

Commencement Instructions for Harding University Candidates

Before the Ceremony

- **Check your Line of March** on the [Graduation Page](#). Note your number and contact the Registrar (501-279-4403) if your name is missing.
- **Dress appropriately:**
 - Men – dress shirt, dark slacks, socks, and shoes
 - Women – dark dress clothing and dark shoes
- **Regalia:**
 - No decorations on caps or gowns; only approved honor cords are allowed.
 - **Undergraduates:** tassel on **right**; move to **left** after receiving diploma cover.
 - **Master's/Specialist:** tassel on **left**; wear hood (see Marshal if unsure).
 - **Doctoral:** tassel on **left** of tam; carry hood over **left arm** (you'll be hooded on stage).

Arrival and Lineup

- Arrive at the **Pryor-England Science Building 45 minutes early (8:15 a.m.)**.
Check hallway assignment based on your Line of March number:
 - **200-section:** North hallway near Room 113
 - **300-section:** Center hallway near Room 103
 - **400-section:** South hallway near Room 116
- Your **Dean and/or Marshal** will line you up and give you a **name card with a QR code** — keep it! You'll need it to enter the stage.
- Follow your Marshal into the Benson Auditorium. During processional, fill rows from front to back leaving no empty seats. Remain standing until instructed to sit.
- **Men remove caps** when seated and during the closing prayer.

During the Ceremony

- Stand when the Provost invites all candidates to stand; remain standing until told to sit.
- Follow your Marshal's directions on when to stand and approach the stage.
- Hand name card to scanner before the stage and to the reader on the stage.
- Pay attention to tape on the stage floor as stopping point(s) as you approach the name reader.
- When your name is called, walk to **President Williams** to receive your **diploma cover** and shake hands. Smile for the photo!
- **Doctoral students:** pause midway to be hooded before greeting the President.
- Continue across the stage to shake hands with your **Dean**, then return to your seat. Be seated.

After the Ceremony

- Follow your Marshal out during the recessional in the same line or march order.
- Exit the Benson promptly to allow space for the guests to exit through the lobby.
- Meet family and friends at a **pre-arranged location outside** the auditorium.
- A **reception** follows in the **Charles White Dining Hall**.

Reminders

- Guests need tickets; doors open one hour before the ceremony.
- Ask your guests to just applaud (no yelling or loud noise) so the family of the next in line can hear their graduate's name called.
- More details: visit the [Graduation Page](#)
- Problems day-of: call **Harding Public Safety (501-279-5000)**.