

COMMENCEMENT 2023



Academic Regalia

Rental caps, gowns, and hoods will be provided to all law school graduates through Jostens. All ordered regalia should be delivered prior to commencement events. If you missed the April 13, 2023, deadline for ordering regalia, please contact our Jostens representative Chris Blaum at Jostens at Chris.Blaum@jostens.com or by phone 804.929.0283.

Regalia should be returned to Jostens immediately after commencement in the same box it was received in and with the prepaid shipping label provided.

Dean's Lincoln Memorial Photography Event

Sign up for a photo with Dean Matthew on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Photos will be taken on May 16 from 8–10 a.m. and May 17 from 8–11 a.m. Please sign up for a 15-minute time slot [here](#).

Please wear regalia and arrive 15 minutes prior to your time frame. Specific location details will be sent to you prior to the event.

Pro Bono Recognition

The Pro Bono Recognition Celebration will be held on Saturday, May 20 at 3:00 p.m. at Betts Theatre, University Student Center, 800 21st Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The Pro Bono Recognition Celebration Reception will be held on the first floor of the law school following the recognition celebration. Please note that this event is by invitation only and more information will be forthcoming to the honorees.

Academic Awards Ceremony

The Academic Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 20 at 11:00 a.m. in the Betts Theatre, University Student Center, 800 21st Street, NW, Washington, D.C. Please note that this event is by invitation only and more information will be forthcoming to the honorees.

The Academic Awards Ceremony Reception will be held on the first floor of the law school following the awards ceremony. Please note that this event is by invitation only.

Dean's Reception

The Dean's Reception will be held on Friday, May 19 from 7–9 p.m. at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery, Eighth and G Streets, NW, Washington, D.C. The National Portrait Gallery will be closed to the public, and students and their guests will have unfettered access to the venue. More information on the National Portrait Gallery can be found at <https://npg.si.edu/home/national-portrait-gallery>.

Use of public transportation is strongly encouraged. More information on parking and transportation can be found at <https://npg.si.edu/visit/getting-here>. All visitors may enter

through the F or G Street entrances. The G Street entrance is the accessible/barrier free entrance. More accessibility information can be found at <https://npg.si.edu/access>.

Heavy hors-d'oeuvres will be served. Semi-formal or business attire is politely requested.

In addition to their own ticket, each student can receive three (3) electronic tickets for family and friends at <https://gwugrad.events.alumniq.com/go/commencement>. At this time, additional tickets will be approved on a "space available" basis.



The George Washington University-wide Commencement Celebration

The University Commencement Celebration will be held on the National Mall at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 21. The graduate procession will begin at 10:00 a.m. More information can be found at

<https://commencement.gwu.edu>

Each student can obtain six (6) tickets for family and friends at <https://gwugrad.events.alumniq.com/go/commencement>.

This event is held rain or shine, but if the National Park Service determines it is not safe to allow guests on the National Mall due to potential severe inclement weather, the University will attempt to hold the ceremony at the Smith Center for graduates and speaking participants only. Please check the Commencement website periodically on May 21 for the latest information.

Class of 2023 Photo

The Class of 2023 photograph will be taken on the corner of 20th and G Streets at 1:15 p.m. on Sunday, May 21. GradImages will photograph the graduating class as a panoramic photo prior to the diploma ceremony on May 21. Proofs of the panoramic group photograph will be included in the mailing to all graduates following Commencement.

The George Washington University Law School Diploma Celebration

The Law Diploma Celebration will take place on Sunday, May 21 at the Charles E. Smith Center, 600 22nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The academic procession will begin at Fonger Hall at 2:30 p.m., and remarks will begin at 3 p.m. The diploma celebration usually lasts for three hours. The event will be livestreamed, and more information on this will be provided later.

The Diploma Ceremony keynote speaker will be Laura Coates, CNN Host and Senior Legal Analyst, constitutional expert, author, and former adjunct professor at GW Law.

Each student may obtain five (5) tickets for the diploma celebration by registering at <https://gwugrad.events.alumniq.com/go/commencement>. Please note that all guests, including children over two years of age, are required to have tickets. Children under two do not need a ticket. Graduates do not need a ticket to attend either the University Graduation Ceremony or the Law School Diploma Celebration. At this time, additional tickets will be approved on a “space available” basis.

Commencement photographs will be taken of each graduate as they cross the stage and receive their diploma. Grad Images will send complimentary photo proofs to each graduate’s home address within one week of the ceremony. A link to an online version of the proofs also will be e-mailed to graduates. There is no obligation to purchase photographs. For questions about individual graduate photographs, please call 800.261.2576.

The University will videotape the diploma celebration, and copies of the tape will be available for purchase through a university-approved vendor. Information on how and where to purchase this video will be made available later.

Free graduation announcements can be picked up at the Career Center Reception Desk (B310) from 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

More information on the commencement celebration can be found at <https://law.commencement.gwu.edu>.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Concerns

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available if a request was submitted for their services during registration for both the University commencement and the law school diploma ceremonies. Please denote any need for an accommodation when registering online for your commencement celebration tickets. For the University commencement ceremony, you may contact the Office of Disability Support Services at 202.994.8250.

Handicapped Accessible Seating and Mobility Concerns

Please denote any need for an accommodation when registering online for your commencement celebration tickets. You can also contact the Office of University Events at 202.994.7129 to request accommodations at the Mall commencement ceremony and Andy McCormack at lawcommencement@law.gwu.edu to request special seating at the law school’s diploma ceremony in the Smith Center.

The map below outlines the location of every law school commencement celebration event on campus.

