

Commencement is more than just throwing a cap in the air, or dressing up, or getting an important piece of paper. It's about celebrating achievements, being with the people you shared a part of your life with, and being proud of your journey. This being said, the University has worked to reimagine Commencement ceremonies in a way that incorporates smaller gatherings, social distancing, and respect for guidelines outlined by the Governor of Pennsylvania.

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! Please check the Commencement website frequently to obtain the most timely information and be Informed of any changes. [www.francis.edu/commencement](http://www.francis.edu/commencement)

### **Academic Regalia**

Academic regalia must be worn to participate in Commencement. Graduates must order academic regalia on-line by visiting Herff-Jones website at <http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/sfu> . **Deadline to order is April 14, 2023.** Regalia will be mailed to the address you provide when ordering.

### **Graduation Announcements**

Personalized announcement packages may be purchased through Herff-Jones by visiting their website <http://colleges.herffjones.com/college/sfu> . The Saint Francis University Bookstore carries general announcement packets for students who prefer a simpler option.

### **Senior Send-off**

The Class of 2023. Senior Send-Off is scheduled for Thursday, May 11 from 6:00 pm—10:00 pm in the JFK Lounge. Join your classmates for food, fireworks and fun! RSVP information will be sent via email soon.

### **Baccalaureate Mass**

Baccalaureate Mass will be at Stokes Athletics Center, Saturday, May 13, at 5:00 p.m. The Mass is a wonderful opportunity for graduates, their friends and families, and faculty and staff to pray together in thanksgiving. All denominations are welcome to attend. **No tickets are required for Baccalaureate Mass.**

### **Commencement Exercises**

#### **Saturday, May 13**

9:00 am School of Health Sciences and Education (Graduate)  
1:00 pm School of Health Sciences and Education (Undergraduate)  
**No tickets are required for Commencement Exercises.**

#### **Sunday, May 14**

9:00 am School of STEAM, Shields School of Business, and Francis Worldwide  
All events will take place in the Maurice Stokes Athletics Center and will be live-streamed and recorded.  
**No tickets are required for Commencement Exercises.**

Special seating arrangements will be made for the physically challenged on the main floor of the DeGol Arena. We ask that you restrict the number of guests seated on the floor to one or two people, as seating is limited. Other family members should sit in regular audience seats.

Following the ceremony, the facility will be cleared to allow time to prepare for the next ceremony. **NO ONE IS PERMITTED TO REMAIN IN THE ARENA BETWEEN CEREMONIES.**

## **Important Dates & Deadlines**

### **Monday, April 14**

Last day to order your academic regalia.

### **Tuesday, May 2**

President's Awards Convocation  
Stokes DeGol Arena 7 pm

### **Wednesday, May 10**

Alumni Senior Picnic  
JFK Lounge 5 pm

### **Thursday, May 11**

Class of 2023: Senior Send-Off  
JFK Lounge 6 pm—10 pm

### **Friday, May 12**

Occupational Therapy Pinning Ceremony  
Immaculate Conception Chapel 2 pm

Nurses Pinning Ceremony  
Immaculate Conception Chapel 4 pm

Physical Therapy Recognition Ceremony  
JFK Center Auditorium 4:30 pm

### **Saturday, May 13**

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES  
School of Health Science & Education - Graduate  
Francis Worldwide School of Continuing Studies - Graduate Health Sciences  
DeGol Arena 9am

School of Health Science & Education - Undergraduate  
DeGol Arena 1pm

Bell Ringing - Bell Tower 4 pm

Baccalaureate Mass  
DeGol Arena 5 pm

### **Sunday, May 14**

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES  
School of STEAM  
Shields School of Business  
Francis Worldwide School of Continuing Studies  
DeGol Arena 9am

### **Hotel Accommodations**

A list of area hotels is available at <http://francis.edu/visitor-information/>

### **Photography**

Lifetouch Photography Studio will photograph each graduate as they receive their diploma. LifeTouch photographers will also be available in the JFK Auditorium to take posed pictures of graduates after the Graduate ceremony and before the Undergraduate ceremony. Lifetouch will email information about the handshake photos to parents and students prior to Commencement. All portraits will be available to order via their website <https://events.lifetouch.com/>

The stage in the JFK Auditorium is available to families who want to take photos of their son or daughter following the Graduate ceremony. Undergraduate candidates who wish to take family photos may do so on the stage in Stokes following the graduation ceremony.

### **Parking**

Parking for Commencement is available in the commuter parking lot adjacent to the Stokes Athletics Center and in the parking lot adjacent to the JFK Student Center. Those who have difficulty walking or who use a wheelchair may be dropped off near the main entrance of Stokes Athletics Center. University Police will be provide directions. Questions regarding special parking needs can be directed to University Police at (814) 472-3360.

### **QUESTIONS**

Please contact Vickie Soyka at (814) 472-3001 or Lori Schrift at (814) 472-3005, with any questions.

**A** final schedule of all University services (JFK Student Center hours, Saint Francis University Bookstore hours, and Torvian Cafe and Frankie's hours) will be available at the Information Desk in the upper level of the JFK Student Center during Commencement Weekend. Congratulations to you and your families. Enjoy the weekend.