

May 2025

Commencement Events Overview

Congratulations to our graduates! We are excited to celebrate your accomplishments with you during the events and festivities of Commencement.

Detailed below is the information that you and your guests will want to have as you attend events throughout the week of Commencement, starting first with Commencement itself, and then detailing the week's events: composite photo and tabling sessions, the Graduate Brunch, the Graduate Celebration, and Honors & Awards.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY:

The May 2025 Commencement is:

Saturday, May 17, 2025
8:30 a.m. Plaza Mayor Courtyard
Stetson University College of Law
1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL

The deadline to RSVP for Commencement is Tuesday, March 25, 2025.
[Complete your RSVP form here.](#)

WEBCAST: The May 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed, with closed captions.

For those wishing to view the livestream version of the May 2025 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 17, 2025.

COMMENCEMENT SCHEDULE AND ROOM ASSIGNMENTS:

Final details on the Day of Commencement schedule and robing room assignments will be circulated to graduates prior to the Commencement Ceremony.

The Commencement ceremony starts at 8:30 a.m. All graduates will report to the Gulfport campus by 6:30 a.m., the morning of Commencement, in

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full regalia. This includes LL.M. graduates, Master of Jurisprudence graduates, Fall 2024 Juris Doctor graduates and Spring/Summer 2025 Juris Doctor graduates.

****** Guests may arrive by 6:30 a.m., and should be seated by 8:15 a.m. Guests not seated by 8:15 a.m., will be seated at the conclusion of the Processional. ******

COMMENCEMENT ATTENDANCE:

PARKING: 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 continuously both prior to the ceremony start, and at the conclusion of Commencement.

GUESTS - WRISTBANDS: Wristbands are required for all guests in attendance.

- Graduates will be issued **EIGHT (8)** guest wristbands for the Commencement Ceremony.
- Guests may enter through the horseshoe, Student Center walkway, Banyan Courtyard, and the walkway on 62nd Street South between 15th and 13th Avenue South.
- Please complete the [Graduate Wristband Exchange](#) form by Friday, April 28, 2025. The Graduate Wristband Exchange form allows the Division of Student Affairs to assess the need and availability of wristbands among our students, to better assist with redistribution. The form also permits students to join a waitlist for additional wristbands if available. All students are asked to complete this form regardless of the number of wristbands they intend to use/not use for Commencement. While students may give wristbands directly to fellow graduates in need, the form submission must reflect this.

ALTERNATE SITE INFORMATION: In case of inclement weather, the Commencement ceremony will move to the alternate location, First Baptist Church, 1900 Gandy Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL. Graduates will be advised via email as well as the College of Law homepage. If Commencement is moved to the alternative site, **the ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m.** Graduates will need to report to the alternate site by 8:00 a.m.

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If we move to the alternate site, graduates will be limited to **FOUR** guests. Guest tickets for the alternate site will be distributed during the composite photo tabling event in the Student Center on May 13 and May 14.

LEGACY: Graduates who have a family member (s) who graduated from Stetson Law with a Juris Doctor are eligible to participate in the Alumni Legacy Program and have their loved one present their diploma during the graduation ceremony. Qualifying family members include parents, grandparents, spouses, siblings, aunts/uncles, and cousins.

If you would want a qualifying family member to participate in this program, please indicate your legacy relationship when submitting your [Commencement Registration](#) and your [online permanent address form](#). You can also email 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 graduation ceremony.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES: The May 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed, with closed captions. Graduates and guests with disabilities or health concerns who may require accommodations, such as accessible seating, shall complete the information requested on the Commencement RSVP form. Graduates who request accommodations will be contacted directly by the Accessibility Resources Office prior to Commencement. Accommodation requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

REGALIA: Deadline to order regalia was February 21, 2025

All graduates will wear regalia (tam, gown, hood, cords) for Commencement.

Herff Jones will ship regalia to the Office of Career and Professional Development. Graduates will receive additional communication in late March or early April regarding regalia pick-up timelines and procedures.

- Regalia and Announcements can be ordered on-line at the website: [College Graduation Products by Herff Jones](#), or visit Herff Jones' main webpage and type in "Stetson Law" to access your [regalia ordering page](#).
- Regalia is provided at no cost to you by the College of Law and it is yours to keep.
- December 2024 graduates who ordered regalia for the Fall

2024 Graduate Celebration do not need to reorder/order new regalia for Commencement.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: Please verify your activities to ensure we have the correct information for the Commencement program. Select the link [to view the comprehensive list of activities.](#)

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

Please review your activities on *MyStetson, My Academics, Law School Student Activity*. If you believe there are inaccuracies or missing activities, please contact the appropriate office (Office of Student Affairs or Registrar) listed on the webpage.

Deadline to submit activities is March 25, 2025, to ensure inclusion in the Commencement Program.

COMPOSITE PHOTOS AND TABLING:

Tuesday, May 13, and Wednesday May 14
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Concourse 2nd Floor of Student Center
Stetson University College of Law

Join The Office of Student Affairs, Office of Career and Professional Development, Bar Preparation, and other campus offices for a day of celebration, composite photo sessions, and connection.

Please sign-up for your composite session [here](#). Graduates will don graduate robes and hood (no tams or cords) for the photo.

The Office of Career and Professional Development Resource Room serves as the staging area for the photo session – coat racks and mirrors are available as you don your robes (with staff available to assist), snacks, waters, and space to relax with your friends and fellow graduates are also available before journeying through our tabling concourse and to SC201 for photos.

During tabling, the participating offices will distribute graduation wristbands for guests, guest tickets for the alternate site, cords, honor tassels, and student recognition certificates, bar preparation materials, and graduation swag!

Graduates who do not pick up their tickets, cords, and honor tassels during graduation tabling will receive them at their assigned robing room seat the day of the ceremony.

GRADUATE BRUNCH:

Thursday, May 15, 2025

11:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Coliseum

535 Fourth Ave. N.

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Graduation Brunch is open to ALL graduates, but ONLY for graduates.

GRADUATE AWARDS CEREMONY:

Friday, May 16, 2025

4:00pm Great Hall

Stetson University College of Law

1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL

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 prior to the ceremony.

Graduates who are 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 Ceremony from the Advocacy Center trophy room.

GRADUATE CELEBRATION:

Friday, May 16, 2025

5:30pm – 7:30pm

Mann Lounge and Banyan Courtyard

Stetson University College of Law

1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL

The Graduate Celebration is a unique moment to celebrate your achievement with family, friends, and fellow graduates. Held after the Honors & Awards ceremony in the Mann Lounge and Banyan Courtyard, and open to ALL

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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!

In case of inclement weather, the Graduate Celebration will be held in the Law Library at the scheduled 5:30pm – 7:30pm time.

If you have any questions, please contact lawgraduation@law.stetson.edu.

PARKING: 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. – 6:30p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Graduation Cords

Graduation Cords are rope-like accessories worn with your regalia. 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.

- **Purple Cord****: LL.M. Graduates
- **Gold Cord***: Honors & Anticipated Honors Graduates
- **Blue Cord****: William F. Blews Pro Bono Service Award
- **Red White and Blue Cord****: Veterans
- **Blue & Gold Cord*****: Beta Gamma Sigma
- **Drab****: JD/MBA graduates
- **Purple and White Cord****: Master of Jurisprudence
- **Gold Blue Red*****: Phi Delta Phi
- **Green Cord****: Student Leadership Recognitions:
 - ABA Campus Reps and Regional/National positions
 - Ambassador Chiefs, Deputy Chiefs, Senior Stetson Ambassadors & Ambassadors
 - Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law School Affiliates
 - Leadership Development Committee

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- SBA Executive Board Officers and Committee Chairs
- Student Organization Presidents
- **Green and Gold Cord****: Student Academic Leader Recognitions:
 - All Advocacy Board team members
 - Honors Program graduates
 - Law Review and Journal board members
 - Named Awards
 - National Order of Barristers

****Anticipated honors are based on a student's cumulative grade point average following the end of their prior semester see the Registrar for any questions. The College of Law will provide the yellow cord and tassel.**

****Provided by the College of Law.**

*****Provided by Student Organization or Student**

All cords and stoles, whether provided by Stetson College of Law or not, must be congruent with the expectations of the Code of Student Professionalism and Conduct and in the spirit of professionalism. Please contact the Office of Student Affairs with any questions about cords and stoles.

Tassels

Juris Doctor and LL.M. graduates: purple tassel

Juris Doctor and LL.M. Honors & Anticipated Honors graduates: yellow tassel

Master of Jurisprudence graduates: black tassel

Gold tassel supersedes purple Tassels. Graduates only wear one tassel.