

MAY 2026 COMMENCEMENT

FAQ

Q: When is Commencement?

A: *Commencement will take place*
Saturday, May 16, 2026
[The BayCare Sound](#)
Coachman Park
255 Drew Street
Clearwater, FL 33755

There will be one ceremony starting at 5:00 p.m.

Q: Which graduating classes are included in the May 2026 Commencement?

A: *December 2025 graduates (LL.M, MJur and JD Graduates), May 2026, and August 2026 graduates (LL.M, MJur and JD Graduates).*

Commencement Attendance

Q: When must graduates arrive?

A: *Access to the BayCare Sound begins at 3:00pm. Graduates must arrive at the venue in full regalia (there are no robing rooms), and all graduates must be seated at the BayCare Sound, in full regalia by 4:15pm.*

** Any graduate not seated in full regalia by 4:15pm will be called “in absentia” during Commencement.*

Q: When can my guests arrive?

A: *Guests can arrive starting at 3:00 p.m. Guests should be seated by 4:30 p.m. Guests should be seated by 4:30 p.m.*

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 in the area surrounding the BayCare Sound is managed by the City of Clearwater, including garages, surface lots, and street parking. For your convenience, linked here is the [City of Clearwater’s parking information page](#), which includes all available lots and garages.*

Q: Will the commencement ceremony be streamed live?

A: *Yes, The May 2026 Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed, with closed captions. Those wishing to view the livestream version of the May 2026 Commencement Ceremony may access the livestream link at the top of the [College of Law](#) website on the morning of May 16, 2026.*

Q: Who is the Commencement speaker?

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

BayCare Sound

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

A: *No, there is no guest limit for Commencement. We look forward to celebrating with your family and friends.*

Q: What is the BayCare Sound?

A: *[The BayCare Sound](#) is a beautiful venue within Clearwater's downtown Coachman Park. The setting offers enhanced comfort, and waterfront views. The venue itself is open-air but features a roof for shade cover over the seating section.*

Q: What do I need to know about the BayCare Sound's policies and procedures?

A: *Graduates and their guests may review the BayCare Sound's [A-Z guide](#) for information on permitted/prohibited items, comfort stations, a selection of local restaurants and hotels and other venue related considerations.*

Commencement Attire

Q: What do I wear to Commencement?

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

Q: When will I receive my regalia?

A: *Regalia will be available for pick up by appointment from the Office of Career and Professional Development (Second Floor of the Student Center above the gym on the Gulfport campus) on its delivery from Herff Jones. Graduates will receive communication from the Office of Career and Professional Development in late March or early April regarding regalia pick-up timelines and procedures.*

*The cutoff order date of **February 20, 2026**, was set to guarantee delivery in time for the ceremony.*

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

A: *Graduation 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 Division of Student Affairs will distribute cords at the tabling event on Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. outside the Student Affairs office.

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

Commencement Week Events: Composite Photos, Graduate Brunch, Graduate Celebration, and Graduate Awards Ceremony

Q: What are Composite Photos?

A: *Composite photos of your graduating law school class are lasting mementos of your successful law school journey; the composites are framed and hung on campus (examples are near the elevator in the Tower building) and a smaller version is made for you.*

Q: When are Composite Pictures taking place?

A: *Composite photos will take place on Tuesday, May 12, and Wednesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.. Graduates will sign up at the below link or the link provided in Graduation emails and on the Graduation webpage. [Composite Photo sign-up.](#)*

Graduates will don graduate robe 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 2026 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: Who should attend the Graduate Brunch?

A: *All Graduates.*

Graduation Brunch is only for graduates and will include recognition and awards for certain academic achievements, service, and student leadership.

The Graduate Brunch is scheduled for Thursday, May 14, 2026 from 11:00a.m to 1:00p.m at The Coliseum, 535 4th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL, 33701.

Q: What is the Graduate Celebration?

A: *The Graduate Celebration is a unique moment to celebrate your achievement with family, friends, and fellow graduates. Held after the Graduate Awards Ceremony in the Mann Lounge and Banyan Courtyard, and open to ALL graduates, the celebration features food, refreshments, music, and a photo booth – come celebrate in style with your Stetson Law community. There is no guest limit!*

The Graduate Celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 15, 2026, from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m. and will be held in the Mann Lounge and Banyan Courtyard.

Q: Is there a dress code for the Graduate Celebration?

A: *This is your chance to Celebrate in style! Your choice to show off in festive and fun business professional, or cocktail attire is the order of the day. You’ve worked hard during your time at Stetson – the Graduate Celebration is an opportunity to shine.*

Q: Is there a guest limit for the Graduate Celebration?

A: *No – we look forward to celebrating with your family and friends.*

Q: Where can graduates and guests park for the Graduate Celebration?

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 on a loop from the church to the Stetson campus from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Q: Who should attend the Graduate Awards Ceremony?

A: *The Graduate Awards Ceremony is dedicated to the academic recognition of our graduates. Recipients of named awards will be notified by the College and invited to the Graduate Awards Ceremony via direct correspondence in advance of the Ceremony.*

The Ceremony will be held from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. on Friday, May 15, 2026, in the Great Hall.

Q: Is there a guest limit for the Graduate Awards Ceremony?

A: *Yes – Graduates being recognized at the Graduate Awards Ceremony are limited to **FOUR** guests. Ceremony seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis with limited seating in the Great Hall. Once the Great Hall is at capacity, guests*

may watch a live-stream of the Graduate Awards Ceremony from the Advocacy Center trophy room.

Commencement – Additional Inquiries

Q: What if I don't participate in the May 2026 Commencement Ceremony?

A: *Your cords and certificates will be available during the tabling events conducted at composite photo sessions on Tuesday, May 12 and Wednesday, May 13, 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 an important 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 2023, May 2024, and August 2024) is available online, at <https://www.stetson.edu/law/career/home/employment-reports.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.*