

# COMMENCEMENT



# MAY 17, 2025



**wittenberg**  
UNIVERSITY



### Wittenberg Families,

On behalf of all of us at Wittenberg University, I am thrilled to invite you to our 175th Commencement Exercises on May 17, 2025. We know how important this life milestone is for the Class of 2025. We promise we are doing all we can to make it extra special for our graduates and their families.

Wittenberg's Commencement Exercises celebrate our graduates' accomplishments and uphold the tradition of excellence that has

defined our University and generations of distinguished alumni. At each ceremony, we see how light has been passed, and we conclude each Commencement with confidence, knowing that your student will continue to lead with light on every path that awaits.

To assist you in your planning, we are providing this communication, which contains helpful information leading up to this special day. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Brandee Bates Kern at [bbates@wittenberg.edu](mailto:bbates@wittenberg.edu).

We look forward to having you join us in our beautiful Commencement Hollow this spring.

Best regards,

**Michael L. Frandsen, Ph.D.**  
President

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2025

### Lavender Graduation Celebration

6-8 p.m.

#### Center Dining Room (CDR), Benham-Pence Student Center

The William A. McClain Center for Diversity will host this annual celebration for all students who identify within the LGBTQ+ community. A tradition that began in the mid-1990s across the country, this cultural celebration recognizes LGBTQ+ students of all ethnicities and acknowledges their persistence, leadership, and contributions to the University. Students will be presented with lavender cords, which may be worn at Commencement. Dinner will be provided. *Registration is required.* Visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement) for more information.

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## THURSDAY, MAY 15, 2025

### Senior Send-Off

4:30-7:30 p.m.

#### Mother Stewart's Brewing, 102 W. Columbia Street

Graduating seniors and their guests are invited to celebrate the end of the academic year. *Registration is required.* Visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement) for more information.

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## FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

### Baccalaureate Service

4 p.m.

#### Weaver Chapel

Planned by the University pastor and members of the senior class, the Baccalaureate Service lasts approximately one hour. Graduates do not wear their academic regalia.

## FRIDAY, MAY 16, 2025

### Hitimu-Multicultural Graduation Celebration

6-8 p.m.

#### Center Dining Room (CDR), Benham-Pence Student Center

The William A. McClain Center for Diversity will host this annual celebration and rite of passage for graduating seniors who are members of underrepresented ethnic groups. Hitimu, meaning “graduate” in Swahili, is an opportunity for students to celebrate the accomplishment of graduation while honoring and celebrating the traditions of the cultural communities in which students belong. Students will be presented with a graduation stole representing their cultural affinity, which may be worn at Commencement. Dinner will be provided. *Registration is required. Visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement) for more information.*

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## SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025

### Commencement Exercises

11:30 a.m. (Ceremony begins)

#### Commencement Hollow

Venue opens at 9:30 a.m. All guests must be seated by 11 a.m. Graduates report to the assembly location no later than 10:45 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, Commencement Exercises will take place in Pam Evans Smith Arena, located in the Health, Wellness & Athletics (HWA) Complex.



## Caps and Gowns

Wittenberg hosted the Countdown to Commencement event on Thursday, Feb. 20, where graduating seniors were able to pre-order their cap and gown. If your student has not yet ordered their cap and gown, they may do so at [https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/\\_wittenberg/](https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_wittenberg/).

The deadline for online ordering of caps and gowns for the 2025 Commencement Exercises is **April 7, 2025**. For assistance, please contact the University Bookstore at [SM686@bncollege.com](mailto:SM686@bncollege.com) or Sierra Moore, assistant bookstore manager, at [smoore@bncollege.com](mailto:smoore@bncollege.com).

## Tickets

Tickets will be required for an indoor ceremony. Each graduate will receive seven tickets, which will be available for pick-up during the Senior Salute event on Thursday, April 17, 2025 (rain date: April 24, 2025). Extra tickets may be requested by your graduate, but are not guaranteed. To request additional tickets, visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement), and complete the Extra Ticket Request Form.

## Parking

On the day of Commencement, parking will be available in several locations. Special arrangements have been made to accommodate parking for those with limited mobility. Officers will be at various parking lots and other locations to assist you with your needs.

Accessible parking for outdoor Commencement Exercises is located behind Recitation Hall and Carnegie Hall. Accessible parking for indoor Commencement Exercises is located in the Upper Lot, across from the Health, Wellness & Athletics (HWA) Complex. A shuttle service will be provided prior to and after the ceremony for those with mobility issues. Please visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement) for more detailed parking information.

## Seating

Commencement Exercises will begin at 11:30 a.m. Access to the venue will be restricted until 9:30 a.m. All guests must be seated by 11 a.m. Commencement Hollow will be set up with approximately 3,000 chairs. Visitors are welcomed to bring their own chairs or blankets.

## Photography

Each year, the University partners with GradImages, a leader in Commencement photography, to take photos for purchase of graduates receiving their diplomas. Visit [www.GradImages.com](http://www.GradImages.com) to pre-register for photos and receive a coupon code for 20% off your purchase.

## Commencement Flowers

Wittenberg will hold its annual Commencement flower sale to honor all graduates. Seniors are grateful to receive recognition of their milestone accomplishment, and receiving flowers on this special day enhances their recognition. Parents and families of graduates can pre-order flowers for their graduate, and the flowers will be available for pick-up on the day of Commencement. To place your order, visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement).



## For More Information

Visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](http://www.wittenberg.edu/commencement) to sign up for email communications. Click on Parent Resources, and then click on Sign Up For Parent Communications.

For general questions, contact Brandee Bates Kern, director of donor experience and stewardship in the Office of University Advancement, at [bbates@wittenberg.edu](mailto:bbates@wittenberg.edu) or (937) 327-6405.

For questions regarding diplomas and graduation eligibility, contact the Office of the Registrar at [registrar@wittenberg.edu](mailto:registrar@wittenberg.edu) or (937) 327-6131.



Scan the QR code to link to the Commencement website.

*Disclaimer: Receipt of this brochure does not guarantee that your student is eligible to graduate this spring.*



## Parking

Recitation Hall

*Accessible parking*

Carnegie Hall

*Accessible parking*

Benham-Pence Student Center

Krieg Hall

Tower Hall/Firestine Hall

Kuss Science Center

HWA Upper Lot

*Accessible parking (rain site)*



## Restrooms

Blair Hall

*Accessible restrooms*

Weaver Chapel

*Accessible restrooms*

Carnegie Hall

Portable restrooms located behind building

*Accessible restrooms*



“This is a lovely spot for the location of a literary institution. It requires some faith to believe that in after years it will be an academic grove, to which hundreds will drink at the pure fountains of knowledge, and go forth into the world to do good, to bless mankind.”

- Ezra Keller, Founder and First President of Wittenberg College (1845-1848)



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