

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

A commencement ceremony is held at the end of each fall and spring semester.

- Summer graduation candidates who apply to graduate in August and who complete all requirements may participate in the following December ceremony and are automatically listed in the commencement program. Notification of attendance is not necessary.

TICKETS: Tickets will be required to attend the commencement ceremony. Graduation candidates will be able to pick up and sign for their tickets during exam week (5 days only) with a picture ID at the University Police Office from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. If you are unable to pick up your tickets during this time, please contact the University Police Office to make other arrangements, 864-388-8222. Candidates completing their degree requirements at the University Center of Greenville will be able to pick up their tickets from the UCG office during normal office hours.

ARRIVAL PLACE AND TIME:

PLACE – Auxiliary Gym, PEES Complex (side of Brookside Housing and Soccer/Softball fields)

TIME – 10:00 a.m. ([A group picture will be taken at 10:15 a.m.](#))

REHEARSAL: There is no rehearsal for graduation candidates, so it is essential that all candidates arrive on time. Parents and guests will not be allowed to enter the PEES Complex. At exactly 10:30 a.m. special instructions and the formation of the procession line will begin.

LATE COMERS – Anyone arriving after the formation of the procession line begins will be required to take their place at the end of the line and their diploma will be mailed to them.

WARDROBE: Men - white shirts and dark ties and shoes

Women - dark shoes and conservative jewelry

GRADUATION LINE – UP

[Procession Guide](#)

[Recession Guide](#)

DRESS

1. No chewing gum
2. No dangly earrings or necklaces
3. Cap worn flat on head, not on the back of head
4. Tassel should hang on right side of cap
5. Alterations of commencement regalia are not permitted.

CEREMONY

- You **MUST** pick up a "GRADUATION CARD" upon entrance into the PEES building. The "GRADUATION CARD" not only gives you your number in line but it is the card you will hand to the Academic Vice President to call out your name before crossing the stage.
- At 10:30 a.m. in the Auxiliary Gym, everyone will be directed to form the procession line by the number on your card. The procession line is formed in accordance with the commencement program (alphabetically by degree, major, name). Again, let me stress the need to hold on to your "GRADUATION CARD" – this is the card you will hand to the Academic Vice President to call out your name before crossing the stage.
- Follow the Marshall into arena and to your seat. REMAIN STANDING until the Invocation has been given then you may sit down. MEN: remove your cap.
- SPEAKER
- RECOGNITION of "Thayer Cup" - when your name is called please rise and proceed to stage.
- AWARDING of Honorary Degree
- LISTEN for instructions from the Academic Vice President – The Academic Vice President will call for "All candidates for the Master degree, please rise". All Master degree candidates then rise. (Bachelor degree candidates remain seated, similar instructions will follow later for you.) The President will then ask the faculty to rise for confirmation of degrees while you remain standing. For undergraduates only, after confirmation, the President will ask you to move your tassel from right to left before proceeding to the stage. The Marshall will lead the FIRST ROW to the stage and the REMAINING GRADUATES MAY SIT DOWN.

- WAIT for the Marshall to indicate for your row to rise and proceed to the stage.
- Step upon stage and hand your name "GRADUATION CARD" to the Academic Vice President. DO NOT move across the stage until you hear your name! Your academic honors will be announced at this time. Receive your diploma cover with your left hand and shake hands with your right. For those receiving the "GOLDEN L" Award, you will receive your pin at this time.
- CONCLUSION - **Platform dignitaries will recess first**, faculty and graduation candidates will exit next. You will recess to your right, two rows at a time. Please to prevent confusion and congestion problems, recess completely out of the arena then enter the PEES building taking the hallway back to the auxiliary gym and exit out those doors before greeting your family and friends.

ARENA SEATING: Commencement ceremonies are held in the Finis Horne Arena on campus. **The Ceremony will begin promptly at 11:00 a.m. and entrance into the Finis Horne Arena may not be possible after 10:45 a.m.**

In order to ensure that Lander University is in compliance with the State Fire Marshall Code and to maximize the safety, comfort and enjoyment of all who plan to attend the Ceremony, we ask that our guests observe the following courtesies:

1. The Wilson Street entrance to the Finis Horne Arena will open at 9:30 a.m. Arrive in time to be seated in the Finis Horne Arena no later than 10:45 a.m.; otherwise, you will be asked to watch the Ceremony in the Cultural Center Auditorium by closed circuit television.
2. Guests with physical disabilities who arrive in time to be seated in the Arena can be dropped off at lower entrance of the Arena and will be accommodated in the appropriate areas. These guests can be accompanied by one attendant.
3. Guests are not permitted to save seats for late-arriving family and friends.
4. Guests are invited to extend to the graduating students the honor and respect of polite applause as each student crosses the stage – befitting a dignified ceremony. We ask that guests refrain from shouting out names or other forms of boisterous behavior until all are invited to make a joyful sound of celebration and congratulation at the end of the ceremony.

PICTURES: For your convenience, we have made arrangements with Classic Photography, Inc for a professional photographer to record the moment you are awarded your diploma. You will receive a passport-sized, full-color proof in the mail after the ceremony. There is no obligation to purchase, and you will have the option of ordering additional packages at very reasonable prices. If you fail to receive your proof, feel free to contact the company at 1 – 800 – 768 – 3987.

This service will enable each student to have a photograph of his or her graduation. Family members and friends are encouraged to remain in their seats and enjoy the ceremony. Personal picture taking can be done after the ceremony. We are very eager to do everything possible to make this a very memorable occasion in your life. Please advise us of any way in which we may be helpful to you in your preparation.

Please check your "Local Home Permanent" address through Bearcat Web and update if necessary.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY VIDEO: You may purchase a DVD of the ceremony by placing an order through our bookstore web site, Bearcat Shop, with a shipping date of four/six weeks after the ceremony.

- Click on: <http://bookworm.lander.edu/>
- In the far right column, choose "Gen Mdse"
- Find and choose "Lander Events on DVD" (search through pages)
- Select the event - "Graduation mm/dd/yy"

Select "Add to Cart" and prepare to enter payment information