

Washington College's 243 Commencement Ceremonies and Events

Maryland's Premier Liberal Arts College

April 2026



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

On behalf of President Bryan Matthews and the entire faculty and staff at Washington College, we are eagerly looking forward to celebrating with you next month!



Washington College

In 1782, with the vision of William Smith and the personal support of George Washington, a bold idea took shape:

To educate citizen leaders capable of guiding a new democracy.

Washington believed the future of the republic depended on principled, educated leaders - and he invested in that belief at Washington College.

Today, we continue that mission - developing leaders grounded in:
Critical Thinking - Moral Courage - Civil Discourse

243 years later, we are still the only college named for and supported by George Washington - carrying his vision forward.

We are Washington College.



April 1 – Cap & Gown Orders due to Registrar’s Office (may want to follow up)

April 10 to April 30 – Capstone Project Presentations with faculty (if applicable)

Friday May 1 – Last day of classes for all Students

Monday May 4 to Friday May 8 – Final Exams

Friday May 8 – all outstanding finance issues need to be settled with the Business Office

Monday May 11 – Beginning of Commencement Week

Monday May 11 to Friday May 15 – Dining Hall Open: Breakfast 7:30a-10a, Lunch 11a-2p, Dinner 4:30p-7:30p

Saturday May 16 – Dining Hall Open: Brunch 7a-10a, Dinner 4:30p-6:30p

Sunday May 17 – Dining Hall Open: Breakfast 7a-10a

Thursday May 14

- **President's Reception** for Seniors at Hynson Ringgold House 2:30 to 4 p.m.
- **Senior Beach Bash** at Rolph's Wharf 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. (shuttles **required** and provided)

Friday May 15

- **Senior Awards and Recognition Luncheon** – Library Terrace Noon to 1:45 p.m. (students only) **Dining Hall closed during luncheon*
- **MANDATORY Graduation Procession Rehearsal** – Johnson Fitness Center – 1:45 p.m.
- **Sophie Kerr Award Presentation** 7:30 p.m. in Decker Theatre

Saturday May 16

- **Innovation Plant Groundbreaking**, 800 High Street at 11:00 a.m. (*live music and food to follow*)
- **Senior Family Picnic**, 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (*West Field*)
- **Preakness Party** at McLain Atrium, 5:30 p.m. for members of the 1782 Society (*anyone who has given \$1500 or more, any senior that gives \$100 or more*)
- **Senior Toast**, Owings Library Terrace at 7:30 p.m. (*rain location will be Hynson Lounge*
 - Guest Speaker, Alumni Citation Award recipient, Phillip G. LeBel Ph.D. '64, along with a special presentation to the legacy students
- **Golden Goose Pub** open to all, 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Sunday May 17

- Parking lots available on campus beginning at 7:00am
- Graduation Ceremony participants (students, faculty, special guests, etc.) need to report no later than 9:00 a.m.
- **243rd Commencement Program** begins at 10:00 a.m. with former Maryland Governor Larry Hogan as keynote speaker
- Commencement ends approximately 12:30 p.m. – followed by a reception on the Library Terrace
- Final dorm checkout by 6:00pm



Weather: Weather conditions can influence your experience in Chestertown. If adverse weather is expected, Washington College will let you know via **email and Facebook** on **Wednesday, May 13**, about any changes to the Commencement venue. It is important to dress suitably for the weather as well as taking into account you will be on grass for footwear. There will be nearby shelter in case conditions change during the ceremony. Should the ceremony need to be moved indoors, it will be held in the **Johnson Fitness Center**.

Parking: On **Sunday, May 17**, *Washington College Public Safety* will manage traffic starting at 8:00 a.m. While parking near The Campus Green is limited, more parking is available within a short walking distance. If you need special assistance during your time on campus, please reach out by **Friday, May 15** to **djones24@washcoll.edu**, to ensure accommodations are made.

Pictures: *GradImage* will be capturing professional photographs of graduates for purchase (details and photos available on GradImage website: <https://www.gradimages.com/>)

Video: The event will be livestreamed online, with links sent to you via email by **Wednesday, May 13**.

Still looking for weekend housing?: Please reach out to conferences@washcoll.edu for information on what dorms may be available to rent for Commencement weekend.

Washington College Bookstore: open Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and there is a 30% off sale for many items.

Students will be issued “tickets” intended as a **keepsake item**. In case of Commencement moving indoors, please have your tickets visible and available.

Class of 2026 Senior Gift – The Brick Campaign is open to all parents to commemorate your student, and/or family.

Exam Care Packages are available for purchase through the Women’s League of Washington College. Delivery of the care packages is April 30 and deadline for purchase is April 26. <https://www.womensleagueofwashingtoncollege.com/>

Dorms rooms for graduating students are available through 6pm on Sunday May 17. Check out and key drop off is in the Sassafras drop box. *As you are cleaning out your room, take all trash to dumpsters and do not leave it in the breezeway.*

Tips for Move Out:

- Drop off donations by 5/8 in Sassafras lobby
- Start cleaning early (especially your bathroom!)
- Take/send stuff home early, if possible



Student Affairs: student_affairs@washcoll.edu | (410) 778-7752

Registrar's Office: registrar@washcoll.edu | (410) 778-7299

Business Office: accounts_receivable@washcoll.edu | (410) 810-7171

Career Center: career_center@washcoll.edu | (410) 778-7890

Residential Life: residential_life@washcoll.edu | (410) 810-5780

Advancement: advancement@washcoll.edu (410) 778-

Public Safety: public_safety@washcoll.edu | (410) 778-7810

Presidents Office: presidents_office@washcoll.edu | (410) 778-7201

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Congratulations Again!!!

Gina King