

**Southern Wesleyan University 2015 Spring Graduation Exercises
Information for Graduates and Guests (Updated 01/14/2015)**

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I. Ceremonies:

The **2015 Spring Graduation Exercises** of Southern Wesleyan University will be held on Friday, May 8, 2015 and Saturday, May 9, 2015 in the Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center on the Southern Wesleyan University Campus in Central, SC. There will be two ceremonies. Graduating students will be allowed to participate only in their assigned ceremony. Students are assigned to each ceremony based on their program and location.

Students will participate in the ceremonies as follows:

Friday, May 8, 2015.....3 PM

Students in the Traditional Program receiving the following degrees:

- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Science

Saturday, May 9, 2015.....3 PM

Students in the Adult and Graduate Studies programs receiving the following degrees:

- Associate of Arts
- Associate of Science
- Bachelor of Science
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Education
- Master of Science

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II. Graduation Timeline:

November 3, 2015	Initial Traditional Program application deadline
February 16, 2015	Application information emailed to potential AGS graduates
March 2, 2015	AGS application deadline
March 13, 2015	List of students sent to Herff-Jones for invitations/announcements mailing
March 13, 2015	Regalia order to Herff-Jones
March 20, 2015	List of candidates to Academic Council/Faculty/BOT for approval
March 20, 2015	Email to all students who applied for graduation
April 10, 2015	Traditional Program - financial obligations must be cleared
April 10, 2015	Traditional Program - all graduation requirements, excluding current courses, must be complete (including credit by exam, CLEP, & all official transcripts from other Institutions.)
April 10, 2015	AGS - financial obligations must be cleared
April 10, 2015	AGS - All transfer course official transcripts and CLEP or DANTES official score reports must be received by Academic Records
April 13, 2015	Ceremony assignments emailed to SWU Faculty and Staff
April 27, 2015	AGS – Notifications to AGS students who applied but are ineligible to graduate
April 27, 2015	Regalia mailed to AGS students who are participating in the ceremony
April 27, 2015	Email to all students participating in ceremony (AGS tickets mailed)
April 27, 2015	AGS – Honors notifications (Approximately 2 weeks prior to ceremony)
April 29, 2015	Final program sent to Marketing
April 30, 2015	Traditional Program students pick up regalia from Academic Records
May 6, 2015	Requested program delivery date
May 8, 2015	10:00 AM Baccalaureate Service
May 8, 2015	3:00 PM Graduation Ceremony for students in the Traditional Program
May 9, 2015	3:00 PM Graduation Ceremony for students in the AGS Programs
May 9, 2015	Official degree conferral date
May 11, 2015	4:00 PM final grades due for all students in Traditional Program Spring Semester
June 1, 2015	Diplomas ordered for graduates who successfully completed all obligations/requirements

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III. Graduation Day Schedule:

Students assemble in Lower Level of the University Dining Commons for rehearsal. Guests with tickets should go directly to Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. Guests without tickets will be directed to the overflow areas (Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center Classrooms) to view the ceremony on closed circuit television. **Graduates should make arrangements with their family members ahead of time to keep their valuables.** There is not a secure location in the rehearsal area to leave items during the ceremony. Southern Wesleyan University is not responsible for items left in the rehearsal area during the ceremony.

Friday, May 8, 2015 Ceremonies

9:30 AM	Baccalaureate Service line-up
10:00 AM	Baccalaureate Service
1:00 PM	Graduates must check-in <u>no later than 1:30 PM</u> (University Dining Commons)
2:00 PM	Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)
2:30 PM	Devotions
2:55 PM	Processional
3:00 PM	Ceremony

Saturday, May 9, 2015 3:00 PM Ceremony

1:00 PM	Graduates must check-in <u>no later than 1:30 PM</u> (University Dining Commons)
2:00 PM	Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)
2:30 PM	Devotions
2:55 PM	Processional
3:00 PM	Ceremony

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IV. Academic Regalia:

The style of each academic gown indicates the highest degree earned by the wearer: bachelors—long, pointed sleeves; masters—long, closed sleeves with the arm going through a slit, giving the appearance of short-sleeves; doctors—full, round, and open, with three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The bars may be black or the color designating the major discipline.

Some universities have adopted an official doctoral gown incorporating the school colors. These are examples worn by several Southern Wesleyan University Faculty:

Clemson University	Purple and Orange
University of Colorado	Gold and Silver
University of South Carolina	Garnet and Black

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The hood is lined in the official colors of the university that awarded the degree; the color of the facing indicates the degree.

Holders of all degrees wear caps with a long tassel conforming to the degree earned, except that doctors may wear tassels of gold thread.

The following colors have been established by the Intercollegiate Commission:

Apricot	- Nursing
Brown	- Fine Arts, including Architecture
Citron	- Social Work
Copper	- Economics
Crimson	- Journalism
Dark Blue	- Philosophy
Drab	- Commerce, Accountancy, Business
Gray	- Veterinary Science
Green	- Medicine
Lemon	- Library Science
Light Blue	- Education
Lilac	- Dentistry
Maize	- Agriculture
Olive Green	- Pharmacy
Orange	- Engineering
Peacock Blue	- Public Administration, including Foreign Service
Pink	- Music
Pink	- Public Health Salmon
Purple	- Law
Russet	- Forestry
Sage Green	- Physical Education
Scarlet	- Theology
Silver Gray	- Oratory (Speech)
White	- Arts, Letters, Humanities
Yellow	- Science Golden

V. Alumni Receptions

The Alumni Center will be hosting receptions at each regional learning center during the weeks leading up the ceremonies. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Joy Bryant, jbryant@swu.edu.

VI. Applause:

When your name is called and you walk across the platform, your family is invited to stand in recognition of your achievement. Whistling and boisterous behavior is considered inappropriate.

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Applause is reserved for those earning honor; after all degrees have been awarded, all graduates will be applauded.

VII. Applications:

You must **apply** to graduate, regardless of whether you plan to participate in the ceremony or not. The deadline to apply is indicated in Section II. If you plan to graduate in May 2015, but have not applied, please contact Academic Records immediately. We must have your application, so we may check to see if you have met all requirements and order your diploma and regalia. Students who do not meet all the appropriate deadlines will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony, and will have to wait until December 2015 to earn their degree.

VIII. Appropriate Attire for Graduates:

This is a time of final honoring of members of the class. When in academic regalia, individuals should not try to draw attention to themselves by wearing flashy clothing or extraneous decorations. Dark trousers and shoes along with shirt and tie are appropriate dress for men; dresses are advised for women. Please press your robe!

IX. Baccalaureate:

A Baccalaureate Service (formal, academic worship service) will be held at 10:00 AM on Friday, May 8, 2015. AGS students wishing to participate in this service should notify Academic Records at least three weeks prior to the ceremony in order to be included in the printed program.

X. Cameras, Photographs, and Videos:

A professional photographer will photograph you receiving your diploma from the president. You will receive an opportunity to purchase copies of these photos directly from the photographer approximately one week after the ceremony.

Cameras are allowed during the commencement services, but those using video cameras are requested to sit in the back rows or balcony, in order not to block the view of other guests. Due to limited seating, tripods may not be used.

Video recordings of the ceremony will be available for download from the SWU website approximately one week after the ceremony.

XI. Cell Phones:

Please make sure your cell phones are turned off. Also ask your guests to turn off their cell phones during the service.

XII. Diplomas

During the graduation ceremonies, students will be given a decorative diploma cover. Diplomas will be mailed to graduates once all graduation requirements and financial obligations have been certified as met.

All diplomas will be printed with the "Official Degree Conferral Date" indicated in the calendar above, regardless of the ceremony in which the graduate participates.

Pocket diplomas are no longer available to Southern Wesleyan University graduates.

XIII. Food Service:

The on-campus Snack Shop, Coffee Shop, and Campus Dining Services will be open on graduation day.

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XIV. Honors:

For Latin Honors, calculation of the cumulative grade point average is based on all work attempted in college, at least fifty-two hours of which must be from Southern Wesleyan University. This includes all work attempted at the collegiate level, regardless of whether the credit transferred or not. Based on that gpa, Latin Honors are awarded as follows:

Summa cum laude ("with highest praise"), indicated by an honor medallion and a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative gpa of 3.80 or above.

Magna cum laude ("with high praise"), indicated by a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative gpa of 3.60 to 3.79.

Cum laude ("with praise"), indicated by a single honor cord, denotes a cumulative gpa of 3.40 to 3.59.

University Honors: In the event that a student is ineligible for Latin Honors but has achieved a cumulative SWU GPA of at least 3.8 on no less than 60 credits earned at Southern Wesleyan University, that student will be assigned the designation of "university honors."

Αχ recognizes membership in Alpha Chi Honor Society, open to the top ten percent of the senior class (traditional program). The name is derived from the initial letters of αλήθεια (truth) and χαρακτήρ (character). Membership is indicated by the blue and green honor cord.

The Faculty Marshal is the senior faculty member; the Marshal is the junior with highest GPA.

Junior academic leaders serve as ushers.

Latin Honors are not awarded to students earning Masters Degrees. At the graduate level, academic hoods are worn as a part of the regalia, and symbolize the graduate level achievement.

XV. Invitations:

Graduation **invitations** may be ordered online from [Herff-Jones](http://www.herffjones.com) at <http://www.herffjones.com/college>. (The Herff Jones web page is typically available approximately two months prior to ceremony.) Class Rings are also ordered directly from Herff-Jones via their web site www.herffjones.com. Contact SWU's Herff-Jones representative, Harold Waters, at 864-244-0110 for more information on class rings or announcements.

XVI. Memorabilia:

Southern Wesleyan **memorabilia** may be purchased from the [SWU bookstore](http://bookstore.swu.edu) at <http://bookstore.swu.edu>. For the convenience of those attending the graduation ceremonies, the bookstore will be open on Graduation Day.

XVII. Multiple Degrees:

After December 2003, students may not earn an Associate's and Bachelor's degree at the same ceremony. The Associate's degree must be awarded prior to the awarding of the Bachelor's degree.

Students earning both the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree have completed an additional thirty hours of coursework, over and above the hours required for the first degree.

XVIII. Nursery/childcare:

Childcare will not be provided. Children are welcome, but please note the graduation program is not designed to keep the attention of young children. If necessary, please make childcare arrangements, or use the video-equipped over-flow room. For ticketed ceremonies, children who wish to attend the ceremony must also have a ticket, unless they are small enough to be held throughout the ceremony.

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XIX. Parking and Travel time to campus

Graduates are expected to arrive on campus two hours prior to their assigned ceremony. Please allow sufficient travel time in order to arrive in time to participate in the ceremony. With no delays, it takes four and one-half hours to travel to Central from the Charleston location. Graduates unfamiliar with the Central campus should allow extra time for finding the campus, parking, and making their way to the check-in station. Guests requiring special parking must have a valid handicapped parking permit.

XX. Processional:

There will be a formal processional across campus leading to each ceremony.

XXI. Rehearsal:

Assemble ninety minutes prior to your assigned ceremony in the University Dining Commons for rehearsal, devotions, and a group picture. To be dressed and ready to go, you should plan to arrive on campus **at least two hours prior to your assigned ceremony**.

XXII. Tickets:

Based on the current number of students scheduled to participate in the graduation, the Saturday ceremony will be ticketed. For the Saturday Ceremony, graduating students **will be issued at least 4 tickets** to the ceremony. All guests must have a ticket for admittance to the ceremony. Guests without tickets will be directed to the overflow areas to view the ceremony on closed circuit broadcast. Tickets and regalia will be mailed to AGS students a few days prior to the ceremony. There will not be extra tickets available. Children who wish to attend the ceremony must have a ticket unless they are small enough to be held throughout the ceremony.

Based on the current number of students scheduled to participate in graduation ceremony on Friday, the Friday ceremony will not be ticketed. However, in order to provide adequate seating for all guests and family members, graduates are respectfully requested to limit the number of guests they invite to a reasonable number. Traditional students will be notified by email when regalia is ready for pickup from the Academic Records office. Traditional program graduates who are unable to pick up their regalia in person, should contact Academic Records to make alternate delivery arrangements.