

Commencement 2020

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from Wilmington College! We are so proud of you and are looking forward to celebrating with you at our 144st Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9th, 2020.

Read the information below carefully and then complete your Commencement RSVP online by no later than Friday, March 20th (even if you are unable to attend). Here is the link to find the Commencement RSVP:

<http://www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement/>

If you have questions after reading this, please call us at: 513.569.4580.

CINCINNATI BRANCH SENIOR BANQUET AND BACCALAUREATE (Friday, May 1st, 2020)

The Cincinnati Branch Senior Banquet is the special celebration and dinner event for Cincinnati graduates. This year the Senior Banquet will take place on Friday, May 1st, 2020. You will receive more details about this event in a separate mailing.

COMMENCEMENT (Saturday, May 9th, 2020)

Commencement takes place in Hermann Court on the Wilmington College campus on Saturday, May 9th, 2020.

- 8:45 a.m. Candidates will gather in the Boyd Cultural Arts Center at 8:45 a.m. to form the academic procession. Candidates must be prompt. Come dressed in your cap and gown and ready to graduate! Professional photographers will be available to take your photo.
- 9:30 a.m. The doors to Hermann Court will open for guests. Everyone should be seated by 10:00 a.m.
- 10:15 a.m. The academic procession will begin. No guests will be permitted to enter Hermann Court during the processional march. The ceremony will last approximately two hours.
- 12:30 p.m. Immediately following Commencement, graduates and their guests are invited to attend a reception on the top floor of the Pyle Center.

Attendance at Commencement is expected for candidates who will complete degree requirements at the end of the spring 2020 semester. December 2019 graduates and anticipated August 2020 degree candidates may also take part in the May commencement, but August degree candidates must be within 12 hours of the completion of degree requirements by the end of spring semester. May and August candidates must be in academic good standing for spring semester to participate in Commencement. Exceptions to the 12-hour requirement may only be made by the Vice President for External Programs.

Group Photo of Cincinnati Branch Graduates Randy Sarvis, Wilmington College's public relations director, will take a group photo of Cincinnati branch graduates who participate in Commencement on May 9th, 2020. This photo will be taken at 9:45 a.m. at the Boyd Cultural Arts Center, which is where graduates line up for the processional march. You can't miss Randy. He will be the tallest man in the room with a camera!

Commencement Rehearsal will take place at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2020, in Hermann Court. Attendance is recommended. Procedural information relating to your degree will be relayed to you at this time. You will also learn on which side of the gym you will enter so that you can inform your family which side will provide optimal viewing. We do

understand, however, that it may be difficult for you to attend during the work day, but we encourage you to do so if possible.

Commencement Tickets Because seating in Hermann Court is restricted by fire and safety codes, we must issue tickets for Commencement. Each student is allocated seven (7) tickets. All guests attending, including children and infants, are required to have a ticket. Babysitting is not available for this event, but an activity room will be available for parents to sit with restless children. Once you have responded online (by March 20th) indicating attendance, you will be allocated seven (7) tickets for your guests. You may pick up your tickets at the Cincinnati branch campus from Monday, March 30th – Friday, April 10th. You will need to show a picture ID and sign for your tickets. Please return any tickets you do not need to the branch office. Tickets that are not picked up by April 13th will be redistributed as extra tickets. Your request for additional tickets may be made at the branch office when you pick up your original seven (7) tickets; you will be notified no later than April 13th if we are able to accommodate your request.

Special Seating Accommodation for Commencement Students who wish to reserve seats for guests who require special seating due to mobility issues MUST submit their request online by Friday, April 3rd. The special seating request form is at: <http://www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement/>. Detailed information on special seating is enclosed.

Commencement Attire Caps and gowns are required for Commencement. Please complete and return the enclosed order form to the Cincinnati campus by Friday, March 20th, 2020. The cost of one (1) cap and one (1) gown is covered as part of your graduation fee. Caps and gowns will be available for pick up at the Cincinnati campus beginning Monday, March 30th, 2020. It is suggested you wear comfortable shoes. This is a formal occasion and appropriate attire under your gown is expected. However, be advised that Hermann Court is not air conditioned, so dress accordingly. Men should not wear shorts. There is no provision for securing personal property, so carefully consider what you bring with you. We strongly discourage carrying large items (i.e. balloons or bouquets).

Professional Photographs On Commencement day, a professional photographer will take individual photos of the graduate before the ceremony. There is an opportunity after the ceremony for families and friends to have their photos taken with graduates. To purchase official commencement photos, students should visit www.gradimages.com and enter their school, name, and year of graduation to find their pictures. Guests will not be permitted on the main gymnasium floor during the ceremony.

Student Financial Accounts and Diplomas Students who have completed all degree requirements and whose accounts have been cleared will receive their diploma at Commencement. Students who still have a balance on their accounts must pay in full by Friday, April 17th, to receive their diploma at Commencement. This includes all spring 2020 degree candidates who receive tuition reimbursement and who want to receive their diploma at Commencement. Students who wish to pay their account balance in cash (available only at the Student One Stop Office on the main campus) may pay in full until Friday, May 1st. Students who do not have their balances paid by Commencement will receive their diploma and transcript by mail once their balance is paid.

Final Transcripts Each graduate will receive one complimentary transcript by mail in May. Additional copies of transcripts may be requested through www.wilmington.edu by clicking on "Request Transcript" at the bottom of the first page. There is a fee for additional transcripts.

Parking Parking is available in all open campus lots and on the street where the curb is not painted yellow. You may not park on Elm Street/Martin Luther King, Jr. Way (it will be blocked off) nor in the circle drive by the Boyd Cultural Arts Center. Parking attendants will be on hand to direct traffic.

Lodging Guests planning to stay in Wilmington during Commencement weekend should make reservations directly with any of the following area establishments. AT THE TIME YOU MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS mention that you are attending a Wilmington College event and ask if a discount is available.

- The General Denver Hotel/Bed & Breakfast (937) 383-4141 www.generaldenver.com
- Hampton Inn & Suites (937) 382-4400 <http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/ohio/hampton-inn-and-suites-wilmington-CVGWGHX/index.html>
- Holiday Inn Express (937) 382-5858
www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress/hotels/us/en/wilmington/wmtoh/hoteldetail
- Roberts Centre Holiday Inn (Rt. 68 & I-71) (937) 283-3200 www.robertscentre.com/holiday-inn
- The Wilmington Inn (937) 382-6000 or toll-free at 1-877-363-3614

If you have any questions or concerns regarding Commencement, please call the Cincinnati office at 513.569.4580 or email wccincy@wilmington.edu. Commencement information is also available on the Wilmington College website: www.wilmington.edu/cincinnati/commencement.

We hope you have a wonderful and memorable commencement weekend!

Sylvia Stevens

Sylvia Stevens
Vice President for External Programs