

**Southern Wesleyan University 2020 Spring Graduation Exercises  
Information for Graduates and Guests (Updated 01/22/20)**

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**I. Ceremonies:**

The **2020 Spring Graduation Exercises** of Southern Wesleyan University will be held on Friday, May 8, 2020 in the Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center on the Southern Wesleyan University Campus in Central, SC. There will be two ceremonies. Graduating students will be allowed to participate only in their assigned ceremony. Students are assigned to each ceremony based on their program and location.

Students will participate in the ceremonies as follows:

**Friday, May 8, 2020..... 10 AM**

Students in the On-Campus program receiving the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Music
- Bachelor of Science

**Friday, May 8, 2020..... 3 PM**

Students in the SWU Online program receiving the following degrees:

- Associate of Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Education
- Master of Science
- Doctorate of Education

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**II. Graduation Timeline:**

November 6, 2019	Initial On-Campus Program application deadline
January 17, 2020	Application and additional information emailed to potential graduates
<b>February 1, 2020</b>	<b>Potential graduates begin ordering regalia via Herff-Jones website</b>
<b>March 4, 2020</b>	<b>Graduation application deadline</b>
March 4, 2020	List of students sent to Herff-Jones for invitations/announcements mailing
March 4, 2020	List of candidates to Faculty for approval
March 4, 2020	Graduation information sent to all potential graduates
March 20, 2020	Email to all students who applied for graduation
April 1, 2020	Last day to order regalia without expedited shipping
<b>April 13, 2020</b>	<b>On-Campus Program - financial obligations must be cleared</b>
<b>April 13, 2020</b>	On-Campus Program - all graduation requirements, excluding current courses, must be complete (including credit by exam, CLEP/DSST, & all official transcripts from other institutions)
<b>April 11, 2020</b>	<b>SWU Online Programs - financial obligations must be cleared</b>
<b>April 11, 2020</b>	SWU Online Programs - All transfer course official transcripts and CLEP/DSST official score reports must be received by Academic Records
April 13, 2020	Last day to order regalia with expedited shipping
April 15, 2020	Ceremony assignments emailed to SWU Faculty and Staff
April 15, 2020	SWU Online Programs– Notifications to SWU Online students who applied but are ineligible to graduate
April 20, 2020	Email will go out to all students concerning graduation
April 22, 2020	SWU Online tickets will be mailed to USPS address
April 22, 2020	On-Campus Program students pick up tickets from Academic Records
April 22, 2020	Honors notifications (approximately 2 weeks prior to ceremony)
April 30, 2020	Final program sent to Marketing
May 4, 2020	Requested program delivery date
<b>May 8, 2020</b>	<b>10:00 AM Graduation Ceremony for students in the On-Campus program</b>
<b>May 8, 2020</b>	<b>3:00 PM Graduation Ceremony for students in the SWU Online programs</b>
May 8, 2020	Official degree conferral date
May 11, 2020	4:00 PM final grades due for all students in On-Campus Program Spring Semester
May 14, 2020	4:00 PM final grades due for all students in SWU Online Program Spring Semester
June 5, 2020	Diplomas ordered for graduates who successfully completed all obligations/requirements

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**III. Graduation Day Schedule:**

Students assemble in Lower Level of the University Dining Commons for rehearsal. Guests with tickets should go directly to Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. Guests without tickets will be directed to the overflow areas (Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center Classrooms) to view the ceremony on closed circuit television. **Graduates should make arrangements with their family members ahead of time to keep their valuables.** There is not a secure location in the rehearsal area to leave items during the ceremony. Southern Wesleyan University is not responsible for items left in the rehearsal area during the ceremony.

**Friday, May 8, 2020 10:00 AM Ceremony for On-Campus Students**

8:30 AM	Graduates <b>must</b> check-in <b><u>no later than 8:30 AM</u></b> (University Dining Commons)
9:00 AM	Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)
9:30 AM	Devotions
9:55 AM	Processional
10:00 AM	Ceremony

**Friday, May 8, 2020 3:00 PM Ceremony for SWU Online Students**

1:00 PM	Graduates <b>must</b> check-in <b><u>no later than 1:00 PM</u></b> (University Dining Commons)
1:30 PM	Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)
2:30 PM	Devotions
2:55 PM	Processional
3:00 PM	Ceremony

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**IV. Academic Regalia:**

The style of each academic gown indicates the highest degree earned by the wearer: bachelors—long, pointed sleeves; masters—long, closed sleeves with the arm going through a slit, giving the appearance of short-sleeves; doctors—full, round, and open, with three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The bars may be black or the color designating the major discipline.

Some universities have adopted an official doctoral gown incorporating the school colors. These are examples worn by several Southern Wesleyan University Faculty:

Clemson University	Purple and Orange
University of Colorado	Gold and Silver
University of South Carolina	Garnet and Black

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The hood is lined in the official colors of the university that awarded the degree; the color of the facing indicates the degree.

Holders of all degrees wear caps with a long tassel conforming to the degree earned, except that doctors may wear tassels of gold thread.

The following colors have been established by the Intercollegiate Commission:

Apricot	- Nursing
Brown	- Fine Arts, including Architecture
Citron	- Social Work
Copper	- Economics
Crimson	- Journalism
Dark Blue	- Philosophy
Drab	- Commerce, Accountancy, Business
Gray	- Veterinary Science
Green	- Medicine
Lemon	- Library Science
Light Blue	- Education
Lilac	- Dentistry
Maize	- Agriculture
Olive Green	- Pharmacy
Orange	- Engineering
Peacock Blue	- Public Administration, including Foreign Service
Pink	- Music
Salmon	- Public Health
Purple	- Law
Russet	- Forestry
Sage Green	- Physical Education
Scarlet	- Theology
Silver Gray	- Oratory (Speech)
White	- Arts, Letters, Humanities
Golden Yellow	- Science

**V. Applause:**

When your name is called and you walk across the platform, your family is invited to stand in recognition of your achievement. Whistling and boisterous behavior is considered inappropriate. Applause is reserved for those earning honor; after all degrees have been awarded, all graduates will be applauded.

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**VI. Applications:**

You must **apply** to graduate, regardless of whether you plan to participate in the ceremony or not. The deadline to apply is indicated in Section II. If you plan to graduate in May 2020, but have not applied, please contact Academic Records immediately. We must have your application, so we may check to see if you have met all requirements and order your diploma. Students who do not meet all the appropriate deadlines will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony, and will have to wait until December 2020 to earn their degree.

**VII. Appropriate Attire for Graduates:**

This is a time of final honoring of members of the class. When in academic regalia, individuals should not try to draw attention to themselves by wearing flashy clothing or extraneous decorations. **No decorations of caps.** Please press your robe!

**VIII. Cameras, Photographs, and Videos:**

A professional photographer will photograph you receiving your diploma from the president. You will receive an opportunity to purchase copies of these photos directly from the photographer approximately one week after the ceremony.

Cameras are allowed during the commencement services, but those using video cameras are requested to sit in the back rows or balcony, in order not to block the view of other guests. Due to limited seating, tripods may not be used.

**IX. Cell Phones:**

Please make sure your cell phones are turned off. Also ask your guests to turn off their cell phones during the service.

**X. Diplomas**

During the graduation ceremonies, students will be given a decorative diploma cover. Diplomas will be mailed to graduates once all graduation requirements and financial obligations have been certified as met, approximately six weeks after graduation

All diplomas will be printed with the "Official Degree Conferral Date" indicated in the calendar above.

**XI. Food Service:**

The on-campus coffee shop (Blue Hill) and Campus Dining Services will be open on graduation day.

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**XI. Honors:**

For Latin Honors, calculation of the cumulative grade point average is based on all work attempted at SWU and from regionally accredited institutions, at least fifty-two hours of which must be from Southern Wesleyan University with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4 on all SWU work attended. Based on this GPA, Latin Honors are awarded as follows:

*Summa cum laude* ("with highest praise"), indicated by an honor medallion and a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative GPA of 3.80 or above.

*Magna cum laude* ("with high praise"), indicated by a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative GPA of 3.60 to 3.79.

*Cum laude* ("with praise"), indicated by a single honor cord, denotes a cumulative GPA of 3.40 to 3.59.

*University Honors:* In the event that a student is ineligible for Latin Honors but has achieved a cumulative SWU GPA of at least 3.8 on no less than 60 credits earned at Southern Wesleyan University, that student will be assigned the designation of "university honors."

Grades earned in SWU courses and also in courses from accredited institutions that are equivalent to SWU offerings or are applicable to SWU degree programs are included in the calculation for graduation honors. Non-credit courses and 0.0 courses count as 0.0.

Αχ recognizes membership in Alpha Chi Honor Society, open to the top ten percent of the senior class (Traditional program). The name is derived from the initial letters of αλήθεια (truth) and χαρακτήρ (character). Membership is indicated by the blue and green honor cord.

The Faculty Marshal is the senior faculty member; the Marshal is the junior with highest GPA.

Junior academic leaders serve as ushers.

Latin Honors are not awarded to students earning Masters' degrees. At the graduate level, academic hoods are worn as a part of the regalia, and symbolize the graduate level achievement.

**XIII. Invitations:**

Graduation **invitations** may be ordered online from [Herff Jones](https://www.herffjones.com) at <https://www.herffjones.com/product/graduation/>. (The Herff Jones web page is typically available approximately two months prior to ceremony.) Class Rings are also ordered directly from Herff-Jones via their web site [www.herffjones.com](http://www.herffjones.com). Contact SWU's Herff-Jones representative, Harold Waters, at 864-244-0110 for more information on class rings or announcements.

**XIV. Memorabilia:**

Southern Wesleyan **memorabilia** may be purchased from the [SWU Campus Store](http://www.swuwarriorsgear.merchorders.com) at <http://www.swuwarriorsgear.merchorders.com>. For the convenience of those attending the graduation ceremonies, the campus store will be open on Graduation Day.

**XV. Multiple Degrees:**

After December 2003, students may not earn an Associate's and Bachelor's degree at the same ceremony. The Associate's degree must be awarded prior to the awarding of the Bachelor's degree.

Students earning both the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree have completed an additional thirty hours of coursework, over and above the hours required for the first degree.

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**XVI. Nursery/childcare:**

Childcare will not be provided. Children are welcome, but please note the graduation program is not designed to keep the attention of young children. If necessary, please make childcare arrangements, or use the video-equipped over-flow room. For ticketed ceremonies, children who wish to attend the ceremony must also have a ticket, unless they are small enough to be held throughout the ceremony.

**XVII. Parking and Travel time to campus**

Graduates are expected to arrive on campus two hours prior to their assigned ceremony. Please allow sufficient travel time in order to arrive in time to participate in the ceremony. Graduates unfamiliar with the main campus should allow extra time for finding the campus, parking, and making their way to the check-in station. Guests requiring special parking must have a valid handicapped parking permit.

**XVIII. Processional:**

There will be a formal processional across campus leading to each ceremony.

**XIV. Rehearsal:**

Assemble ninety minutes prior to your assigned ceremony in the University Dining Commons for rehearsal, devotions, and a group picture. To be dressed and ready to go, you should plan to arrive on campus **at least two hours prior to your assigned ceremony.**

**XX. Tickets:**

Based on the current number of students scheduled to participate in the graduation, each student **will be issued at least 4 tickets** to the ceremony. All guests must have a ticket for admittance to the ceremony. Guests without tickets will be directed to the overflow areas to view the ceremony on closed circuit broadcast. Tickets will be mailed to SWU Online students a few days prior to the ceremony. There will not be extra tickets available. On-Campus students will be notified by email when tickets are ready for pickup from the Academic Records office. On-Campus program graduates who are unable to pick up their tickets in person, should contact Academic Records to make alternate delivery arrangements.