



**WESTERN GOVERNORS  
UNIVERSITY  
COMMENCEMENT**

**ORLANDO**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

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# CONGRATULATIONS, NIGHT OWL—TODAY YOU BECOME AN ALUMNI!

All of your hard work and sacrifices have paid off, graduate! You're joining more than **350,000** Night Owls who make up our alumni family. It's time to enjoy more benefits that come with your achievement.

## COMMIT TO LIFELONG LEARNING

Professional and continuing education extend beyond your time at WGU as a graduate. We are here to support your ongoing professional development by offering access to premium services such as LinkedIn Learning, Pluralsight®, the Teaching Channel®, Nurses on Boards Coalition®, and more!

Keep learning at the forefront of your mind at [wgu.edu/alumnilearn](http://wgu.edu/alumnilearn).

## PROGRESS TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Taking time to engage in professional development opportunities not only keeps you cutting-edge in your field, it also allows you to network with other professionals and develop your professional brand—all of which can advance your career. WGU's Career and Professional Development team is here to help you thrive.

Get started at [wgu.edu/career-services](http://wgu.edu/career-services).

## JOIN THE NIGHT OWL NETWORK

This exclusive network is a great way to connect with other alumni, find or become an industry mentor, join professional interest groups, discover innovative ideas from other experts in your field, or even find new jobs!

Join today at [wgu.edu/nightownetwork](http://wgu.edu/nightownetwork).

## STAY CONNECTED

Visit our website to find other resources and ways to stay involved. Look for military alumni resources, explore discounts, shop WGU merchandise, and keep an eye on other alumni events!

Join the community at [wgu.edu/alumni](http://wgu.edu/alumni).

## Learn more.

[wgu.edu/alumni](http://wgu.edu/alumni) 866.225.5948



**JUSTIN H.**  
M.S. Management and Leadership  
WGU Graduate

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## Alumni Celebration

Friday, September 20

6:00—9:00 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Orlando  
9801 International Drive  
Orlando, Florida 32819

A great way to kick off your Commencement Weekend.  
All graduates attending the 2024 WGU Commencement in  
Orlando are invited to join us.

This family-friendly, come-and-go event is free.  
We encourage all grads and guests to dress in business attire.

### At the celebration, you can:

- Get free professional portraits. Elevate your LinkedIn profile, courtesy of WGU
- Meet with local employers
- Reconnect with local alumni
- Visit our affiliated partner booths to receive career advice, purchase WGU swag, pick up your Philanthropy Cord, and more
- Take photos in our social photo booth and share using #WGUgrad
- Meet Sage the Night Owl
- Enjoy light bites and a cash bar
- Hit the dance floor or play games with a fun, WGU twist

### Parking

Parking is available on-site. The discounted rate for self-parking is \$15.00.

### Rideshare

For Lyft/Uber, request to be dropped off at the **Hyatt Regency Orlando at 9801 International Drive, Orlando, FL 32819.**

### Contact Information

Alumni Celebration: [alumnievents@wgu.edu](mailto:alumnievents@wgu.edu)  
Alumni Celebration Accessibility: [alumnievents@wgu.edu](mailto:alumnievents@wgu.edu)  
Commencement questions: [commencement@wgu.edu](mailto:commencement@wgu.edu)

Please note: Graduates are allowed to bring up to five guests total. Invited alumni may bring up to three guests total.



# COMMENCEMENT AT ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER

**Saturday, September 21**

**Orange County Convention Center**  
North B Hall  
9400 Universal Boulevard  
Orlando, Florida 32819

## **Leavitt School of Health and School of Education**

Graduate Check-In: 8:30 a.m.  
Graduate Pre-Seating: 8:30 a.m.  
Commencement Ceremony: 9:30 a.m.

## **School of Technology and School of Business**

Graduate Check-In: 12:30 p.m.  
Graduate Pre-Seating: 12:30 p.m.  
Commencement Ceremony: 1:30 p.m.



**All graduates must check in  
before the ceremony!**

After the ceremony—families will meet their graduates outside of the Convention Center.

Graduates must check-in before the ceremony.

Grads, please have your GradPass pulled up on your phone screen to be scanned.

# LEAVITT SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

**LOCATION:** Orange County Convention Center,  
North B Hall, 9400 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

**Leavitt School of Health and School of Education**

Graduate Check-In: 8:30 a.m.

Ceremony Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

## **GRADUATE CHECK-IN: 8:30 A.M.**

At graduate check-in, you will have the opportunity to pick up your philanthropy, military and/or scholarship cord. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase, and you can visit with our name readers to clarify pronunciation. If you notice that there are errors on your Grad Pass, please visit the Help Desk located at Graduate Check-in.

*Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in area.*

## **GRADUATE PRE-SEATING: 8:30 A.M.**

After checking in, graduates will be guided directly to the arena floor where they will be seated with their schools. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

## **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: 9:30 A.M.**

The ceremony will begin promptly. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

### **Conferral of Degree order**

- Leavitt School of Health
- School of Education

*Note: Graduates are called to the stage by schools and not in alphabetical order.*

## **BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT**

All graduates participating in the Commencement ceremony must arrive wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, hood, and gown. No changing rooms are available.

## **AFTER THE CEREMONY**

Families will meet their graduates outside of the Convention Center.

[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

[Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia](#)



**Remember to follow  
signs at check-in!**

# SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCHOOL OF BUSINESS CEREMONY SCHEDULE

**DATE: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

**LOCATION:** Orange County Convention Center,  
North B Hall, 9400 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819

## **School of Technology and School of Business**

Graduate Check-In: 12:30 p.m.

Ceremony Start Time: 1:30 p.m.

## **BEFORE ARRIVING FOR COMMENCEMENT**

All graduates participating in the Commencement ceremony must arrive wearing full academic attire: cap with tassel, hood, and gown. No changing rooms are available.

## **AFTER THE CEREMONY**

Families will meet their graduates outside of the Convention Center.



**Remember to follow  
signs at check-in!**

## **GRADUATE CHECK-IN: 12:30 P.M.**

At graduate check-in, you will have the opportunity to pick up your philanthropy, military and/or scholarship cord. We will also have limited regalia available for purchase, and you can visit with our name readers to clarify pronunciation. If you notice that there are errors on your Grad Pass, please visit the Help Desk located at Graduate Check-in.

*Note: Only graduates are permitted in the Graduate Check-in area.*

## **GRADUATE PRE-SEATING: 12:30 P.M.**

After checking in, graduates will be guided directly to the arena floor where they will be seated with their schools. Please follow the direction of the college marshals.

## **COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY: 1:30 P.M.**

The ceremony will begin promptly. Please be in your seat and ready at this time. We look forward to celebrating you!

## **Conferral of Degree order**

- School of Technology
- School of Business

*Note: Graduates are called to the stage by schools and not in alphabetical order.*

[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

[Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia](#)

# ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER POLICIES

## GUEST SERVICES

Staff and security personnel are available to assist patrons with general inquiries throughout the duration of the event.

## GUEST SEATING

Seating is first-come, first-served. Guests should be seated with their cell phones on silent before the ceremony begins. Guests should remain in their seats during the entire ceremony as a courtesy to graduates and other guests.

## PARKING

Orange County Convention Center parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis, including disability permit parking. Parking at the Orange County Convention Center is \$20 plus tax per car per visit. You can pay via cash or card at the parking lot tollbooth as you enter the lot.

Please note: If your car leaves the parking lot and you wish to return, you will be charged an additional \$20 plus tax.

Orange County Convention Center is located at 9400 Universal Boulevard, Orlando, FL 32819.

## EMT/FIRST AID

First aid stations are located at:

Med 6 – South B–Concourse–Level 2

Med 7 – North B–Dock Side

## CONCESSIONS

Please visit the main concourse of the Convention Center for available concession options.

## LOST CHILDREN

Please alert Guest Services if a member of your party is lost during an event. Parents or guardians looking for lost children or members of their party should contact the nearest Guest Services or Event Security team member.

## BAG POLICY

All guests and bags are subject to search. Single-compartment drawstring bags, diaper bags, and purses smaller than **14 x 14 x 6 inches** are permitted.

Please remember to bring your cell phone with you to access your GradPass, and minimal personal belongings.

**We strongly encourage guests and graduates to leave their bags at home!**

## LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

Lost and Found is managed by the Security Division of the Orange County Convention Center, who patrol the convention center 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Please call for any lost and found inquiries - Orange County Convention Center Security Command Center: **407-685-1119**.

## ACCESSIBILITY

The Orange County Convention Center has wheelchair ramps, automatic doors, passenger elevators and accessible restrooms for those who need them.

Scooter and wheelchair rental services are provided by Scootaround. Through the on-site rental location, guests can rent mobility scooters and wheelchairs for events held at the convention center.

**Please note:** Advance reservations are encouraged for scooter or wheelchair rental by visiting the Scootaround website. Call **1-888-441-7575** for more information.

Pick-up and drop-off locations for scooters and wheelchairs are located at the FedEx Office Business Centers in the respective concourses.



# ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER POLICIES

## ASL

American Sign Language interpreting is available on-site for each commencement ceremony. Please proceed to the WGU Information table located on the main concourse, and you will be ushered to the reserved seating for ASL. The area is designated as reserved.

## ACCESSIBLE PARKING AND ACCESS MAP

All parking is available on a first-come, first-served basis, including disability permit parking. Exact numbers of available spaces vary according to show traffic. Parking is \$20 plus tax per car per visit. You can pay via cash or card at the parking lot booth as you enter the lot.

## RESTROOMS

Restrooms are located on all levels throughout the arena.

## SENSORY ROOM

There is a sectioned off sensory area in the concourse. If you or someone you are with needs to use the sensory area, please proceed out of the hall, up the escalator, and find the area marked with a sign and drapes.

## MOTHER'S ROOM

Wellness Rooms are available in the West, North and South concourses. The Wellness Rooms provide a private space for nursing mothers to pump or breastfeed.

North Concourse - Level 2, North Hall A, at the top of the escalator to the exhibit hall, adjacent to room N210E.

## SERVICE ANIMALS

Animals are not permitted on the Orange County Convention Center premises except in conjunction with an approved exhibit or in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Animals that are approved to be on the premises must be on a leash, within a pen, or under similar control. The owner will be fully responsible for their animal(s).

## SMOKING

By Florida State Law, the Orange County Convention Center is a smoke-free facility.

## GRADUATES



There will be a metal detector—bring only your phone with you!



Please have your Grad Pass up on your phone screen.



Please do not bring any bags or purses with you to the ceremonies.



Wear comfortable shoes. There will be a lot of walking!

# ORANGE COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER PARKING AND ENTRANCE MAP



**COMMENCEMENT - HALL NB**

**GRADUATES and GUESTS  
ENTRANCE - HALL NB  
ENTER NE ENTRANCE**

**RIDESHARE DROP-OFF ZONE**

# COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE AND DECORUM



## ABOUT

Commencement Weekend is a memorable experience for graduates and their loved ones to celebrate their academic achievement. We want our graduates to experience a joyful, rewarding, and distraction-free ceremony that recognizes their hard work and the sacrifices they have made to reach this point. WGU believes that mutually respectful participation by graduates and their guests is the best way to accomplish this shared intention. In preparation for Commencement, WGU has outlined a protocol. Your and your guests' adherence will ensure a positive experience for all.

## ACADEMIC ATTIRE FOR GRADUATES

All graduating students wear approved academic attire that includes a cap, gown, and tassel. The official regalia color is navy. We encourage all graduates to wear comfortable yet professional dress attire under their gowns rather than casual clothing. Master's degree graduates will need a hood specific to their degree. Graduates affiliated with an academic honor society may wear society pins or honor cords on their gowns. With the exception of WGU scholarship pins, leis and corsages, graduates should not wear other items or decoration on their academic regalia.

## WGU COMMENCEMENT DECORUM POLICY

Please be advised any graduate or guest acting in a disruptive or disrespectful manner at WGU events, as determined by WGU in its sole discretion, may either not be allowed in the venue or may be escorted from the venue.

Take into consideration the following if decorating your cap for commencement: WGU does not allow content on caps that is considered, in WGU's sole discretion, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, hateful, inappropriate, profane, or that might disregard another's copyright or third-party rights. All decorations must lay flat on the cap.

## MILITARY




Graduates who indicate active-duty military or veteran status on their ceremony RSVP form will receive military honor cords at the Graduate Check-in area.

[Video: How to Wear Bachelor's Regalia](#)

[Video: How to Wear Master's Regalia](#)

## COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

To promote a respectful, comfortable, and disturbance-free experience for our graduates and their guests, all attendees are asked to observe the following guidelines:

-  Place your cell phone on vibrate or silent during the ceremony.
-  Do not leave until the entire ceremony has ended.
-  Cheer respectfully and avoid disruptive outbursts to allow the families and guests of other graduates to hear their graduate's name when read.

# WGU ACADEMIC CORDS AND HOODS

## GRADUATE CORDS:



**MILITARY**  
Red, white, and blue



**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
Gold and white



**PHILANTHROPY**  
Navy, gold, and light blue



**WOMEN IN TECH**  
Purple and white



**NSLS**  
Black and silver

## MASTER HOODS:



**SALMON**  
Master of Science in Integrated  
Healthcare Management



**DRAB**  
School of Business



**APRICOT**  
Nursing



**SAGE**  
Master of Health Leadership



**BRIGHT GOLD**  
School of Technology



**LIGHT BLUE**  
School of Education

# GRADUATE CHECK-IN PROCEDURE: GRAD PASS



The week of Commencement, you will be sent an email with a Grad Pass with your own personal QR code. This code must be available on your device and visible for check-in.

1. Once you receive this email, please take a screenshot so you can easily find and access this QR code.
2. Please make sure your device is with you, your device is charged, and the display is set on the brightest position.
3. When you arrive for check-in, please have your device out with the screen visible for the commencement ambassadors to see.
4. Your Grad Pass will be scanned before you cross the stage during the ceremony. Please have your Grad Pass ready to be scanned as you line up to cross the stage.

## SAMPLE GRAD PASS



**GRAD PASS:**  
Sage the Owl

Your College Here  
Degree: Nocturnal Studies

WGU Commencement  
Location  
Date  
Address

*Note: This pass is to be used by the graduate listed above when crossing the stage. This is not a guest ticket. Please take a screenshot of this pass for easy access.*



1281895494



**EMILY B.**  
M.S. Secondary Ed. Mathematics  
WGU Graduate

# CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

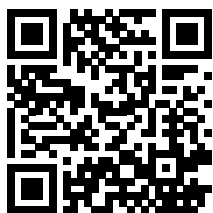
Receive  
a **WGU**  
philanthropy  
cord!



**Donate \$25 or more to the WGU Fellow Night Owl Scholarship Fund and receive a philanthropy cord.**

You can help current WGU students cross the finish line to graduation too by purchasing a philanthropy cord to wear with your cap and gown. All proceeds support the WGU Fellow Night Owl Scholarship Fund.

**Make your gift today!**



**Scan the QR Code or visit [wgu.edu/philanthropycords](https://wgu.edu/philanthropycords)**

Visit the WGU Advancement table at the Alumni Celebration or Commencement Check-in to pick up your philanthropy cord.

Have a question? Email [advancement@wgu.edu](mailto:advancement@wgu.edu).

# WEBCAST AND CONTACT INFO

Family and guests who are unable to attend in person may view the ceremony **online**. To watch the ceremony live, please visit the following link on Saturday, September, 21, 2024:

[Live Commencement](#)

DATE: **SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2024**

**Leavitt School of Health and School of Education**

Ceremony Start Time: 9:30 a.m. ET

**School of Business and School of Technology**

Ceremony Start Time: 1:30 p.m. ET

## PHOTOGRAPHY

During the WGU Commencement, the Grad Team will be taking candid photos, speaker photos, and graduate portrait shots. There is no obligation to purchase.

**How to access your Commencement photos:**

A week after Commencement, the Grad Team will post commencement photos online.

Visit [thegradteam.com/events/wgu](https://thegradteam.com/events/wgu) to view Commencement photos.

## SPECIAL NOTE:

A graduate's appearance and participation are recorded at Commencement. This may include but is not limited to broadcast video, online web video, and photos in print materials. WGU may use some of these images for educational and informational purposes.

## CONTACT

During Commencement week, the most efficient way to reach the WGU Commencement Office is by sending an email to [commencement@wgu.edu](mailto:commencement@wgu.edu). You may also visit the [Commencement website](#).

Please [download](#) our Commencement app.



**DAVID L.**  
M.S. Curriculum and Instruction  
WGU Graduate

# Refer your friends to WGU!

Share WGU with your friends and family by using your Refer-a-Friend link.

You'll earn **500 points** in the Owl's Nest once they've completed their application!



Scan the QR Code or visit [wgu.onl/wgufriends](https://wgu.onl/wgufriends) to share WGU with your friends and family.