



Final Instructions Commencement 2008

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 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. J.D. or LL.M.) 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 Graduated 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.**

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Law and Business Program Reception. Law School.

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Branstetter Program Reception. Law School.

3:00-4:30 p.m. Law School Open House for degree candidates and their guests. Law School.

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

Friday, May 9th Commencement Day

8:00 a.m. Students report to the steps at the Law School main entrance for 2 class photographs (one for J.D. and one for LL.M. graduates).

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 Law School will assemble in the following order and place:

Law School and School of Medicine (candidates for J.D., LL.M. and all School of Medicine degrees) will line up in double file, although not in alphabetical order. Line begins in the area between Cole Hall and Sarratt Student Center (see GREEN line on assembly area chart). The assembly area will be indicated with GREEN designating signs. Faculty who will be attending the diploma-awarding ceremony on Curry Field should line up behind the dean and banner bearer, and 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.

Hooding And Diploma-awarding Ceremony And Reception

Degree recipients should line up alphabetically between the Law School and Owen School for procession into the tent on Curry Field. **Faculty** line up in front of degree recipients. Following the ceremony there will be a reception for graduates and their guests.

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. Master's candidates may keep the tassel as a souvenir.

Faculty should 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.

Participating students should plan to attend the main ceremony, and the School of Nursing hooding and diploma-awarding ceremony as well. 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.

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

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. Law School candidates will sit in section 2L. Watch for signs and Faculty Marshals to assist. Faculty who will be attending the diploma-awarding ceremony at Curry Field should sit with the degree candidates in section 2L.