

Graduate Commencement Ceremonies

Thursday, May 21, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. | 5:00 p.m. | WP Wightman Stadium

IMPORTANT NOTES



Arrival Please arrive at the Practice Field near Wightman Stadium at the following times for line-up:

10:00 a.m. CEREMONY: Arrive by 8:30 a.m. | Procession will begin at 9:45 a.m.

5:00 p.m. CEREMONY: Arrive by 3:30 p.m. | Procession will begin at 4:45 p.m.

Staging Area

Graduates will gather in the Practice Field behind the Tennis Courts. Covered tents will be marked; look for the sign indicating your academic program.

NOTE: The football field is turf and high heels of any kind are strongly discouraged for the safety of our graduates.

GRADUATES: Please bring your regalia (cap, gown, hood, and tassel) and your **STAGEPASS** with you to the staging area. You must present your **STAGEPASS** at the stage to be scanned to have your name announced. It must be printed. Volunteers will be available to assist you as needed inside the robing tents. Doctoral candidates will carry their hoods into the stadium.

Personal belongings cannot be left in the staging area. We strongly recommend leaving them in your vehicles. Please plan accordingly.

Parking

Wightman Stadium is located across from the Parking Garage. Please account for travel time. Parking is available in the Parking Garage on a first-come, first-served basis. Additional parking will be available in Lot 2. Anyone needing handicapped drop-off will be guided by University police to the Ben Shahn circle.

NOTE: Strollers are not permitted in the stadium. Guests will be instructed to return strollers to their car or leave it outside the venue at your own risk.

Tickets

E-tickets (printed or on a phone) are required for guests to enter Wightman Stadium. Each graduate candidate was eligible for eight tickets. Graduates and children ages 2 and under do not require a ticket. Fire code prohibits children sitting on laps of adults. All bar-coded e-tickets will be scanned for entry into Wightman Stadium.

Family members and guests who have e-tickets are requested to go directly to Wightman Stadium to be seated. The stadium will open for admittance of guests at the following times:

10:00 a.m. Ceremony: Stadium opens at 9:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m. Ceremony: Stadium opens at 4:00 p.m.

Guests requiring extra assistance may arrive 15 minutes prior to stadium opening times.

Each ceremony will be livestreamed on the University's home page at www.wpunj.edu.

Bags and Other Items

Bags are allowed, but due to limited space, we recommend leaving large personal items in your car. Balloons and strollers are not permitted inside the stadium. You will be asked to return them to your vehicle. The following items are prohibited: alcoholic beverages; illegal drugs; balloons; beach balls; frisbees; signs, banners, and flags larger than 14" x 14"; noisemakers such as horns; laser pointers; flashlights; fireworks; selfie sticks; strollers; and outside food and beverages. Pets, with the exception of service animals, are not permitted.

Important Ceremony Information

Graduates will process into Wightman Stadium in two lines walking through faculty on both sides of the aisle prior to entering the rows. Commencement staff will support you through this process and every seat **must** be filled. When it is time to proceed to the stage to be recognized, staff will lead you to either side of stage. Please have your printed **STAGEPASS-NAMECARD** out and ready for scanning. Your **STAGEPASS** must be printed. Photos will be taken at various points while you proceed to and from the stage.

NOTE: Guests must remain in their seats; they will not be permitted to go to the stage or up to the barriers to take photos.

As a reminder, decorum at the ceremony and respect for your fellow graduates is important. Your degree is not conferred by the President until after all students have been recognized on stage. You are expected to remain in the stadium until the end of the ceremony. The recessional begins with the Platform Party, followed by the faculty and guests. Students will exit out the stadium gate and meet their guests near the Practice Field. WP magnets will be provided upon exiting as part of the recessional.

Accessible Accommodations

If you or a guest requires special accommodation, please notify the Accessibility Resource Center at arc@wpunj.edu.

Graduate Gifts and Concessions

Vendors will be available in front of the Pioneer Athletics Fieldhouse selling celebratory items such as flowers, teddy bears, Commencement t-shirts, etc. Water will be available for purchase at the concession stand.

In addition, the WP Campus Bookstore in the University Commons will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For More Information

Please visit: wpunj.edu/commencement

Commencement emails and phones will not be checked after 12:00 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 19**.

The 10:00 a.m. Ceremony will conclude by 12:00 p.m.

The 5:00 p.m. Ceremony will conclude by 7:00 p.m.

Both ceremonies will be livestreamed on the University's home page at wpunj.edu.