

FAQ Spring and Summer 2024 Commencement

Please refer caller to the Commencement webpage.

<https://www.stetson.edu/law/conferences/graduation/>

The most up to date information will be listed on the webpage.

Commencement will take place:

Saturday, May 18, 2024
8:30 a.m. Plaza Mayor Courtyard
Stetson University College of Law
1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL

The ceremony will begin promptly at 8:30 a.m.

Q: Which graduation classes are included in the May 2024 Commencement Ceremony?

A: *Fall 2023 and Spring/Summer 2024 LL.M. (Advocacy, Elder Law, International Law) graduates, Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Master of Jurisprudence graduates, Fall 2023 J.D. graduates and Spring/Summer 2024 J.D graduates.*

Q: When must graduates arrive?

A: *Graduates must be in full regalia and in their assigned rooms by 6:45am on the morning of Commencement. Please refer to the Commencement Overview on the Commencement [web page](#) for details on room assignments.*

Q: When may my guests arrive?

A: *Guests can arrive starting at 6:45a.m. Guests should be seated by 8:15a.m. Guests not seated by 8:15am can be seated at the conclusion of the Processional.*

Q: Is there a guest limit for the Commencement Ceremony?

A: *Graduates will be issued SIX guest wristbands for the Commencement Ceremony. Should we move to the alternate site, graduates will be limited to **FOUR** guests.*

Q: Why is there a 6-guest maximum?

A: *Due to increasing class sizes and local rules and regulations addressing public safety, the space and facilities at the College of Law can only accommodate a certain number of guests. The safety of our graduates and guests is our number one priority. Therefore, we had to limit the number of guests in attendance for Commencement. Attendance numbers are determined in consultation with the Administration, Public Safety, and local officials, in response to the capacity of Stetson Law's facilities and local rules and regulations addressing public safety. *Our inclement weather facility has a maximum capacity that accommodates four guests per graduate.*

Q: Will guest wristbands be checked upon entry?

A: *Yes, guest wristbands will be checked upon entry. Guests may enter through the horseshoe, student center walkway, Banyan Courtyard, and the walkway on 62nd Street South between 15th and 13th Avenue South. Wristbands will be checked as guests arrive.*

Q: Will the 6-guest maximum for on campus Commencement change based on the number of graduates who RSVP?

A: *No, the 6-guest maximum will not change. Guest wristbands will be distributed with commencement cords during the tabling event in May prior to Commencement.*

Q: If a child sits on my lap does that count as a guest?

A: *Children aged four and under can sit on a guest's lap without utilizing a ticket/wristband.*

Q: When will I receive my wristbands and alternate site tickets?

A: *Guest wristbands and alternate site tickets will be distributed with commencement cords at the tabling on Tuesday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

Q: May I use someone else's 6-guest wristbands or alternate site tickets if they are not using all of theirs?

A: *Yes. Graduates not attending are permitted to share their guest wristbands with other graduates. Graduates not using all guest wristbands or tickets for the alternate site, may complete the form at the following link
<https://stetson.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/form/start/624534>*

The Office of Student Affairs will facilitate a waitlist for students who are requesting additional wristbands or tickets for Commencement. You may also give your wristbands directly to someone who may need additional wristbands.

Q: Will there be a place on campus for my other guests (above 6) to watch the ceremony?

A: *No. All Commencement Ceremonies will be livestreamed. The link for the livestream will be on the College of Law main web page on the day of Commencement.*

If we move to the alternate site only four guests are permitted to attend. There will not be a place on campus for guests to watch the ceremony.

Q: Does my legacy presenter count toward the 6-guest maximum?

A: *No, the legacy presenter(s) do not count toward the 6-guest maximum because they are seated behind the Faculty. Please contact the Dean's Office at lawdean@law.stetson.edu and the Development and Alumni Relations Office at tdjackso@law.stetson.edu with any questions regarding legacy participation at the Commencement ceremony.*

Q: When will the Commencement Ceremony end?

A: *Historically, the Commencement Ceremony lasts 1.5 – 2 hours. This is dependent on the size of the graduating class and the number of Commencement Speakers.*

Q: Can my family leave after my name is called?

A: *Guests can leave at any time during the ceremony. We ask that you respect the other guests in attendance.*

Q: Where can graduates and guests park?

A: *Parking is available on campus and streets surrounding the College of Law if there is not a “No Parking” sign. Please do not park on any grass area near the College of Law or campus housing.*

Overflow parking is located at Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 5800 15th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL. A shuttle will run from the church continuously until 15 minutes prior to the ceremony starting. The shuttle will continue after the Commencement Ceremony has concluded.

Q: Will the commencement ceremony be streamed live?

A: Yes, The Spring/Summer 2024 Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed, with closed captions. Those wishing to view the livestream version of the Spring/Summer 2024 Commencement Ceremony may access the livestream link at the top of the [College of Law](#) website on the morning of May 18, 2024.

Q: Is there a chance Commencement will be cancelled?

A: *Commencement plans are contingent upon the weather and are subject to change at any point between now and May 18, 2024.*

Q: What if there is inclement weather on the day of Commencement?

A: *In case of inclement weather, we will move to the alternate location of First Baptist Church, 1900 Gandy Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL. Graduates will be advised via email as well as the College of Law homepage. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. Should we move to the alternate site, graduates will be limited to **FOUR** guests.*

Q: Who is the Commencement speaker?

A: *Please refer to the Stetson College of Law Commencement webpage for the most up to date information on the keynote speaker.*

Q: Who should attend the Honors & Awards Ceremony?

A: *If you participated in any of the below, you are invited to attend the Honors and Awards Ceremony on Friday, May 17, 2:00 p.m. in the Great Hall.*

The Honors and Awards Ceremony is dedicated to the academic recognitions in the following areas:

Anticipated Honors Graduates

Certificates of Concentration

Dispute Resolution Board

Dual Degrees

Honors Program

Journal of Comparative and International Aging Law and Policy

Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy

Mock Trial Board (Trial Team)

Moot Court Board

*Named Awards**

Nominees for the National Order of Barristers

Public Service Fellows

*Stetson Business Law Review
Stetson Journal of Advocacy and the Law
Stetson Law Review
William F. Blews Pro Bono Award Recipients*

****Students receiving named awards will be notified by the Development and Alumni Relations office a few weeks before the ceremony.***

Q: How long is the Honors & Awards Ceremony?

A: *Historically, the Honors & Awards Ceremony lasts 1.5 – 2 hours. This is dependent on the size of the graduating class and the number of Honors & Awards Speakers.*

Q: Who should attend Graduation Brunch?

A: *Graduation Brunch is only for graduates. All graduates are welcome to attend the Graduation Brunch on Thursday, May 16, 11:00 a.m. at the Gulfport Casino.*

Listed below are the Student Leadership Recognitions celebrated at Graduation Brunch.

*American Bar Association Leaders
Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law School Affiliates
Student Bar Association Leaders
Student Organization Presidents
Stetson Ambassadors
Student Leadership Development Committee
Student Leadership Development Certificates
Veterans Law Institute Award*

Q: How long is Graduation Brunch?

A: *Historically, Graduation Brunch is 2 hours. This is dependent on the size of the graduating class and the number of Graduation Brunch Speakers.*

Q: What do I wear to Commencement?

A: *All graduates will wear regalia for Commencement. Regalia includes a tam, gown, hood, and any cords awarded.*

Q: When will I receive my regalia?

A: *You will receive notice from the Office of Career and Professional Development in April when your regalia has arrived and is available for pickup.*

*The cutoff order date of **February 23, 2024**, was set to guarantee delivery in time for the ceremony.*

Q: What are cords/When will I receive my cords?

A: *Commencement Cords are rope-like accessories worn with your Regalia at May Commencement. Cords are awarded for certain student academic leader recognitions, academic achievements, student leadership positions, pro bono service, and memberships in particular honor societies and organizations.*

The Office of Student Affairs will distribute cords at the tabling event on Tuesday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. outside the Student Affairs office.

A complete list of Commencement Cords is available on the Commencement Overview.

Q: When are Composite Pictures taking place?

A: *Composite photos will take place on May 14 and May 15. Graduates will sign up at the below link or the link provided in Commencement emails and on the Commencement webpage.*

<https://orders.universityphoto.com/PortraitScheduling/Search?OccasionRef=190840>

Graduates will don graduate robes and hood (no tams or cords) for the photo.

Q: What if I am unable to attend the Composite Pictures session?

A: *You can submit your composite photo directly to the composite vendor to be included in the May 2024 Commencement Composite Photo. Beth@universityphoto.com*

Photos should be taken in your regalia and must comply with the following file size/formats:

- File Type: JPG/JPEG • Minimum File Size: 100 KB*
- Minimum Dimensions: 2.5 in. x 3.5 in.*
- Minimum Resolution: 300 DPI*

Q: What if I do not participate in the May 2024 Commencement Ceremony?

A: *Your cords and certificates will be available during the tabling events hosted by the Office of Student Affairs on Tuesday, May 14 and Wednesday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

If you are unable to attend the tabling event, your cords and certificates will be available when the Registrar hosts their diploma drive-through pick up (early to mid-summer with emails forthcoming detailing specific dates and procedures). You can also request to have your diploma, certificates and cards mailed to you. Detailed instructions on diploma pick-up are sent from the Registrar to graduates via email.

Q: Why am I being asked for my post-graduation employment information/status?

A: *Each year, Stetson Law is required to provide employment data for each member of our most recent graduating cohort to the American Bar Association (ABA), the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). This information is reported without revealing or reporting graduate names or individually identifying information. Employment data plays a key role in Stetson Law's accreditation, reputation, rankings, and research on the employment market. The most recent ABA Employment Report (for the graduating classes of December 2022, May 2023, and August 2023) is available online, at www.stetson.edu/law/career/employment-report.php.*

Q: Why am I being asked for my permanent address?

A: *Your graduation from Stetson University College of Law marks not only the completion of your legal studies, but your entrance into the College's engaged alumni community. As a Stetson Law Alum, the College's services are always available to you.*

Completion of the Permanent Address Form allows the College to:

- Mail graduation related materials (diploma, cords, honors, etc.) to you if requested;*
- Invite you to campus celebrations and events;*
- Update you on all the happenings and advancements with the College of Law.*

You can update your address at any time by emailing the Registrar office or completing the [Permanent Address Form](#).