaureate Mass
- Graduates **do not** process
- Graduates, their families and guests will sit together for the Mass
- Academic Gowns only are worn for the Mass
- Do not wear your academic hoods or caps for the Mass
- Caps and hoods will be worn **only** at your commencement exercises

**Graduate Commencement Ceremony**

**Saturday, May 20, 2023**

**Koessler Athletic Center**

**Tickets ARE REQUIRED for the Graduate ceremony.  
Graduates **DO NOT** need a ticket to enter Koessler.**

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- Families and friends of the graduates are invited to relax under the tent on the upper Koessler parking lot until doors open for general seating at 2:15pm.
- Refreshments will be available outside under the tent on the upper Koessler parking lot for families and guests following the ceremony.
- Shuttle services will be provided throughout the day to various parking lots on campus.

- 2:00 p.m. Graduate check-in, line up, donning of gowns and directions to all graduates  
Report to the Patrick Lee Center (behind the Koessler Athletic Center)
- 2:15 p.m. Doors open for guest seating (**tickets required**)
- 2:50 p.m. Academic Procession begins.  
All guests must be seated by this time.  
Graduates and faculty move from their assembly areas to the entrance of the gym.  
Color guard, marshals and the procession will enter the gym.
- 3:00 p.m. Commencement exercises begin.

**Reminder:** Caps & gowns **MUST** be picked up from the bookstore beginning May 10 (When you pick up your tickets for the ceremony, you will be given a form to take to the bookstore to get your cap and gown.) Only in case of an emergency will extra caps, gowns and hoods be available in the assembly area the day of the ceremony.

## **Additional Instructions**

**Please read the following carefully to avoid questions or problems the day of Ceremony!**

- Please note times and locations so there will be no confusion once you arrive at the Patrick Lee Center.
- Once you arrive at 2:00 p.m., follow the signs to the assembly area in the Patrick Lee Center at the rear of the Koessler Athletic Center. Please consult the posted seating charts for your seat assignment; there will be staff members available to assist you. Please do not bring any personal items (e.g., coats, purses) with you to the assembly area, as you will not be returning there after the ceremony.
- Once you are at your seat, please arrange your cap, gown and hood. Marshals and assistants will help you in setting your hood so that the colors are properly displayed.
- The marshals for each section will line up the candidates in the proper order for the academic procession. It is extremely important that you remain in your assigned order throughout the academic procession. The marshals and their assistants assigned to your section will direct you to your seat in the gym.
- Once you have reached your seat in the gym, **REMAIN STANDING. DO NOT SIT AT THIS TIME!**
- At the beginning of the National Anthems, **MEN will remove their caps. Remain standing until after the Invocation.** After the invocation sit down and men replace your caps.
- At the direction of the Academic Vice President, stand up as a group as she recommends you to the President for conferral of degrees. After this, be seated and follow the directions of your marshals.
- Your name will be read as you walk across the stage and you will receive your diploma from the President.
- When receiving your diploma, take it with your left hand and shake hands with the President with your right hand. Continue to walk across the stage, down the stairs, and follow your marshal to your original seat. When directed by the Academic Vice President, move the tassel from the right front corner to the left front corner of your cap.
- During the Benediction, **MEN will remove their caps.** After the Benediction, men will replace their caps for the recession.
- The platform party and faculty will process out of the main hall first; graduates will remain standing until the procession has left the hall. You will then be free to exit to meet your family and guests.

- Please do not leave programs, instructions or other articles on the seats or floors of the gym or the assembly area.
- If you find you are unable to attend the ceremony at the last minute, please notify the Student Records & Financial Services Center at 716.888.2600 or 1-800-278-8933.
- If you arrive late to the ceremony you may forfeit your right to sit with your peers and your name may not be read in the proper order. **Please report by 2:00 p.m.**
- Designated accessibility seating will be available in the main gym.
- American Sign Language interpreters will be positioned on the left-hand corner of the stage to interpret the entire ceremony.
- Please leave all personal belongings with your family and guests.