



The Commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 7th, 2022, at the Minneapolis Convention Center located at 1301 Second Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55403. The times of the ceremonies are listed below.

What is Commencement?

Commencement is a formal event, held twice annually (spring and fall), to celebrate and recognize the milestone of completing (or the anticipated completion of) a program or degree for a respective group of students. Participation in commencement is optional and does not confirm completion of degree requirements. Commencement activities (Commencement Expo, President’s Outstanding Student Awards, and Commencement) are facilitated by Student Life & Leadership Development.

Graduation is the official confirmation of the completion of all degree requirements, as maintained on your degree audit report, and is recorded on your official transcript, both of which are administered by the Registrar's Office.

Livestreaming

Livestreaming will be available the day of Commencement. Viewers can access the livestream by going to: www.metrostate.edu.

Ceremony Information

In an effort to provide a safer experience for all graduates and their guests, due to COVID-19 we are revising the ceremony times to reflect COVID-19 safety protocols. The following table includes information about Commencement ceremony times.

<p>1st Ceremony May 7th, 2022 begins at 10:30 am., doors open at 9:45 am.</p>	<p>2nd Ceremony May 7th, 2022 begins at 2:30 pm., doors open at 1:45 pm.</p>	<p>3rd Ceremony May 7th, 2022 begins at 6:00 pm., doors open at 5:15 pm.</p>
<p>Participants include the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral graduates from the following college:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Sciences • College of Liberal Arts • College of Nursing and Health Sciences 	<p>Participants include the undergraduate and master’s degree graduates from the following colleges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Urban Education • College of Individualized Studies • College of Community Studies and Public Affairs 	<p>Participants include the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral graduates from the following college:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Management

Graduation Workshop and Commencement Workshop in D2L

Please work with your academic advisor to fill out the appropriate paperwork to ensure that you are able to register for the D2L Brightspace Graduation Workshop.

Once registered for the Graduation Requirements Workshop, WKSP GRAD, please complete the Commencement Participation Quiz no later than 2/15/2022 to indicate your intention of participating in commencement. You will then be added to the Commencement



Workshop. Once you are enrolled in the Commencement Workshop, you are RSVP'd for Commencement.

International Guests Invitations

The Registrar's Office will no longer provide letters for students with international guests, as the letters are not considered in the VISA process.

Instead, please log in to D2L Brightspace and go to the Commencement Workshop. Once you have logged in, click the "Commencement Participation Certificate" tab and you will be able to download a certificate verifying that you are participating in commencement. Your international guest(s) may submit this certificate as part of their VISA/International Guest Application with their respective embassy. For more information about this process, please contact student.life@metrostate.edu

Regalia information

Due to the COVID 19 Pandemic, there will not be an in-person Commencement Expo Event.

Please be sure to order online by April 22nd, 2022 to have your regalia in hand by the photo deadline.

If you would like to purchase, please go to the [Herff Jones website \(herff.ly/metrostate\)](http://herff.ly/metrostate) and contact their customer service via e-mail at gradmidwest@gmail.com.

Questions about regalia, purchases, returns or exchanges:

If you have questions about regalia, including returns/exchanges, please contact gradmidwest@gmail.com and Herff Jones will help you with your questions/inquiries.

Custom regalia:

Custom regalia (stoles or caps) can be purchased through Herff Jones or through the department they are working directly with. Regalia must be approved by Student Life & Leadership Development. To have your stoles or caps approved, please contact: student.life@metrostate.edu .

How to wear your regalia:

Tassels should be worn as follows:

- Doctoral and Masters graduates: Left shoulder side
- Undergraduate graduates: Right shoulder side

Stoles should be worn over your gown. You may wear as many stoles as you would like.

Caps can be decorated, so long as they are not offensive or distracting.

Graduate and doctoral program hoods should not be worn until a student is hooded on stage.



Conferring of degrees

The University President confers degrees at the end of the ceremony. Graduates are expected to stay until the end of the ceremony.

Accessibility at Commencement

Commencement has accessibility services to ensure that all participants are able to celebrate with their loved ones. For accessibility-related accommodations, contact:

accessibility.services@metrostate.edu

Frequently asked questions/Additional quest information

- **Wristbands:** Due to COVID-19 instead of distributing commencement tickets, each student will receive wristbands for their guest. As we are working through our COVID-19 safety plan we will repost the number of wristbands each student can expect to receive. The wristbands can be pick up from our St. Paul Campus Gateway Student Services. Please watch for additional announcements on when distribution of these wristbands will occur. Metropolitan State University requires wristbands for Commencement, all guests, including children/toddlers, need wristbands for the ceremonies. This will help us manage the event, especially during COVID-19. Infants in carriers or strollers also need wristbands. Strollers and carriers can be stored outside the auditorium in the available pod. Please inquire about storing such items with ushers/security staff. Due to COVID-19, individuals without wristbands will not be allowed to enter into the auditorium. Graduates will not need a wristband, if you arrive late you will be allowed into the auditorium 15 minutes after the ceremony has begun.
- **COVID-19 Protocols:** We will be following the COVID-19 protocols of the venue and Minnesota State, including wearing of face coverings. We ask that any guests and graduates who may be feeling ill (including having an active infection or fever) or are exposed to illnesses stay home the day of the event. This is vital to ensure that our event is safe and enjoyable for all people participating. We ask that parties sit together and try to leave an open seat between themselves and another party.
- **Additional wristbands:** Student Life & Leadership Development will not be distributing additional wristbands.
- **Parking:** For your convenience click the link for Minneapolis Convention Center parking <https://www.minneapolis.org/minneapolis-convention-center/directions-parking/>
- **Mobility:** If any guests are not able to walk, please drop them off at the lobby to check in with Accessibility Services.
- **Balloons/Flowers:** Balloons and flowers are welcome. We ask that these items are stored outside the auditorium to not obstruct views of the ceremony. Please inquire about storing such items with ushers/security staff.
- **Photography and videography:** Metropolitan State University has hired photographers and videographers to capture the Commencement Ceremonies. Please do not leave your seats to take photos or videos.
- **Bathrooms:** There will be bathrooms located across from the Auditorium through the Lobby area. Gender inclusive bathrooms will be located to the right, past the escalator.
- **Please stay in your seats:** We ask that guests wear their face covering, stay in their seats during the processing, ceremony, and recession, especially during COVID-19. Please do not stand in walkways or enter/exit the Auditorium repeatedly, unless you need to access the



bathroom or would like to sit in the Lobby. This movement and noise can be distracting to graduates, their guests, and can be heard on the livestream.

- **Walkways and the Auditorium Lobby will be cleared and stanchioned off five minutes before the end of the ceremony.** This will allow for a smooth recession for the graduates to exit the Auditorium.
- **Lost and found:** Any lost items will be turned in to the front desk of the venue.

Questions

For questions regarding Commencement, contact Student Life & Leadership Development at: student.life@metrostate.edu