

Congratulations to the May 2017 candidates for graduation! Commencement marks a very significant accomplishment and is a special celebration for you, your guests, and the University community. In order to provide a memorable occasion for everyone, please read the following information carefully.

1. **Graduation will be held Saturday, May 13, 2017, 10:00 AM. Due to inclement weather in the forecast, the ceremony will be held at NewSpring Church, 2940 Concord Road, Anderson, SC.**
2. There will be a **REQUIRED Commencement Rehearsal** on Friday, May 12.
 - Rehearsal will begin in Henderson Auditorium promptly at 10:00 AM. **Detailed instructions will be provided regarding the ceremony and other important information.**
 - We will also rehearse the awarding of degrees. **Please wear comfortable, safe shoes.** If you require special accommodations for participation in the Processional or ceremony, please notify the Registrar's Office, (864) 231-2120, as soon as possible to discuss how we can accommodate your needs.
3. Commencement participants must be **dressed appropriately** in attire suitable for formal church services or professional engagements. No jeans, shorts, or casual footwear (i.e. flip-flops, athletic shoes, etc.) are permitted. Avoid high heels and slick-soled shoes since you will navigate a flight of stairs, cross the stage, and back down a flight of stairs at a quick pace. **Please note: participants inappropriately attired will NOT be permitted to join the processional line.**
4. A professional photographer from GradImages will take individual photos of each graduate at Commencement.
5. Anderson University will provide sign language interpretation during Commencement. If you have guests who are deaf or hearing impaired and wish to avail themselves of this service, please have them notify the Ushers upon their arrival so they can be directed to appropriate seating.
6. Please **pick up your academic regalia** from the Bookstore several days prior to graduation rehearsal. (Note: We recommend that you remove your gown from the package and hang it up to remove wrinkles. Try hanging your gown in the bathroom while you shower to steam out wrinkles, or press your gown with a cool iron. Business hours for AU Outfitters are 8:30 AM – 5:30 PM on Friday. *You are not required to wear your regalia to rehearsal.*)
7. Only AU-issued honor stoles and cords are acceptable items to be worn with academic regalia, please note that this also extends to adornments on the mortarboard (i.e. "cap"). If you wish to decorate your cap, please go to the University Bookstore and purchase another cap to wear for the Commencement Ceremony and Official AU photos. The caps cost \$11.77 including tax.
8. If your plans have changed and you **will not be participating** in the ceremony, you are required to email the Registrar's Office, registrarsofficemail@andersonuniversity.edu, ***immediately*** to inform us.
9. If you are not financially cleared, please contact Anderson Central/Financial Aid Planning prior to graduation rehearsal. You will not receive your diploma at graduation if you have an outstanding balance.

Commencement is a ticketed event *except for the overflow seating in the Gymnasium.*

Based on the seating capacity of the main auditorium at New Spring, and the number of graduates and faculty, each graduate will receive **four tickets. Tickets will be provided at rehearsal.** We will not have “extra” tickets, so if you do not plan to use all of your tickets, please share them with other students who may want them.

For the convenience of family and friends who are unable to attend Commencement, we are pleased to provide live video streaming of Commencement. The link may be shared with family and friends who are unable to attend: <https://livestream.com/AUIT/AU2017SpringCommencement>

If you have questions, please contact the Registrar’s Office at (864) 231-2120.