



Deans' Message to Graduating Students Concerning Commencement:

Dear Graduating Students:

Congratulations on nearing the completion of your degree program, which will culminate in **Marywood University's Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 17, 2025!** We want those of you who plan to participate in the ceremony to be aware of how Commencement and related activities will be conducted this year, as some of the plans reflect a change from previous years.

HOODING/RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

No formal University-wide Hooding Ceremonies will be held prior to Commencement. Individual programs or schools may choose to hold their own special recognition ceremonies for their graduating students. If a program or school confirms plans to hold a special ceremony, whether it is scheduled the day before Commencement or on some other date, the details will be posted on the Commencement website as soon as the information is known. *(See more information about recognitions/medals below.)*

COMMENCEMENT LITURGY, MAY 16, NOON, MUNLEY THEATRE, SETTE LAVERGHETTA CENTER

The Commencement Liturgy is going forward as planned. The celebration of the Eucharist to ask God's blessing on our graduates has been a Marywood tradition since 1919. Faculty, graduating students, families, and guests are invited to participate. Graduating students and faculty should wear their academic attire. All guests are asked to be seated by 11:45 a.m., so Mass can begin promptly at Noon

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Whether or not a special recognition ceremony is held by a student's program or school, all graduating students need to order their academic attire online **by Tuesday, February 11**, for delivery at the **Grad Fair** *(See details below.)* A separate email communication reminding students about where and how to order academic attire has been sent to graduating students by the Events Office. Go to marywood.edu/commencement to reference specific information and to access the link for ordering academic attire as soon as possible. If you miss the deadline for online ordering, you should contact the Gear Shop. A bulk order of academic attire is being placed to accommodate students who miss the ordering deadline, but please contact the Gear Shop as directed:

- ***If you can attend the Grad Fair, but were unable to order academic attire online by the deadline,*** contact the Gear Shop at the Grad Fair. A bulk order of gowns, caps, hoods, and tassels will be available for distribution at the event.
- ***Accommodations for students unable to attend the Grad Fair*** will be handled through the University Gear Shop following the event. Please contact the Gear Shop as soon as possible to make alternate arrangements regarding your academic attire.

GRAD FAIR, MARCH 26 & 27, 11 AM-6 PM, FIREPLACE LOUNGE, NAZARETH STUDENT CENTER

In addition to picking up academic attire, the Grad Fair allows students to meet with other departments, such as Career Services, Student Engagement, Alumni, Registrar's Office, Student Accounts, Financial Aid, and Graduate Admissions. It also provides undergraduate students the opportunity to complete the Senior Survey, which is part of their graduation process. ***Please contact John Coval at events@marywood.edu with any questions about the academic attire ordering process or the Grad Fair.***

HONOR RECOGNITIONS AND MEDALS

All honor societies/recognitions and medalist names, which were previously included in hooding program books, will now be included in the Commencement program. The Academic Affairs Office will be given the University Commencement medals to distribute to the appropriate schools/programs/departments.

Please Note:

- **If a program or school decides to have a recognition ceremony**, the medals may be awarded to students at those events.
- **Student Life Medals** will be awarded at the planned Student Leadership Awards event.
- **If there are students in programs or schools that do *not* hold a recognition ceremony**, the medals will be given to the student by the school/program prior to Commencement, to allow graduates to wear their medal(s) during the ceremony.

If you are a medalist and are unsure of how/when you will receive your medal, please contact your Program Director or Dean for clarity.

After the conferral of degrees on Commencement Day, when all graduates have returned to their seats in the arena, the University medalists will be announced and recognized. As medalists' names are called, they will stand at their place and be recognized by the audience.

Please note that ONLY University-endowed medalists will be recognized at Commencement. Due to time constraints during ceremony and at the venue, only University-endowed medalists will be recognized in this forum. Department awards/accolades and the recognition of honor societies should be reserved for department-sponsored or individual honor society events only. If there are special department awards that were previously listed in hooding programs, they will now be included in a section of the Commencement Program Book under the headline "Department Recognitions."

Medalist Publicity: All University-endowed Commencement medalists have the opportunity to get their photo taken at Commencement, between 12:15 and 12:45 PM, in front of a backdrop near the side of the stage. Publicity is completely voluntary. Only students with photos will get social media posts and external publicity. All medalists are recognized/listed on our website (unless they opt out of this recognition). No photos are included in the web news story. These details and links to medalist publicity forms will be included in the notification letter that students receive informing them of their medal award.

GRADUATION REGISTRATION

Finally, if you anticipate graduating this spring, you must register for graduation in your student portal. This should be done as soon as possible, but if you have any questions about this process, or your program completion requirements, contact us for more information.

We are aware that this is a momentous, exciting time in your academic career at Marywood, and you may have additional questions about the information contained in this letter. Please use the contact information below our names to reach out if you have any issues or questions.

Sincerely,

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