COMMENCEMENT
INFORMATION
FALL 2017

Friday, December 8, 2017
1:00 P.M.
Paulson Stadium
203 Lanier Drive
Statesboro, Georgia

The stadium gates will open at 11:30 a.m.

GEORGIA SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
Published by the Office of the Registrar
Dear Candidates and Guests:

Commencement exercises for the Fall 2017 graduating class will be held Friday, December 8, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in Paulson Stadium. Due to the large crowd expected, it is suggested that plans be made to arrive on campus by 11:45 a.m. or earlier. Because there is limited parking at the stadium, it is strongly recommended that you park in one of the designated parking areas indicated on the map on page 5 and utilize the campus shuttle services to and from the stadium.

In the event that Georgia Southern has to implement the rain plan for Commencement, three ceremonies will be held at Hanner Fieldhouse and tickets will be required. Due to capacity limitations at Hanner Fieldhouse, each candidate will be issued four (4) tickets for their guests. The ceremonies will be held at 9:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (See pages 8, 9 and 10 for detailed information about the rain plan.)

The information in this brochure is intended to answer all your questions about Commencement. Please share the information contained in this brochure with your family and guests. Careful attention to these instructions will assure a memorable celebration of your educational achievements at Georgia Southern. If you have questions, please call the Registrar’s Office at (912) 478-5152.

Congratulations!

Dr. Velma S. Burden
Registrar
INVITATIONS / COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS
Diploma frames, note cards and other commemorative items are available at the University Store. You may visit the University Store's website at www.gsustore.com to purchase merchandise. Commemorative items will be available for sale at the University Store on December 8th from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The stadium stores will also be open with a limited selection of Georgia Southern and alumni merchandise.

Invitations, thank you notes and certificates can be ordered through Printing and Postal Services, (912) 478-5697, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or on the website at http://auxiliary.georgiasouthern.edu/storesandshops/printshop/ and follow the links to the online store.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE
Caps and Gowns are required and only academic attire approved for the ceremony may be worn. The University honors medallion and academic honor cords are the only approved accessories to be worn with the cap and gown.

Special scarves and other accessories, which include but are not limited to Honor Society scarves/cords and Sorority/Fraternity scarves are NOT approved graduation attire and should not be worn. We suggest that candidates wear dark flat shoes, dark dresses, or dark pants with their graduation gowns.

Students may reserve their caps and gowns at http://www.herffjones.com/college/gsu. Please give your height, weight, degree and major. Measurements must be received by Herff Jones by November 3rd or a $25 late fee may apply. Cap and gown fees can be paid directly to the Herff Jones Company when you place your order. Any questions about cap, gown and tassel color should be directed to Herff Jones at info@herffjonesstatesboro.com.

ATTIRE PICK-UP
Commencement attire may be picked up at the Recreation Activity Center (RAC) on Wednesday, December 6th from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Thursday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. If a reservation for attire was not made, please pick up on Thursday, December 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in order to be fitted appropriately. Please be sure that attire is correct when picked up since little time will be available from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for adjustments on Friday, December 8th, the day of Commencement. You may keep your attire – no return required.

TASSELS
Tassels should be worn on the right side of the cap hanging over the right eye until the President asks you to move your tassel to the left side of the cap during the ceremony. The mortar board of the cap should be parallel to the ground. Master’s, Education Specialist, and Doctoral students should wear tassels on the left side of the cap hanging over the left eye and will not move their tassels.

GRADUATION WITH HONORS / HONOR CORDS
All undergraduate candidates receiving graduation with honors will be emailed before the end of the semester. Your honor cord will be included with your attire. (See pick-up schedule on this page) Pin the honor cord to the gown on the left shoulder. Please email graduation@georgiasouthern.edu by November 10th if you have any questions.

NAME CARDS
A Name Card will be mailed to each candidate based upon the mailing address in WINGS. Doctoral candidates will not have a name card mailed. You MUST have this Name Card when you arrive at the stadium, duplicates will be available at your college table near the entrance to the stadium floor. During the ceremony, you will take your Name Card to the reader in front of the stage so your name can be read as you cross the stage.

SEATING FOR COMMENCEMENT
The seating for the Commencement ceremony will begin at 12:00 p.m. at the west end of Paulson Stadium. Students may be dropped off at Gate 1 or Gate 5 and walk along the outside of the stadium to the west end (see page 7).

Your seating location is determined by the college from which you are receiving your degree. Please locate the “College” sign for your college and enter the stadium seating area.

Undergraduate: Undergraduate candidates will enter the stadium through Gates 9 and 11 and proceed to the seating area based on the college from which you are receiving your degree.

Graduate: (Doctoral, Education Specialist, Master’s): Graduate candidates will enter the stadium through Gate 9 and proceed to the “COGS” seating area.

The seating diagram and entrances are located on pages 6 and 7. There will be staff members available to direct you to your seat in the seating area.

PHOTOGRAPHY / VIDEOS
A professional photographer will take a picture of you as you cross the stage. A proof of this picture will be emailed to you at your Georgia Southern email address and mailed to your home address so that you may decide if you wish to purchase these photos. The week following Commencement, the ceremony will be made available for viewing on Georgia Southern’s YouTube page at www.youtube.com/GeorgiaSouthernUniv.

LIVE BROADCAST OF THE CEREMONY
Relatives and friends may also view the ceremony in the Russell Union Theater and the Williams Center Multipurpose Room. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis and tickets are not required.

Student Information

3
WEB CAST OF COMMENCEMENT
Georgia Southern University is proud to present the Fall Commencement ceremony as a live web cast. Those wishing to view the broadcast can visit GeorgiaSouthern.edu/commencement on their computers or mobile devices.

A test broadcast will be available 30 minutes prior to Commencement and the actual broadcast will begin a few minutes before the start of the ceremony.

Due to technical constraints, some Internet Service Providers (ISPs) do not permit the use of their systems to transmit such broadcasts. Should you not be able to view the broadcast, please contact your local ISP.

GUEST ENTRANCE AND SEATING
Relatives and friends may enter the stadium through Gates 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 12 or 13. Please refer to pages 6 and 7 for suggested seating of guests according to the college of the candidates. Tickets are not required at Paulson Stadium.

FOOD / WATER
Drinking water will be available for candidates at the water stations located at Gates 9 and 11. Concession stands selling food and drinks will be open for guests throughout the Commencement ceremony. No outside food or drinks can be brought into the stadium.

STADIUM RULES
Alcoholic beverages and umbrellas are not permitted in Paulson Stadium. Stadium rules will be enforced. Additional information on stadium rules and Game Day Policies can be found at http://gseagles.com/sports/2016/7/11/game-day-guide.aspx?&DB_OEM_ID=18700&id=212.

PARKING / SHUTTLE SERVICE
Due to the extremely large crowd expected, it is suggested that plans be made to arrive on campus by 11:45 a.m. or earlier. It is also strongly suggested that you park in one of the designated parking areas indicated on the map on page 5 and utilize the campus shuttle services to and from the stadium. Shuttle services will start at 11:30 a.m. and will continue until one hour after the ceremony ends. Carpooling is encouraged.

For further traffic and parking information, please tune to WVGS 91.9 FM on Commencement day.

DISABILITY ACCESS
If your guest requires special accommodations for a disability, special seating is available. Due to limited seating in the handicap areas, only one person will be allowed to accompany the handicapped person in the handicap seating area. Please see page 7 for wheelchairs and other handicap seating.

A designated handicap parking area is available for entry to the stadium, but space is limited so please arrive early. A State handicap parking permit is required. Please limit handicap seating and parking for those who truly require special accommodations. Guests entering the stadium from the designated handicap parking area should enter through Gate 5, 12, or 13 (see page 7). Paulson Stadium has moderate inclines that may be challenging for some guests with limited mobility. Please remember that the Commencement ceremony is also available as a live broadcast in the Russell Union Theater and Williams Center Multipurpose Room locations that provide easy access for viewing (See page 3).

If you have questions, please contact the Student Disability Resource Center at (912) 478-1566.

Visitors with mobility concerns are strongly encouraged to arrive early to the ceremony. Wheelchairs will not be available at the venue. For those requiring a wheelchair, we suggest you make arrangements with a private rental company. Pickup and drop off of wheelchairs should be arranged directly with the rental company.

GUESTS REQUIRING AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE
American Sign Language interpreting is available. Guests who need access and desire close proximity to sign language services may choose to sit in Section J on the front row which will be reserved until 15 minutes before the ceremony begins.

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAMS
A Commencement program listing the names of all candidates will be placed in the candidates’ seats at the stadium. Guests will receive a program as they enter the stadium.

DIPLOMAS / TRANSCRIPTS
Diplomas will be mailed to the graduates at their diploma mailing address or their permanent home address. Please remember to update your diploma address (DA) in WINGS to an address that will be valid eight weeks after completing all degree requirements. If there is no DA address, the diploma will be mailed to the current mailing address. Diplomas should be mailed six to eight weeks after graduation for students who have applied for graduation and completed all requirements.

When applying for employment, transcripts should be used instead of diplomas. Three weeks after graduation, if requirements are completed, graduates may request a transcript with the degree conferred.

CONCLUSION OF CEREMONY
Following the singing of the Alma Mater, the platform party, faculty, and students will recess. The audience should remain standing at their seats until the recessional is complete.
**Student Information**

**LEGEND**

- Commencement Shuttle Route
- Commencement Shuttle Stops
  (Shuttle route will begin at Paulson Stadium and travel to stops 1-4 in sequence prior to ceremony. Post ceremony, the shuttle route will run in the same direction.)
  1. Russell Union/The University Store
  2. Engineering Building/Performing Arts Center
  3. Ceramics & Sculpture Studio
  4. RAC

**NOTE:**
Shuttle service will start at 11:30 a.m. and will continue until one hour after the ceremony.
Student Information

**Students**
Please enter the stadium at 12:00 p.m. and locate your seating area. Plan to be in your seat by 12:30 p.m. or earlier.

**Parents**
Please use this diagram to locate where your student will be seated on the field. This will help you determine the best seating option for watching your student during the ceremony.

**Abbreviation Legend:**
COGS - College of Graduate Studies (Doctoral, Education Specialist, Masters)
CEIT - College of Engineering and Information Technology
CHHS - College of Health and Human Sciences
CLASS - College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences
COBA - College of Business Administration
COE - College of Education
COPH - College of Public Health
COSM - College of Science and Mathematics
Student Information

RAIN PLAN
(Tickets Required)

INCLEMENT WEATHER
If rain threatens the outdoor ceremony, Commencement exercises will be moved to Hanner Fieldhouse. The decision to implement the rain plan will be made by the morning of the ceremony and will be announced on the following local radio stations:

91.9 FM
102.9 FM
107.3 FM
1240 AM

Information will also be available by calling the following numbers or accessing Georgia Southern’s web site http://www.georgiasouthern.edu.

COMMENCEMENT INFO LINES (Day of Commencement):
(912) 478-6397
(912) 478-4636
(912) 478-5234

Since seating in Hanner Fieldhouse is limited, Commencement will be held in THREE CEREMONIES. Please see below for further information on each ceremony.

9:00 A.M. CEREMONY
Candidates report at 8:00 A.M.
Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
College of Science and Mathematics

11:30 A.M. CEREMONY
Candidates report at 10:30 A.M.
Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology
College of Health and Human Sciences
Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health

2:00 P.M. CEREMONY
Candidates report at 1:00 P.M.
Jack N. Averitt College of Graduate Studies
College of Business Administration
College of Education

Candidates should report to the Old Gym in the Hanner Fieldhouse for line up (see diagram on page 9). Duplicate Name Cards will be available at the college tables in the Old Gym.

DISABILITY ACCESS
Handicap seating for persons in wheelchairs is located on the upper level of the Hanner Fieldhouse which can be accessed from the front of Hanner (see page 9).

Wheelchair accessible seating is limited, and is available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Additional handicap seating for persons who are not in wheelchairs is available on the upper level of the Hanner Fieldhouse and can be accessed through the front/main entrance. Reservations are not required, and seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. A maximum of one person will be allowed to accompany the handicapped person in any handicap seating area. A designated handicap parking area is available on a first-come, first-served basis (see diagram on page 5). A State handicap parking permit is required. Please limit handicap seating and parking to those who truly require special accommodations.

Visitors with disability concerns are strongly encouraged to arrive early to the ceremony. Wheelchairs will not be available at the venue. For those requiring a wheelchair, we suggest you make arrangements with a private rental company. Pickup and drop off of wheelchairs should be arranged directly with the rental company.

TICKETS
Tickets will be required for all guests for the ceremonies held at the Hanner Fieldhouse and are non-replaceable if lost or stolen. Each candidate participating in the ceremony will receive a ticket that will allow entry for four (4) guests. Tickets can only be used for the time indicated on the ticket. Candidates will receive the rain plan guest tickets with their name card. Candidates do not need a ticket to attend the ceremony.
Student Information

Hanner Fieldhouse
(Lower Level)
RAIN PLAN

FACULTY SEATING

CANDIDATE SEATING

FACULTY SEATING

VIDEO RISER

CONCESSIONS

WOMEN'S RESTROOM

MEN'S RESTROOM
THE SYMBOLS OF ACADEMIC TRADITION

The Mace
Leading the Processional of faculty and administration is the Macebearer, the Moderator of the Faculty Senate at Georgia Southern University.

The Mace is a two and one-half foot shaft and sphere of cast Everdur Bronze and carved American walnut. This representation of the ceremonial symbol of office and authority was designed and crafted in 1988 by Thomas P. Steadman, Associate Professor of Art. Its angular forms and low-gloss finishes are reminiscent of the medieval battle mace from which the more scepter-like academic mace evolved.

The design of the Mace blends forms suggested by native flora of South Georgia. The magnolia leaves and stems encircling the head of the mace in a double helix symbolize Georgia Southern’s link with its region. A small ballast rock, found on the Georgia coast and traced to probable British origin, is embedded in the finial base of the shaft representing the foundation of the institution.

Regalia
The history of academic attire is also traced to the Middle Ages when it may have been necessary for scholars to wear gowns and cowls for warmth in the unheated halls of academe of the period. The robes and hoods have evolved as ceremonial garments signifying level of degree, academic field, and the awarding institution.

Today’s gowns for baccalaureate, master’s, education specialist, and doctoral degrees are made of a rayon blend, always black. Baccalaureate gowns have pointed sleeves and are worn closed. The gowns for the master’s and specialist degrees, also worn closed, have an oblong sleeve with a base that hangs open at the wrist.

The doctoral gowns have bell-shaped sleeves which may be worn open or closed. It is the tradition of Georgia Southern to reserve hoods for master’s and education specialist degree candidates. These hoods are black, three and one-half feet long, lined with the official colors of the institution, and trimmed in velvet in the color of the degree field.

Caps in the form of mortarboards are made of cotton poplin or a similar material. The tassel is the color which reflects the degree.

The ornamental braided cord draped over the left shoulder of some of the baccalaureate graduates is called a fourragère. The design follows French military tradition and signifies special recognition of baccalaureate students graduating with honors.

Banners
Banners representing each of the eight Colleges and the University Library are displayed at Commencement. Representation of the Banners signify the colors of disciplines in the Colleges, and celebrate the University’s academic programs.

Double Eagle
The Double Eagle Society is an incentive program and a joint initiative between the College of Graduate Studies and the Alumni Association of Georgia Southern. This initiative was created to recognize our alumni who have earned two (or more) degrees from Georgia Southern: one undergraduate degree and one or more graduate degrees.