

January 21, 2021

Dear Parents and Friends:

I am pleased to write to you with information concerning the College's 238th Commencement Exercises on Sunday, May 23, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. We all look forward to this graduation and the celebration of the Class of 2021!

As I know you are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed much of how our spring semester will take place and how to structure graduation is something that required some additional evaluation. After much consideration, I am pleased to announce that we are moving forward with plans for an in-person commencement for our graduates.

Our ability to host guests beyond the graduates is still undetermined as it will largely depend on outside factors that are simply unknown at present. We will continue to monitor conditions and hope to allow each graduate to invite a select number of guests. We always live stream our commencement ceremonies and will, of course, plan to do so for this commencement as well.

Your main source of information about commencement will be the College's commencement webpage (<https://www.washcoll.edu/campus-events/commencement/index.php>), which will be updated throughout the spring semester. Please check back periodically for updates and schedule information.

As a reminder, all students must be certified by the Director of Student Records and Registration as having completed all degree requirements before they can participate in Commencement. This certification process begins after all Spring 2021 final grades have been submitted. Students are kept fully informed of their progress and will be notified if they do not meet graduation requirements.

This celebration of the Class of 2021 and all that the graduates have accomplished is as important to us as it is to you, and though it may not be an entirely traditional event, we will do everything we can to make sure it is uniquely memorable for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Harvey

Interim Provost and Dean of the College

P.S. Please find enclosed with this letter information about details leading up to Commencement.

Important Commencement Information

Graduation Application

The deadline to submit the application for graduation was October 23, 2020. After the Spring 2021 registration period concludes, the Office of Student Records and Registration will begin processing degree completion audits for students who applied to graduate. Please check with your potential graduate to ensure that they completed this task, along with ordering a cap and gown. If you are unsure if your student submitted their graduation application, they can email registrar@washcoll.edu to inquire.

Ordering a Cap and Gown

Caps and Gowns are to be ordered from Oak Hall, directly from their website:

<https://washingtoncollege.shopoakhalli.com/purchasewizard/Welcome>.

We will let the graduates know later this spring how we plan to distribute regalia. The regalia is made from 100% post-consumer recycled plastic bottles and is for students to keep following the ceremony. Payment for regalia is not due at this time; it will be billed as part of the \$300 graduation fee in March.

Diploma Frames and Announcements

Additional graduation-related items, such as formal announcements and rings, may be purchased through the Herff-Jones website <https://collegegrad.herffjones.com>. The Washington College Bookstore provides custom diploma frames for purchase.

Commencement Photography

The College has a contract with Grad Images to take photographs during the Commencement ceremony. Grad Images will contact you following Commencement with photo proofs, which you may order from them directly. For more information, please visit their website www.gradimages.com.