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Commencement Weekend 2015!

Commencement Weekend is made up of several events. [A list of events across GW is available here.](#) The primary events for Physical Therapy graduates are:

**DPT Awards Ceremony**

*When:* Friday, 15 May at 1pm (reception begins at noon)

*Where:* Dorothy Betts Theater on main lobby level of the Marvin Center

*What:* Can’t wait to see what the Class of 2015 will do!

*Wardrobe:* Business Casual. No regalia.

**Health Sciences Graduation Celebration**

*When:* Saturday, 16 May at 4pm (group photos and processional line-up at 2:45pm)

*Where:* Lisner Auditorium (meet outside on Kogan Plaza. It WILL be a beautiful, perfect 75 degree Spring day! In case it’s not, we’ll see you in the basement of Lisner)

*What:* Health Sciences main event - all degree levels from Associate to Doctoral in all Health Sciences majors will be there. At this event, your name will be called, you will walk across the stage, shake hands with the deans, and have your photo taken. Additionally, you will be “hooded.” The DPT Faculty will greet you on stage as your name is called and they will place the green doctoral hood over your head. This event is full of tradition, is relatively small and in intimate setting. It is focused purely on the health sciences graduates.

*Wardrobe:* Doctoral Regalia. Arrive wearing the cap & gown over your street clothes. Hold your hood over one arm. DPT Faculty will hood you on stage.
University Commencement

When: Sunday, 17 May at 9:30am (processional line-up 8:30am)
Where: National Mall (Close to Washington Monument between 15th & 17th ST. Exact meeting point TBD)
What: For all GW graduates in all degrees in all the schools and colleges of the University. Because of the size, graduates are not individually recognized by name and there is no walking across the stage. However, this ceremony is the ultimate in pomp & circumstance. GW is the only school in the nation that is permitted to have its graduation ceremony on the National Mall. Have your cameras ready -- the classic DC views are amazing!

Wardrobe: Doctoral Regalia - cap, gown, and hood. High heels not recommended. Remember the Mall is a park and that means grass, dirt, and gravel. Please expect to stand for a period of time.

NOTE: Students will need to arrive NO LATER than 8:30am to line up for the processional. If you do not arrive on time, you might not be seated with your group. PARKING will be extremely limited. Recommend metro to the Mall. See Commencement.gwu.edu for directions and ADA accommodations.

Doctoral Regalia

For both the Health Sciences Graduation Celebration & Commencement you will wear academic regalia -- aka cap & gown. Masters and Doctorate students will also have hoods in the colors of their profession. Under the gown, most wear business casual. It may be hot & humid in May, so be comfortable for outdoors.

Do I have to wear it?

Yes. Academic Regalia is the required uniform for these events.

What do I order & how?

Doctoral gown and cap only. Gown should have velvety stripes on it. No hood will come with your Herff Jones order. IMPORTANT: The doctoral regalia options are to rent (approximately $105) or buy (approximately $650). If you are entering a career in academia you may want to purchase the regalia, as the regalia will be custom-made for you and faculty attend graduation each year.

Doctoral Hood. You do not need to rent nor purchase the doctoral hood. This will be a gift from the University and you will receive it at the Health Sciences Celebration. The hood is yours to keep even if you rent the cap & gown.

You can pre-order (rent or purchase) in person through the GW Bookstore on: 24-28 Mar (Marvin Center, lower-level). During those dates the Herff Jones representative will be available to answer your questions. There will also be other graduation souvenirs you can order such as class rings, personalized announcements, and diploma frames. If you are away on rotation and not able to attend one of the on-campus events, you will be able to order academic regalia and other items through the Herff Jones website (available mid-March after Spring Break).

TICKETS!!! … and what about my guests?

Each student can expect 6 tickets each for the Health Sciences Graduation Celebration and 6 for the University Commencement. Additional tickets may be available. Please see the Extra Ticket Request and Ticket FAQ sections for more information.

There is no limit on the number of guests graduates may have at the DPT Awards Ceremony.

Graduating Student Survey

The survey is online here. It will go live on March 23, and will not load until this time. Completing the survey is required in order to obtain your graduation tickets. Be sure to save the confirmation receipt. The Graduate Student Survey is
one of the key ways the University as a whole receives feedback on students’ experiences while they are at GW. Please take the time to answer the questions thoughtfully so they we may know how we are doing and how to be of better service for future students.

**How do I get my tickets?**
Step 1 - Complete the online graduating student survey (available March 23).
Step 2 - Print your survey confirmation & bring with you when you pick up your tickets. If you are out of the area and need your packet mailed, email the survey confirmation to hspgrad@gwu.edu.

Pick-up in Person at the Health Sciences Dean's Office (2100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, 3rd floor) on the following days and times:
- Wednesday, May 13 - 4pm-6pm
- Thursday, May 15 - 8:30am-6pm
- Friday, May 16 - 8:30am-6pm
- Saturday, May 17 - 10am-1pm

**Extra Ticket Request**
The deadline to request extra tickets for the Health Sciences Graduation Celebration (Saturday, May 16 at 4pm in Lisner Auditorium) is Tuesday, March 31. Please complete the Health Sciences EXTRA TICKET REQUEST FORM by the March 31 deadline. Students will be notified by by Monday, April 6.

Extra tickets are available for the GW Commencement Celebration (Sunday, May 17 at 9:30am on the National Mall). Please complete the online request form as soon as possible.

**Ticket FAQ**
- **Do I need a ticket for myself?** No, graduates do not need tickets for any events.
- **How much do the tickets cost?** There is no cost. Each graduate can expect at least 6 free tickets for the Health Sciences Graduation Celebration and 6 free tickets for the University Commencement.
- **I have a large family and many friends. Can I purchase extra tickets?** No, extra tickets will not be available for purchase; however, Student Services will maintain a waitlist for the Health Sciences School Celebration. The Office of University Events manages the extra ticket process for Commencement on the National Mall.
- **How do I get the tickets?** Ticket distribution will be in April.
- **Are you sure the tickets are free?** All students will be required to complete a Graduation Exit Survey in order to receive tickets. The survey will be available online after Spring Break. Student Services will receive a daily report of students who have completed the survey and will release tickets after confirmation.

**Hotels**
Washington, DC... Beautiful May... Anticipating 25,000 guests for Commencement Weekend... This means reserve hotel rooms NOW. The University Commencement website has a list of area hotels which offer GRADUATION DISCOUNTS, but they will fill up fast.

**Administrative - Name & Address?**
Your diploma is awarded only under the official name of record at the time of graduation. It will be mailed to your permanent address on file. If you need to change your address, you can visit http://banweb.gwu.edu. For more information regarding changing your name, please view FAQs at commencement.gwu.edu.

**Important Dates**
- 23 March - Graduate Exit Survey opens
- 24-28 March - Graduation Fair (GW Bookstore, Marvin Center)
- 9 April - Graduation Fair (VSTC, Innovation Hall)
- 10 April - ADA - Deadline to notify Student Services if you or guests require sign language interpreter or need accommodation for mobility disability.
- 13 April - Ticket distribution begins for graduates requesting extra tickets
- 20 April - Order your Cap & Gown by **11:59pm**.
- 15 May - DPT AWARDS CEREMONY!!
- 16 May - HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATION CELEBRATION!!
- 17 May - GW COMMENCEMENT!!

**Commencement Guide:** [http://commencement.gwu.edu/](http://commencement.gwu.edu/)

*Unsubscribe? You are receiving this email because on your graduation application you marked you are attending the May 2015 Commencement Weekend in Washington, DC. If this has changed, please let us know ASAP so you can be removed from future emails regarding graduation tickets and regalia ordering.*

**Health Sciences Student Services | hspgrad@gwu.edu | 202-994-4241**