

Spring 2019 Baccalaureate-Commencement

Date and Time

Ceremony will be held on April 27, 2019 in the courtyard between the Pontious Learning Resource Center and the Rigel Student Center. The ceremony will begin at 9:00 a.m. Graduates will assemble in the Pontious Learning Resource Center at 8:00 a.m.

Caps and Gowns: Caps and gowns can be picked up at Grad Finale or on the day of the ceremony in the Turner Athletic Center. Regalia can also be ordered online at www.jostens.com.

Grad Finale: Grad Finale is an event for all students participating in the commencement ceremony, Associate, Bachelor, and Master graduates, to pickup caps/gowns/tassels, and to order invitations, class rings and other graduation accessories. Grad Finale will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 from 1-6 p.m. in the North Lobby of the Rigel Student Center, Lake Wales. You may send a representative if you are unable to attend.

Graduation Announcements: Custom announcements can be ordered at the Grad Finale.

Guests: There will be general admission seating provided. There will not be tickets.

Local Accommodations: Area hotels/motels and restaurants can be located at the Lake Wales Chamber of Commerce web site (<http://www.lakewaleschamber.com/member.asp>) or at Lake Wales Area Chamber of Commerce, 340 West Central Avenue, P.O. Box 191, Lake Wales, FL 33859-0191. Phone (863) 676-3445 / Fax (863) 676-3446. E-mail: lwacc@worldnet.att.net.

The Day of Commencement

Reporting and Assembly: Graduates will need to report to the Turner Athletic Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring only the cap and gown - leave personal belongings (phone, purse, cameras, etc.) with your guests. You will be given a name card and asked to find your position in line (alpha order). During the ceremony graduates will hand their card to the announcer as they step on to the stage for their name to be announced. If the name is difficult to pronounce, please write a phonetic spelling on the card or whisper the pronunciation to the announcer prior to the announcement of the name.

Live Broadcast: For guests who are unable to travel, they can watch the broadcast of the ceremony online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=txFX7c_eY8M or <https://m.youtube.com/user/WarnerChapel>. This broadcast will be available at the same time as the ceremony on campus.

Academic Attire: Tassels are to be worn at the right temple. Men are to remove their caps during the opening prayer, but the cap is worn during conferral of the degree and receiving the diploma folder from the President. Please wear the cap and gown with dignity and no distracting items pinned on them. The University reserves the right to prohibit decorations on mortar boards that it deems overly elaborate or inappropriate.

Dress Code for Graduates: Graduates are asked to dress if they were going to a professional job interview. Consider wearing comfortable flat shoes. It will be difficult to walk across the lawn in heels.

Latin Honor Cords: Bachelor candidates who qualify for Latin honors status (Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Summa Cum Laude) will receive honor cords from the Registrar's Office staff the morning of the ceremony. Honors status will be printed in the program but will not be announced in the ceremony. Due to time limitations, the printed honors status is based on records as of the end of the previous semester or term. Final honors status will be based on all courses and grades and will be printed on the diploma. The honors status qualifications are based on the cumulative GPA as follows: Cum Laude (3.50 - 3.70), Magna Cum Laude (3.70 - 3.89) and Summa Cum Laude (3.90 and above). Latin honors are available for Bachelor of Arts graduates only.

Honor Society Cords: Undergraduates may wear cords or ribbons from university academic honor societies where they hold membership. These should be worn in the same manner as those for the Latin honors noted above. Only authorized and registered honor societies may provide honor cords.

Processional: Graduates will line up for the commencement procession alphabetically by degree in the Pontious Learning Resource Center. Master degree candidates will be first in line, Bachelor candidates will be next, and Associate candidates will be last. Attendants will lead the procession for the ceremony. The processional will begin promptly at 9am.

Photos: All seating at the ceremony allows for a good view of the stage. We asked that guests take photos from their seats only. Professional photos of the ceremony and each graduate will be taken and available for purchase through the contracted photographer, Grad Images. Further details will be available at the ceremony.

Diplomas: The University will mail diplomas approximately 6 - 8 weeks after the semester. All grades and official transcripts must be received and all financial matters cleared before the degree is posted on the transcript and the diploma is mailed.

Recessional: After the ceremony the platform party, faculty and graduates will recess, guests will remain in their seats until the recessional is complete.

In Case of Inclement Weather: If the weather proves to be inclement and we cannot have the ceremony outside as planned, we have a contingency agenda to put into place. If necessary, the ceremony will move into the Turner Athletic Center, with additional overflow satellite seating in the Darby Lecture Hall, the Ratzlaff Administration Building, and the South Lake Wales Church of God. Each satellite location will have the full ceremony simulcasted, so those folks seated in a remote location will not miss any of the activities in the TAC.