May 2015
Kansas City Area Commencement Handbook
Commencement Details

Date:  Saturday, May 9, 2015

Time:  11 AM

Location:  Community of Christ Auditorium
           1001 W. Walnut
           Independence, MO 64050

Commencement Schedule of Events

8:45 – 10 AM  Lower Level Assembly Room
•  Graduates check in with registrar, receive honor cords and complete name cards for stage reader.
•  Individual photographs of graduates by GradImages.

***STUDENTS SHOULD ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 9:45 AM!***

10:15 AM  Lower Level Assembly Room
•  Graduates line up for processional. All graduates should be in caps and gowns and have a completed name card in-hand for the stage reader.

Note: While the Assembly Room will be secured during the ceremony, please note that the University is not liable for personal belongings left unattended in the room.

10:45 AM  Lower Level Assembly Room
•  Graduates’ processional line moves to auditorium.

10:45 AM  Auditorium
•  Guests should be seated.
Note: Guests who arrive after the Processional begins will need to enter via the west or east doors, or sit in the balcony. Please enter quietly and yield to any Processional traffic.

11 AM  North Doors of Auditorium
•  Processional of graduates, faculty, staff and platform party.
Announcements
Announcements, diploma frames and class rings may be ordered online at www.herffjones.com/college/. Generic announcements and other memorabilia are available through the Park University Bookstore.

Caps and Gowns
If you are unable to pick up your cap and gown during the Graduation Prep Fair on Wednesday, April 1, you may do so at the Park University Bookstore through Wednesday, April 6. If you are not a Parkville Campus student and need to order your cap and gown, please call the Bookstore at (816) 584-6747 as soon as possible. Students need to call by Friday, April 8 to have cap and gown shipped ($6.95 shipping fee added) if unable to pick up during business hours.

Bookstore hours:
Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Diplomas
Diplomas will be mailed to graduates approximately eight to 10 weeks after all coursework is completed. Please verify that the Registrar’s Office has your correct address.

Handicap Assistance
The west entrance circle drive of the auditorium is handicap accessible. Please note that there is no parking in the drive. Seating is available on either side of the auditorium in designated areas.

Graduates needing assistance to their seat and across the stage should contact Lisa Winkle, commencement coordinator, at lwinkle@park.edu or (816) 584-6219 to make arrangements in advance.

Hearing Impaired
Interpreters will be available for hearing impaired guests. They will be placed on the left side of the stage (when facing the stage). Seating in this area is first come, first served.
**Honors Cords**
Honors cords will be distributed to bachelor’s degree graduates who meet the grade point average requirements as of the previous term. Please note that only cords distributed by the Registrar’s Office may be worn during the Commencement ceremony.

The following statement is a quotation from the Park University Commencement Policy: “Honor students will be designated on their diplomas and on their transcripts as either ‘summa cum laude,’ ‘magna cum laude,’ ‘cum laude’ or ‘with distinction,’ depending on the final cumulative grade point average. Final grades for the current semester may be outstanding for many students. All honor students will have the same color honor cord, which will be distributed at Commencement.”

**Library Books, Fines and Charges**
All library books must be returned. All fines and other charges must be paid prior to Commencement.

**Name Cards**
Each graduate will be given ONE name card when they check in at the Registrar’s table. **FILL OUT the front and back of the card.** If you are having a portrait taken (prior to the ceremony), please present the card to the photographer and he/she will record your information. Please **KEEP the card and take it with you to the Auditorium** as you will hand this to the stage reader prior to you receiving your diploma.

**Photographs**
GradImages will photograph each graduate receiving his/her diploma, as well as an individual photo. (Individual photos will be taken from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. in the Lower Assembly Room). Approximately one week after Commencement, GradImages will send a digital color photo proof to the address listed on the name card. Orders must be placed within 10 days of receipt and will arrive 1-2 weeks from the date GradImages receives your order. All photos are satisfaction guaranteed and may be returned for a full refund.

**Live Broadcast / DVDs**
Family and friends from around the world who can’t attend Commencement will now be able to watch graduates walk across the stage as Park University will provide a live broadcast of the ceremony via Park’s video portal. More information will be announced closer to the ceremony.

A DVD of the ceremony will also be available for $15 each through Park University’s Alumni Shop at [www.park.edu/gradcd](http://www.park.edu/gradcd). Questions about DVD orders should be sent to: Office of Alumni Relations, alumnioffice@park.edu / (816) 584-6207 or (800) 488-7275, or the Office of Academic Affairs, lwinkle@park.edu / (816) 584-6219.
Directions to Community of Christ Auditorium

NOTE: The Commencement ceremony is held at the Community of Christ Auditorium (dome building) and not the chapel (spiral tower) across the street.

**VIA I-70 WESTBOUND**
Take I-70 west to Independence, Mo. Take the Noland Road exit and turn right (north). Follow Noland Road to Walnut and turn left (west). Go approximately one mile on Walnut to River and turn left (south). The Auditorium, with a green dome, is on your right. Turn right (west) into the first parking lot entrance.

**VIA I-70 EASTBOUND**
Take I-70 east to I-435. Go north on I-435 to 23rd Street (first exit). Turn right (east) onto 23rd Street and drive toward Independence. Go a few miles to Crysler and turn left (north). Follow Crysler and go up the hill just past the first stop light. Turn right (east) into the Auditorium (green dome) parking lot.

**VIA I-435 NORTHBOUND**
Take I-435 north to 23rd Street (first exit past I-70). Turn right (east) onto 23rd Street and drive toward Independence. Go a few miles to Crysler and turn left (north). Follow Crysler and go up the hill just past the first stop light. Turn right (east) into the Auditorium (green dome) parking lot.

**VIA I-435 SOUTHBOUND OR KCI AIRPORT**
Take I-435 south to 23rd Street. Turn left (east) onto 23rd Street and drive toward Independence. Go a few miles to Crysler and turn left (north). Follow Crysler and go up the hill just past the first stop light. Turn right (east) into the Auditorium (green dome) parking lot.

**VIA I-29 SOUTHBOUND**
Take I-29 south to I-35 south. Follow I-35 south to 210 Highway. Go east on 210 Highway to I-435. Take I-435 south to 23rd Street. Turn left (east) onto 23rd Street and drive toward Independence. Go a few miles to Crysler and turn left (north). Follow Crysler and go up the hill just past the first stop light. Turn right (east) into the Auditorium (green dome) parking lot.
Academic Dress and the Procession

Academic dress and the academic procession are two of the few remaining traditions we inherited from early universities and colleges. Even these traditions have evolved over the years to meet the present academic needs and our society’s methods of recognizing academic achievement.

We still recognize the three basic types of academic robes: The straight sleeve of the bachelor’s gown, the shortened sleeve of the master’s gown with its extended blind pouch and the doctor’s gown with its three velvet stripes on each sleeve and velvet facing on the front.

Various traditional colors are used to represent different universities and disciplines. Someone who knows the coloring system can tell the granting university, the degree and the discipline of the wearer simply by looking at his or her academic attire.

Park honors these and other traditions. We have added a few traditions of our own, particularly in how the academic attire is worn and the ceremonies are carried out.

Conventions Observed by Park University

- Traditional master’s and bachelor’s gowns and academic caps (as provided) are worn in the traditional manner.
- The mortar boards are worn level on the head (parallel to the floor), not stuck to the back of the head.
- The tassels, worn on the caps, are to be worn on the right side of the cap. After the degree is conferred, the tassel should be moved right to left.
- Women wear their caps at all times.
- Men’s caps are removed during prayers, but are worn at all other times.
- Flowers are not worn on the academic gown or carried by the graduate.
- Business attire is commonly worn with academic regalia (gowns).
- Black shoes are preferred; low heel shoes are recommended.