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COMMENCEMENT POLICIES

The following policies will be in place for Walden's summer 2024 commencement at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

Crossing the Stage

Graduates are asked to cross the stage in a respectful and professional manner, refraining from large outbursts, taking selfies, dancing, or other actions that may disrupt the ceremony. Registered graduates are the only people permitted to cross the commencement stage. If you need an accommodation, please email commencement@mail.waldenu.edu.

The Commencement Program Book

Inclusion in the Book

Inclusion in the commencement program book is determined by academic completion date and is independent of commencement attendance—this is because commencement attendance is optional and degree conferral is the official and final mark of the completion of a student's academic requirements. Everyone must receive confirmation of their degree conferral to complete their program, but graduates are not required to attend commencement.

Therefore, if your degree is conferred (or is set to be conferred) between December 14, 2023, and June 3, 2024, then your name will be included in the final commencement program that is published electronically six to eight weeks after commencement. It will be posted to the commencement website and distributed via email by the Alumni Association. To be excluded from the commencement book, please send an email to commencement@mail.waldenu.edu before June 3, 2024.

Printed Book vs. Final Electronic Book

The commencement program book that will be distributed on-site contains information about Walden's history, university leadership, the academic ceremony, and additional information about the university organizations and initiatives. It does not include the names of graduates first eligible to participate in this commencement.

After the ceremonies, a final, electronic version of the commencement program book will be published with the names of graduates from the summer class of 2024. This class comprises all graduates, regardless of their commencement attendance, who received confirmation of their degree conferral between December 14, 2023 and June 3, 2024.

Regalia

Graduates are required to wear regalia (a cap and gown) to walk in the ceremony. Walden does not provide gowns to keep or rental gowns. Graduates can [purchase regalia through Herff Jones](#) to be shipped to their home prior to the ceremony. The deadline to purchase regalia to have it in time for the ceremony is June 23, 2024.



Note: Most graduates should purchase keepsake regalia. Doctoral graduates have the opportunity to purchase fine-quality regalia depending upon their needs. More information about the regalia and their differences are explained [in this video](#).

Cancellations and Fees

The \$300 commencement fee is non-transferable. Graduates must successfully pay the fee and complete their commencement registration, marked by receipt of a confirmation email, in order to be included in the event. After June 3, 2024, no refunds will be issued if you cancel your registration or do not attend your ceremony (no-show). Cancellations due to COVID-19, other illness, or emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Graduates who cancel their registration are also responsible for the cancellation of their own airfare, hotel, regalia, etc.

Photo Release Statement

Walden University may film or photograph commencement and its associated activities for marketing and publicity purposes. By participating in these events, graduates and their guests may be photographed or filmed. These images belong to Walden University, and graduates are not entitled to compensation or fees for use of their image or likeness. If you have questions or concerns about this, please [email us](#) by June 3, 2024.

Electronic Tickets

Each graduate is allotted a maximum of four guest tickets in addition to their graduate ticket (the GradPass). A ticket denotes a seat and is needed for anyone over the age of 3. We are unable to provide more tickets or make exceptions due to safety and space restrictions.

Guest tickets and GradPasses will be distributed electronically through MarchingOrder two weeks prior to commencement. Information and instructions on how to access MarchingOrder will be communicated to registered graduates no later than July 1, 2024.

Walden does not approve or sanction the sale or exchange of tickets between graduates and guests.

Name Reading

All registered graduates will have their names called as they cross the stage during their ceremony. Registered graduates will receive instructions on how to access MarchingOrder to confirm name spelling/accuracy and phonetic pronunciation by June 26.

An academic title will only be read alongside a name if it corresponds to the degree for which the graduate is being recognized. For example, if John Smith is being recognized for his master's degree during this ceremony, but holds a separate doctoral degree, his doctoral title



will not be read. If he is being recognized for his doctoral degree, his doctoral title will be read.

Honors, accolades, and honor society information (e.g., magna cum laude or National Society of Leadership and Success) will not be read during the individual recognition of each graduate.

Ceremony Etiquette

Commencement is a special and memorable experience for graduates to celebrate their achievements with their families. To facilitate an enjoyable ceremony, we ask that all attendees participate in a positive and respectful manner. To that end, please:

- Remain in your designated seat for the duration of the ceremony.
- Silence cellphones and other devices.
- Avoid extended cheering so all graduates' names can be heard as they cross the stage.
- Request that guests remain seated during the recessional until all graduates and faculty members have exited.
- Respect commencement speakers, event staff, faculty, fellow graduates, and their guests.

Additional health and safety protocols, which will be communicated to registered graduates, may be instituted on-site to ensure a safe and successful ceremony.

Prohibited Items

To facilitate an enjoyable ceremony, noise-makers, balloons, confetti, oversized signs or banners, alcohol, and weapons are not permitted in the exhibit hall where the ceremonies will be held.

Embedded Degrees

Graduates who have earned an embedded graduate credential within their higher-level degree are only eligible to participate in commencement for their higher-level degree. Embedded graduate credentials will not be recognized during the commencement ceremony.

Latin Honors

Walden awards Latin honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude) and the Presidential Commendation for Academic Achievement (cumulative GPA of 4.0) at the bachelor's level only. Latin honors cords and presidential medals will be mailed to all registered graduates who are eligible to receive Latin honors or a presidential medal.

Honor Societies

Graduates are responsible for identifying and contacting their respective honor societies for any event information, honor cords/commencement attire, or membership status. The commencement team is not responsible for any



communications regarding activities outside of the commencement ceremony and Walden-hosted graduate events.

Graduating Students

Graduating students are invited to register for commencement if their degree conferral is anticipated on or before the conferral deadline of June 3, 2024. If a graduating student does not receive their conferral confirmation by the deadline, the graduation team will evaluate the student's eligibility and determine if the student can participate as a special consideration or if they will be removed from the event.

Special Consideration Registrants

Special consideration registrants will be subject to the following:

- Only the names of graduates who have received confirmation of their degree conferral between December 14, 2023, and June 3, 2024 will appear in the electronic commencement book.
- They will not be eligible to receive honors cords or medallions.

Late Registrants

Late registrants will be subject to the following:

- Only the names of graduates who have received confirmation of their degree conferral between December 14, 2023, and June 3, 2024 will appear in the electronic commencement book.
- They will not receive honors cords if they are eligible.
- Discounted room rates, regalia, and other resources may not be available.