

Final Instructions For Commencement 2008



DIVINITY SCHOOL

For up-to-date Commencement information check the website at www.vanderbilt.edu/commencement. If you have questions not covered in these instructions, call 615-322-4788 or email commencement@vanderbilt.edu.

Wednesday, May 7th

Noon-5:00 p.m. Students and may pick up caps, gowns, tassels and hoods in the Recreation Room at Branscomb Quadrangle by presenting a copy of the order confirmation. Anyone presenting the order confirmation may pick up your regalia for you. If you have misplaced your confirmation, you may present your Vanderbilt ID. Be prepared to state the name of your degree (i.e. M.Div. or M.T.S.) Out of town students who arrive in Nashville just before the exercises can obtain regalia between the hours of 7:30 and 8:15 a.m. on Friday, May 9. Regalia are not available on Alumni Lawn.

2:00 p.m. Black Graduates Recognition Ceremony Rehearsal. Ingram Auditorium, Blair School of Music.

9:00 p.m. THE PARTY with The Commodores. Peabody Mall. For more information, visit www.vanderbilt.edu/theparty.

Thursday, May 8th

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Students may pick up caps, gowns, tassels and hoods in the Recreation Room at Branscomb Quadrangle by presenting a copy of the order confirmation. See above for more information. **Regalia are not available on Alumni Lawn.**

5:00 p.m. Reception and Worship. Tillet Lounge and Benton Chapel.

7:00 p.m. Black Graduates Recognition Ceremony at Ingram Hall. Reception following.

Friday, May 9th Commencement Day

8:30 a.m. Students and faculty report to assembly area to line up for the Commencement Procession. Promptness in lining up is imperative. The Divinity School will assemble in the following order and place:

Blair School of Music, School of Engineering, Divinity School and OGSM (candidates for B.Mus. [Blair]; B.E., B.S. [Engineering]; M.Div., M.T.S. [Divinity]; and M.B.A., M.S.F., and M.Acc. [OGSM]). Degree candidates from OGSM will line-up in double file (not in alpha order) beginning at the south corner of Alumni Hall and extending around the path (see ORANGE line on the charts). The assembly area will be indicated by ORANGE signs designating degrees. Faculty line up behind the dean and banner bearer, but in front of the degree candidates.

STUDENTS. Bottled water, programs and fans are available on the perimeter of the seating area. Please pick these up before you line up. Please make sure you take water if it's especially warm. Women normally wear their caps throughout the exercises; men should remove theirs for the Invocation. Hoods are worn by all except those receiving Bachelor degrees.

GUESTS should be seated on Alumni Lawn no later than 8:30 a.m. to see the procession. Bottled water, programs and fans are available on the perimeter of the seating area. Please advise your guests to pick these up on the way to their seats.

9:00 a.m. The Procession of Candidates enters Alumni Lawn to seating reserved for candidates and faculty as guided by Faculty Marshals.

After students are seated and at the second trumpet signal the Academic Procession (the order of procession will be printed in your Commencement Program) will move toward the platform.

10:15 a.m. Recession of graduate and professional school degree recipients and their faculties as instructed by the Chair of the Faculty Senate from the platform. These groups will depart as led by a Faculty Marshal.

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Hooding And Diploma-awarding Ceremony And Reception

Degree recipients should line up alphabetically in the corridor outside the Divinity Administrative suite (Room 1113) immediately following the main ceremony on Alumni Lawn for procession into Benton Chapel. The diploma-awarding ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. All members of the Divinity School faculty should line up behind the degree recipients. Following the ceremony there will be a reception for graduates and their guests in the refectory of the Oberlin Divinity Quadrangle.

12:30 - 2:00 p.m. Informal luncheon for **faculty** participating in the graduation exercises. Atrium, Buttrick Hall.

Returning Regalia

Student regalia must be returned immediately after Commencement exercises. Returning the regalia is done simply and quickly by checking it in at the Recreation Room at Branscomb Quad following the exercises. Delay in returning your regalia will make you liable for payment of an extra fee.

Faculty pick up and return regalia as instructed by the dean's office.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

A strong tradition of Commencement, both at Vanderbilt University and at universities in general, is the wearing of uniform academic regalia. The uniformity of regalia, inconsistent only by reason of the particular degree being conferred and by distinctions for individual honors achieved, e.g. Founder's Medals and class marshal ribbons, symbolizes that each graduate has fulfilled the same requirements for that degree.

In keeping with this tradition, candidates for degrees are encouraged not to wear adornments. For some, however, a particular adornment may have special meaning and the wearing of that adornment may add to the significance of Commencement for that candidate and perhaps his or her family. Any adornments that are worn should be of modest proportions, generally in keeping with the traditions of Commencement, consistent with the interests of others in maintaining the traditions of Commencement and will reflect a sincere and

personal commitment to the values symbolized by the adornment.

Participation in Commencement Exercises: Degree candidates must have completed successfully all curriculum requirements and have passed all prescribed examinations by the published deadlines to be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

Students unable to participate in the graduation ceremony will receive their diploma by mail.

Participating students should plan to attend the main ceremony and the Divinity School hooding and diploma-awarding ceremony. Guests and participants will be expected to remain at the respective ceremonies until the conclusion. Much depends on the courtesy and cooperation of all who attend.

NOTE: A student completing degree requirements in August or December 2008 will be invited to participate in Commencement exercises in May 2009.

INCLEMENT WEATHER: In the event of inclement weather the ceremony will be held in Memorial Gymnasium. If in doubt, check the VU website or call the VU telephone operators at 615-322-7311. In Memorial Gym there will be no procession for candidates. Graduate and professional degree candidates should enter through the south lobby (side facing the baseball field) and make their way to the west end zone. Divinity School degree candidates will sit in section 3L. Watch for guiding signs. Faculty Marshals will be on hand to assist. Faculty who will be attending the diploma-awarding ceremony in Benton Chapel should sit with the degree candidates in the west end zone.