

May 2026 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 Graduate Awards.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY:

The May 2026 Commencement is:

Saturday, May 16, 2026

5:00pm

[The BayCare Sound](#)

Coachman Park

255 Drew Street

Clearwater, FL 33755

The deadline to RSVP for Commencement is Wednesday, April 1, 2026. Complete your [RSVP form here](#).

WEBCAST: The May 2026 Commencement Ceremony will 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 SCHEDULE:

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

The Commencement ceremony starts at 5:00pm. Access to the BayCare Sound begins at 3:00pm. Graduates must arrive at the venue in full regalia

Graduation Planning Committee: March 23, 2026

(there are no robing rooms), and all graduates must be seated at the BayCare Sound, in full regalia by 4:15pm. This includes LL.M. graduates, Master of Jurisprudence graduates, Fall 2025 Juris Doctor graduates and Spring/Summer 2026 Juris Doctor graduates.

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

** Guests may arrive by 3:00pm and should be seated by 4:30pm.**

COMMENCEMENT ATTENDANCE:

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 is the [City of Clearwater’s parking information page](#), which includes all available lots and garages.

GUESTS - Attendance: There is no attendance limit for graduates at the Spring 2026 Commencement. We look forward to celebrating with your family and friends.

BayCare Sound A-Z Guide: 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.

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 2026 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.

In addition, American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters will be present and translating both the Commencement Ceremony and the Graduate Awards Ceremony.

REGALIA: Deadline to order regalia was February 20, 2026

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.

- 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 2025 graduates who ordered regalia for the Fall 2025 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 April 1, 2026, to ensure inclusion in the Commencement Program.

COMPOSITE PHOTOS AND TABLING:

Tuesday, May 12, and Wednesday May 13
10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Concourse 2nd Floor of Student Center
Stetson University College of Law

Join The Division of Student Affairs, Office of Career and Professional Development, Academic Success & 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 seat the day of the ceremony.

GRADUATE BRUNCH:

Thursday, May 14, 2026
11:00a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
The James Museum of Western & Wildlife Art
150 Central Avenue
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

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

GRADUATE AWARDS CEREMONY:

Friday, May 15, 2026
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. In addition, American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters will be present to translate the Ceremony.

GRADUATE CELEBRATION:

Friday, May 15, 2026
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 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!

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 (Gulfport Campus Activities): 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
 - 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.