

**MAY 2026 COMMENCEMENT**  
**Day of Logistics and “Need to Know”**

Dear December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026 Anticipated Graduates,

Commencement Week is here! From everyone at Stetson University College of Law, congratulations on your milestone accomplishment.

We are excited to see you and your guests at our 2026 Commencement and want to provide you with a timeline for the day. Spring 2026 Commencement will be held:

Saturday, May 16, 2026  
[The BayCare Sound](#)  
Coachman Park  
255 Drew Street  
Clearwater, FL 33755  
5:00 p.m.

The May 2026 Commencement Ceremony will also be livestreamed, with closed captions. For those wishing to view the livestream version of the May 2026 Commencement Ceremony, a link to the livestream will be posted at the top of the [College of Law website](#) on the morning of Commencement, May 16, 2026.

**Commencement Timeline**

TIME	EVENT
3:00pm	Access to the BayCare Sound opens for graduates and guests
4:15pm	**Graduates must be seated in their seats**
4:15pm	Final Graduate roll-call
5:00pm	Commencement begins

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.\*\*

**Commencement Attire**

All graduates will wear regalia for Commencement. Regalia includes a tam, gown, hood, tassel, and any cords awarded. Please review this [Graduate Regalia and Cord information brief](#) for additional details on your Commencement Regalia.

### **Transportation and Parking**

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 are directions and parking information provided by the City of Clearwater [City of Clearwater's parking information page](#), which includes all available lots and garages.

You may also access this BayCare Sound parking PDF:

<https://www.stetson.edu/law/conferences/graduation/media/downtown-clearwater-map-2026.pdf>

In making transportation and parking plans, please note the BayCare Sound is part of a public access park (Coachman Park) and downtown waterfront community close to beaches that traditionally experiences consistent visitor and event activity.

The College of Law is providing bus transportation to and from The BayCare Sound for our 2026 Commencement ceremony, should you wish to use it. Buses are for graduates, faculty, and staff only.

#### **Buses will depart from the Gulfport campus at the following times to The BayCare Sound:**

- 1 bus at 1:00 PM
- 1 bus at 1:30 PM
- 2 buses at 2:00 PM
- 1 bus at 2:15 PM
- 1 bus at 2:30 PM
- 2 buses at 2:45 PM
- 2 buses at 3 PM
- 2 buses at 3:15 PM

Buses will depart from in front of the Dolly & Homer Hand Law Library starting at 1 PM sharp.

#### **At the conclusion of the Commencement ceremony, buses will depart The BayCare Sound back to the Gulfport campus at the following times:**

- 1 bus at 6:30 PM
- 2 buses at 7:00 PM
- 1 bus at 7:30 PM (final bus)

*Note: The return to the Gulfport campus may change depending on when the ceremony ends.*

### **BayCare Sound**

[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.

There is no guest limit for Commencement. We look forward to celebrating with your family and friends. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis unless specifically designated

otherwise. Graduates and guests may review this map of the Sound seating chart for seating information, gate access points, restrooms, and concession stand details:

<https://www.stetson.edu/law/conferences/graduation/media/baycare-sound-map-for-students.pdf>

\*Note that graduates and their guests enter the facility at separate entrances.

1. Graduates enter through North Gate 1
2. Guests enter through South Gate 1 or 2

Graduates and their guests should 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.

Please visit the BayCare Sound webpage for [Accessibility Information](#). The BayCare Sound webpage displays a map of the venue and where to drop off your guest (s). Of note, this event is expected to be quite well attended, and there is another event being held at Coachman Park that day, so it is highly recommended that your guests arrive early to allow time to navigate the area.

Please review [Accessibility Information | Ruth Eckerd Hall](#) containing links for ADA Information and **[Accessible Parking & Entry](#)** at BayCare Sound. All seating at the BayCare Sound is accessible via ramp and there is no need to climb stairs. There is space within the rows to accommodate mobility aids.

ASL and captioning services will be provided

**Notes:**

The Spring 2026 Commencement website is your hub for information on Commencement. The Commencement Website is updated regularly, so please check frequently for updates. Access the Website:

[Spring 2026 Commencement Website](#)

You will also find copies of our [Commencement Overview](#), and [Commencement FAQs](#) linked here your reference

If you have any questions, you may contact [lawgraduation@law.stetson.edu](mailto:lawgraduation@law.stetson.edu).

Once again, congratulations on this wonderful accomplishment; we are excited to celebrate your success through the remainder of the spring semester and we can't wait to see you at Commencement.