Dear Student,

Please read this e-mail in its entirety as it includes important information regarding the upcoming UAB commencement ceremonies. Please relay the information in this e-mail to your family, friends, and other guests.

You can find most of this information on our commencement website.

Summer commencement ceremonies will be in person this August. Please remember all commencement plans are subject to change at any time due to health concerns and the inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19. Please continue to check the commencement website and your UAB e-mail for updates.

**VACCINATIONS/MASKING/DISTANCING**
Because commencement brings people from all over the country and the world, it is important that we all do what we can to stay safe. Although vaccinations are not required to participate in commencement (as a student or a guest), we encourage you to get your COVID vaccine.

UAB no longer requires masks to be worn inside non-clinical university buildings; read more on the [UAB United website](#). Students and guests will not be required to wear a mask during the entirety of the commencement ceremony but may choose to wear a well-fitting mask for many good reasons, including a weak immune system, a friend or family member at greater risk, an inability to get vaccinated, or simply for personal comfort and peace of mind. Please respect each individual’s choice.

**REGISTER TO WALK**
If you have not already done so and plan to attend commencement, you must register to walk. You may do so by clicking [here](#). If you experience issues with registering, please e-mail commencement@uab.edu. Please note that applying for your degree is a separate process than registering to walk. Generally, you apply for your degree months in advance through BlazerNet. The deadline to register to walk is July 30.

**NAME CARDS**
Information on how to pick-up/receive your name card will be provided soon. We are working on the technical aspect of these name cards and will provide information as soon as we have the details confirmed.

**LOGISTICAL INFORMATION**
Where will the ceremonies be held?
All ceremonies will be held at Bartow Arena.

When will the ceremonies be held?

- **Graduate Ceremony for all schools**: Friday, August 12 at 6:00 p.m.
- **All undergraduate students**: Saturday, August 13 at 9:30 a.m.

Where should we park?

- All lots within proximity to Bartow Arena will be open for parking.
- Handicap parking (placard required) is also available in lot 24 behind Campbell Hall (off University Blvd. and 13th Street).
- Parking is free.

How many guests can we bring?
There is not a limit on family, friends, and guests. Please note that all seating inside Bartow Arena is first come, first served. Holding or reserving seats is prohibited.

What if I need to change the number of guests who will attend?
There is no need to let us know if you have more (or less) guests coming to your commencement ceremony unless you plan on bringing an additional 100 people with you.

Are there any clothing or bag restrictions?
It is recommended that you wear flat-soled shoes. Students will be ascending and descending stairs in the arena. Bartow Arena does not have a bag policy. No balloons are allowed as they impede other guests' view of graduates crossing the stage. Strollers must be left in the concourse area. Umbrellas are allowed but must be kept under your seat or in the concourse area.

Will there be concessions?
Yes. Food and drinks will be available for purchase at Bartow. Additionally, the UAB bookstore will have a kiosk with UAB items for sale. *Graduates can bring a bottle of water to keep at their seats during the ceremony. Please take the bottle with you when ceremony is over.*

How and where do I order/pick-up regalia (cap & gown)?
Please order your regalia three to four weeks prior to when you would like to have it in hand. Graduates can [purchase Commencement regalia online](#) prior to the ceremony. For questions
concerning cap and gown, please e-mail regalia@uab.edu. The deadline to order regalia for summer is June 30.

CEREMONY DETAILS

How long will the ceremonies last?
Ceremonies typically last about 2 hours. Please be respectful of your fellow classmates and remain in your seat for the entirety of the commencement ceremony. Commencement is a formal ceremony similar to a wedding. Like you, your classmates have worked hard to celebrate this day.

GRADUATES

When should we arrive?
Graduates should arrive to Bartow Arena one hour prior to their ceremony start time. You will enter on the lower level of Bartow Arena from 13th Street South. You will then go upstairs to the concourse area and find your school line for the processional.

How do we get to our designated area?

- Enter through the 13th Street South entrance.
- We use a digital name card system. Please make sure you bring a charged cell phone with you that can be used to display your name card to the card scanner. You will receive text alerts about this system prior to commencement. Please do not delete these texts. They may come across as spam but rest assured, they are legit texts.

How should we prepare for the ceremony once we arrive?

1. Find your school and line up (there is no need to line up in alphabetical order).
2. You will be led onto the arena floor by faculty school marshals.
3. Then you will process across the stage when your school is called.
4. After you have your formal portrait taken, please return to a seat. It is okay if you do not return to your exact seat.

Will there be a traditional handshake and photo?

- Yes. If you feel comfortable, you may shake the president’s hand.
- We will have 2 opportunities for photos:
  1. While crossing the stage (with Dean or President). The spot where graduates will stand will be marked with a “Please stand here” round sticker.
  2. After exiting the stage at the portrait backdrop.
Will there be a formal procession?

- Once the ceremony is over, the graduates, guests, family, and friends must exit Bartow Arena.
- There is not a formal processional for the graduates.

**DOS AND DON’TS FOR CROSSING THE STAGE**

To ensure that graduates and audience members can hear the names called, please be reminded of the academic nature of the commencement exercises. Disruptions during commencement impede family members from hearing names called, and at time can pose a safety risk on stage. Please be mindful of disruption, as it relates to the definition in the Student Conduct Code found in Section V. E. & F.

https://www.uab.edu/students/accountability/student-conduct-code

- Please wait until your name is called before you walk across the stage.
- The following is prohibited at any point in the graduation ceremony:
  - Strolling or stomping
  - Yelling/Shouting
  - Wearing items other than official UAB Regalia
  - Removing your UAB Regalia
  - Dancing
  - Running across stage
  - We invite you to celebrate with family and friends following commencement outside of Bartow Arena.

If you cause disruption during the commencement ceremony, you may be referred to the Office of Community Standards and Student Accountability for a violation of the Student Conduct Code. If found responsible, appropriate sanctions can be applied.

**SOCIAL MEDIA INFORMATION**

- The ceremonies will be livestreamed
  - We will livestream the ceremonies on Facebook and YouTube.
  - We will not have a separate virtual ceremony.
- You will receive a text message with information on the First Destination Survey and how to share photos to social media
- If you would like to share photos ahead of time, please use the hashtags: #UABClassof2022
AFTER THE CEREMONIES

- When will I receive my diploma?
  - Assuming you have no financial holds on your student account, you will receive your diploma and diploma cover 6-8 weeks after final grades are posted. If you have not received your diploma within that time frame, please contact the Registrar’s office at: registrar@uab.edu.

- When will I receive my photos taken at commencement?
  - Your proofs will be available at www.gradimages.com. Grad Images will also e-mail you so be sure to check your "other" folder.

Again, we need to stay vigilant with all public health regulations to ensure we keep our COVID-19 cases to a minimum and the university reserves the right to cancel commencement ceremonies based on the number of COVID-19 cases or at the advisement of our public health experts.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The UAB Commencement Team