

April 14, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations on the upcoming graduation of your Wartburg student, «First\_Name», on Commencement Weekend, May 29 and 30. We hope that you will stay in contact with the college, even though your relationship will be different when you no longer have a student here. You will always be a Wartburg parent and, therefore, you will continue to hear from us occasionally with campus updates and invitations to events in your area.

On April 1, President Darrel Colson announced plans for a modified, in-person Commencement outside on Zimmerman Field in Walston-Hoover Stadium. Social distancing as well as face masks are required of all graduates and guests, even by those fully vaccinated.

Graduating seniors may have **four** guests in the stadium; other family and friends are welcome to celebrate with your graduate on central campus upon conclusion of the ceremony. Seniors have been sent instructions on how to obtain the tickets (distributed April 13-22) and how to request additional tickets if needed.

A virtual Blessing of Seniors service will be available on Knight Vision starting on Saturday, May 29. The Knight Vision livestream links for this service and the Commencement ceremony can be found at [www.wartburg.edu/commencement](http://www.wartburg.edu/commencement) and will be archived for later viewing.

The Wartburg Store will be offering a variety of shopping opportunities on Commencement Weekend:

- Shop in the store from 10-a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, May 29.
- Place orders online at [www.wartburgstore.com](http://www.wartburgstore.com) no later than noon on Saturday, May 29, and pick up curbside at the Store's loading dock door between 8 -10 a.m. on Sunday, May 30. Select 'curbside pick-up' in shipping method and note 'COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY' in comments section. Pull into the turnaround area at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave. NW near our dock door, labeled 150. Staff will be outside to get your order number and bring it to your vehicle.
- Shop their pop-up store starting at 9:30 a.m. located at the Commencement venue. A variety of commencement gifts will be available for purchase via cash or credit card payment. Also, flower bundles will be available for purchase at the event or by pre-order/pick-up at Commencement venue at <https://www.thecommencementgroupcom/Wartburg/>.

Lifetouch Photography will take pictures of each graduate receiving their diploma. Within a few weeks after Commencement your student will receive an email from Lifetouch Photography with an opportunity to view and purchase pictures. Candid shots will also be available for viewing at [www.wartburg.edu/commencement](http://www.wartburg.edu/commencement).

Here are a few additional details:

- Seating for graduates will be provided on the football field and will follow 6-foot distancing guidelines.
- Early planning shows that about half of the football field and most of the track will be available for guest seating, in addition to limited seating in the stands.
- Folding chairs will be available for guests to place on the field or track, or your guests may choose to bring lawn chairs.
- Accessible seating for those with wheelchairs or other mobility challenges will be available in the stands and on paved locations around the stadium. Accessible parking is available near the stadium.

- Guests are encouraged to bring water. Beverages also will be available for purchase. Water will be provided for graduates.
- After the ceremony graduates and guests are welcome to gather on central campus for photos.
- Wartburg dining locations (Den, Konditorei, and Zesty Orange) will be open throughout the weekend. Please see the Commencement website for hours.
- Graduates need to be moved out of the residence halls by 7 p.m. on Sunday.

**Thank you** for being a vital part of Wartburg these past years and for making a Wartburg education possible for your child. We trust you will always hold a warm spot in your heart for the college and look forward to seeing you at future Wartburg events. If you have any questions about Commencement or related activities, please contact Janeen Stewart, executive administrator for the President's office, at 319-352-8331 or [janeen.stewart@wartburg.edu](mailto:janeen.stewart@wartburg.edu).

## Commencement Weekend Events

See the Commencement website for additional information: [www.wartburg.edu/commencement](http://www.wartburg.edu/commencement)

### Thursday, May 27

**6 p.m.** Senior Pig Roast (seniors only) – Walston-Hoover Stadium  
(Rain site: 4-H Building, Fifth Ave. and Eighth St. SW)

### Saturday, May 29

**9 a.m.-7 p.m.** Senior Art Exhibition, Waldemar A. Schmidt Art Gallery, Bachman Fine Arts Center

**10 a.m.-2 p.m.** The Wartburg Store open – Saemann Student Center

**6:30 p.m.** May Term Band Concert – South Campus Mall (Rain site–Neumann Auditorium)

### Sunday, May 30      *(See website for campus parking areas and accessible drop off/entry points)*

**7:30 a.m.** Commencement Rehearsal

**8:00 a.m.** Senior Breakfast

**8-10 a.m.** The Wartburg Store curbside pickup

**9 a.m.-4 p.m.** Senior Art Exhibition, Waldemar A. Schmidt Art Gallery, Bachman Fine Arts Center

**9:30 a.m.** Gates open to the stadium (main entrance is west gate; southeast gate by the Victory Bell also open for

accessibility to east stands)

Beverages, commencement gifts, flower bundles available for purchase

**10:00 a.m.** Processional lineup – Hoover Fieldhouse and Track

**10:30 a.m.** Commencement – Zimmerman Field, Walston-Hoover Stadium, 400 12<sup>th</sup> St. NW

- In the event of severe weather, the ceremony will be postponed to 1:30 p.m.
- You are encouraged to bring an umbrella/sunscreen, and dress appropriately for an outdoor event.
- No spike-heeled shoes are allowed on the football field.
- All graduates are expected to wear approved academic caps and gowns. No stoles, pins, corsages, or other decorations are allowed.
- Students who have earned cords of distinction should wear them. All Regents and Presidential Scholarship recipients are encouraged to wear their medals. (If you have questions regarding the medals, please contact Admissions at 319-352-8264 or [admissions@wartburg.edu](mailto:admissions@wartburg.edu).)
- The ceremony is approximately one and a half hours.