VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY **Fall 2019 COMMENCEMENT**

Friday, December 13 & Saturday, December 14



f Valdosta State University Commencement

O Valdostastate

STAT





TO THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2019,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to participate in Valdosta State University's Commencement ceremonies on December 13th and 14th. This is our opportunity to congratulate you, our graduates, and thank those who have supported you throughout your journey.

This handbook has been developed with you and your family in mind. In the following pages you will find a wealth of information about the Commencement ceremonies. I encourage you to take a moment to look carefully at the detailed information, including the location and time you will need to assemble prior to the ceremonies.

I look forward to a time of celebration and to offering my congratulations personally at Valdosta State University's 2019 Commencement.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Richard Carvajal President

≣



Graduates!

Cap & Gown Photographs

November 12, 2019 10:00am - 12:00pm West Hall Front Lawn

> Valdosta State University



CONTENTS

Schedule of Events 4-5
Ring Presentation 6
Grad Finale7
General Overview8-11
"Purchase Your"
Parents and Families14
1906 Society 15
Alumni Relations16-17
Maps18-21
Alma Mater23
Important ContactsBack cover

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

October 21	Honor Graduates can pick up Honor Medallions at the Registrar's office with photo ID
October 23-24	Grad Finale, 10:00AM-5:00PM, Student Union, Bookstore
October 31	Fall Career Expo, 10:00AM-2:00PM, Student Union Ballrooms
October 31	Last day to apply for graduation (In order to have your name in the Commencement program)
October 31	Deadline to submit alternate graduation attendance form <i>(early walker form)</i> to the Registrar's office
November 4	Final day to order official VSU Announcements Online
November 4	Last day to order your regalia online in time for Fall Graduation *Also available to purchase at the bookstore through graduation.
November 12	FREE Cap & Gown Picture Day, 10:00AM–12:00PM, VSU Front Lawn *Inclement weather date ONLY November 14
November 14	Education Fair, 10:00ам–2:00рм, University Center North, Magnolia & Cypress Rooms
November 20	Blazer Ready Series: Professionalism in the Workplace/Emotional Intelligence, 5:00pm-6:30pm, Psychology Building Room 1204
December 9	Midnight Breakfast, 10:00pm-12:00AM, Palms Dining Center
December 10	Ring Presentation Ceremony, 7:06рм, Front Lawn
December 13	Last chance to pick up Honor Medallion at the Registrar's office before $3{:}00\ensuremath{\text{PM}}$
December 13	College of Nursing & Health Sciences Pinning Ceremony, 12:00PM, Whitehead Auditorium
December 15	Residence Halls close at 10:00AM for all students walking in the

Fall Commencement Ceremony

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS







Friday, December 13

College of Nursing & Health Sciences Recognition Ceremony

12:00PM • Fine Arts Building • Whitehead Auditorium

Graduate School Commencement Ceremony

All Masters, Specialists & Doctoral candidates will walk at this time. 5:00PM • PE Complex

Check In & Line Up

3:30рм

- Arrive to the PE Complex (2ND Floor) no later than **3:30**PM to check-in and line up. Faculty Marshals will be there to direct you, and ensure an efficient lineup process.
- Make sure to bring your necessary graduation attire (cap, gown, hood and tassel).
- Once the processional has left, no graduates will be permitted to join the lines.
- Leave all personal belongings at home; there will be no place to store these items during the ceremony.

Receiving Your Diploma Cover

- After the President's speech, students will be asked to approach the stage and follow directions by the Faculty Marshals.
- Please proceed up the right side of the stage, entering the stage from the back.
- Hand your name card to the reader, and your name will be called.
- Hand your hood to the faculty advisor.
- Take time to POSE FOR PICTURES when being hooded and when shaking the president's hand.
- You will exit stage to the left.
- Follow the Faculty Marshals directions to your seat.

Recessional (leaving the ceremony)

• After the ceremony, there will be no recessional. All the graduates will stay in their seats until after the celebration. Once the celebration is over, your family and friends can join you on the floor for pictures!







Saturday, December 14

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) Commissioning Ceremony

9:00AM • Student Union Ballrooms

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

All Associates and Bachelor's degree candidates will walk at this time. 4:30PM • Front Lawn • (*PE Complex in case of severe weather*)

Check In & Line Up 2:00pm

- College of the Arts: Meet in Nevins Hall 1st Floor North Hallway
- College of Humanities & Social Sciences: Meet in Nevins Hall Room 1061
- College of Science & Mathematics: Meet in Nevins Hall Room 1065
- College of Business: Meet in Bailey Science Center Room 1023
- College of Education & Human Services: Meet in Bailey Science Center Room 1011 (Auditorium)
- College of Nursing & Health Services: Meet in Bailey Science Center- Room 1024
- Faculty Marshals will be there to direct you, and ensure an efficient lineup process.
- Do not be late to line up! Be there at **2:00**_{PM} with all of your necessary graduation attire (cap, gown, and tassel).
- Once the processional has left, no graduates will be permitted to join the lines.
- Leave all personal belongings at home; there will be no place to store these items during the ceremony.
- Please pay attention to the weather for the day of Commencement: You will be walking from Nevins and Bailey, plan accordingly.
- Please take into consideration when choosing your attire that you will be walking on sidewalks, brick walkway and grass.

Recessional (leaving the ceremony)

• After the ceremony, you will not recess out. All the graduates will stay in their seats for the firework show. Once the firework show is over, your family and friends can join you for pictures!

Congratulations!

The VSU Alumni Association is pleased to announce that you are eligible to purchase the official VSU class ring! Each year, students who have earned 60 or more credit hours become eligible to purchase the beautiful VSU ring or pendant as a symbol of achievement and University pride.

The VSU Alumni Association will host a reception in your honor and personally present your ring to you at the **Ring Presentation Ceremony on Tuesday, December 10th at 7:06pm.**

Payment plan options and extremely discounted prices through Jostens will only be available during VSU's official ring days.





You are cordially invited to the following VSU Ring Day events:

Wednesday, Oct 23 UNIVERSITY UNION BOOKSTORE 10 AM - 5 PM

Thursday, Oct 24 UNIVERSITY UNION BOOKSTORE 10 AM - 5 PM



vsu Grad Finale FALL 2019





Your one-stop shop for all graduation preparation!

WHEN:

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 10:00am - 5:00pm

Thursday, October 24, 2019 10:00am – 5:00pm

WHERE:

Valdosta State University Student Union Bookstore 1st Floor

QUESTIONS CONTACT: Event Services

Email: commencement@valdosta.edu www.valdosta.edu/commencement

- Pick up your Fall commencement handbook.
- Purchase, pickup and save 10% on your cap & gown.
- Check your graduation status.
- Check out VSU graduate programs.
- Have a professional graduation photo taken by GradImages.
- Order the official class ring & announcements.
- Join the 1906 Society to receive your red & black cords.
- Join VSU's Alumni Association.
- Receive info about financial assistance.
- Sign-up for amazing door prizes!
- Pre-order your commencement DVD.
- Save 10% on diploma frames.

GENERAL OVERVIEW



Grad Finale

Booths from the Commencement Office, Alumni Association, Registrar, Career Opportunities, and more will answer questions and provide crucial information to Fall graduates. Vendors for regalia, class rings, professional photography, and others will also be on hand to ensure a successful graduation experience. Snacks for attendees will be provided and several prize drawings. The event is **Wednesday**, **October 23**, and **Thursday**, **October 24**, from 10:00AM-5:00PM in the VSU Bookstore, 1st floor of the Student Union.

Attendance

The university encourages attendance by all Summer and Fall 2019 candidates. This semester, VSU will hold two ceremonies. The **Graduate Commencement Ceremony** will be held **Friday, December 13, 2019** at **5:00**PM at the P. E. Complex. The **Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony** will be held **Saturday, December 14, 2019** at **4:30**PM on the front lawn of main campus. Candidates and guests are asked to remain at the ceremony for its entirety. The university appreciates your attendance and cooperation.

Application for Degree

All undergraduate candidates must submit an Application for Degree to the Registrar's Office. The form should be submitted at least two semesters prior to their intended graduation date. Graduate students should submit an Application for Degree at least one semester prior to the intended graduation date.

Alternate Graduation Information (Degree Cutoff and Early and Late Walkers)

Valdosta State University holds two graduation ceremonies each year: at the end of fall and spring terms. Participating in a graduation ceremony should signify that students have completed all degree requirements at the time of that ceremony. If students request to participate in an earlier or later graduation ceremony, they must provide documentation explaining why they are unable to participate in their scheduled commencement. Even if students participate in an alternate ceremony, their official graduation date will be for the graduation scheduled AFTER they have completed all degree requirements. *Also, honors recognition cannot be granted in the alternate graduation ceremony.* A form must be completed and submitted one month before requested ceremony.

Summer 2019 Graduates

Graduates from Summer 2019 will have their names included in the printed programs for the Fall 2019 Commencement Ceremonies. The graduates and their guests are welcome to attend.

Graduation with Honors

Three levels of graduation honors recognize exceptional students qualifying for the bachelor's degree. These honors are based upon all academic work attempted, including all courses attempted at other institutions. A minimum of 60 semester hours of academic work, including any student teaching, must be successfully completed in residence at Valdosta State University. Credit by examination or exemption will not be included in the work considered for residence.

Cum Laude for an overall grade point average of **3.50** and a VSU cumulative average of **3.50**.

Magna Cum Laude for an overall grade point average of **3.70** and a VSU cumulative average of **3.70**.

Summa Cum Laude for an overall grade point average of **3.90** and a VSU cumulative average of **3.90**.

Eligible students will be notified by mail and will be asked to stop by the Office of the Registrar to obtain a medallion signifying their academic achievement. The medallion should be worn at the commencement ceremony.



Address Information

Diplomas will be mailed to candidates who complete all graduation requirements. Candidates for graduation should contact their graduation auditor in the Registrar's Office to make any necessary changes in their diploma mailing address.

Participant/Guest Attire

All ceremony participants must wear regalia. We suggest that you wear nice clothing under your gown. In general, dress with an eye to comfort and the weather. Low heels or flats are appropriate for navigating the different terrain. Dark pants, skirts, shoes and tie are preferred. Sunglasses and hats could also prove useful. Umbrellas are NOT allowed in seating areas.

Tickets

Tickets are not required for the Commencement ceremonies. Seating for guests at Commencement ceremonies is on a first-come, first served basis. As the ceremonies are heavily attended, we recommend that family members arrive early and be seated no later than 45 minutes before each ceremony.



Seating

Since seating is open, we kindly ask that seats not be saved by any means other than someone sitting in the seat. If you bring balloons, ribbons, bags, etc., to attach to chairs in an attempt to save multiple seats, a faculty marshal or other member of the Commencement staff will ask you to remove them. Large video screens will be set up to make viewing the ceremony easy for everyone.

Guests With Accessibility Needs

Interpreter services are provided by the VSU Access Office to ensure all guests enjoy a comfortable and accessible Commencement. Interpreters will be located on stage. Accessibility seating is available at both ceremony locations (see maps on page 18-21) on a first-come, first-served basis. Staff/volunteers will be available at the ceremony to guide you to seating or restrooms. VSU does not provide walkers, wheel chairs or accessible devices.

Students With Accessibility Needs

Students with a disability who require assistance for the commencement ceremonies should contact the Access Office at 229.245.2498 at least two weeks prior to the ceremony.

Webcast

The Graduate School Commencement ceremony and Undergraduate Commencement ceremony will be viewable live online under the Commencement website. Click the 'Live Webcast' tab to access the live stream.

Parking & Transportation

Parking is available at the Sustella Parking Deck and the Oat St. Parking Deck. Shuttle buses will be available on both Friday and Saturday from the parking decks listed above. Shuttles will begin service up to three hours before the event is scheduled to begin. Please refer to the map on page 18 for a complete schedule and locations.

Event Services Office

рноме 229.333.5998 web www.valdosta.edu/commencement

Severe Weather (Undergraduate Ceremony)

The Fall 2019 Undergraduate Commencement ceremony is currently scheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 14 on the Front Lawn.

While current weather forecasts do not indicate the need to move inside, if severe weather prevents the Undergraduate ceremony from being conducted outdoors, the Undergraduate ceremony will be moved to the The Complex for a 4:30 p.m. start.

This change, if necessary, **will be announced by 7 a.m. on Saturday morning (12/14/2019)** via email, social media, and the VSU website.

Due to space restrictions in the Complex, each graduate may obtain tickets for up to 6 guests. Graduates, with their VSU Student ID, may claim their tickets at the Student Union information desk (2nd floor) during regular operating hours through Friday, December 13. Graduates who are unable to pick up their tickets this week or need more than 6 tickets may do so on Saturday at the PE Complex ticket window starting at 1:30pm.

In the event that the Undergraduate Commencement is relocated to The Complex on Saturday, the start time will remain at 4:30 p.m. Graduates should still report to The Complex by 3:00 p.m. Line-up for graduates will be on the second floor mezzanine of the Complex arena.

For regular updates to commencement activities, including weather changes, please visit **www.valdosta.edu/commencement** and follow Valdosta State University on Facebook and Twitter.





Text Message Alerts for Commencement

Valdosta State University offers a complimentary early alert system for all Commencement attendees. The system is designed to inform you, via text message, if any of the ceremonies have been moved due to severe weather or any unexpected circumstance. Sign up at www.valdosta.edu/ commencement/commencement-text-alerts.php

PURCHASE YOUR...



Regalia

All graduating students must wear the official Valdosta State University regalia from the VSU Bookstore. Regalia can be purchased in the Bookstore starting Oct 23 at Grad Finale and online.

- Bachelors Cap, Gown w/School Custom Zipper Pull, Tassel w/School Custom Charm (\$60.00)
- Masters Cap, Gown w/School Custom Zipper Pull, Tassel w/School Custom Charm (\$65.00) Master Hood (\$40.00)
- Specialist Cap, Gown w/School Custom Zipper Pull, Tassel w/School Custom Charm (\$65.00) Specialist Hood (\$40.00)
- Doctors Tam, Gown w/School Custom Zipper Pull, Tassel w/School Custom Charm, Hood (\$135.00) Doctors Hood (\$45.00)
- Custom Stole (\$30.00)





DVD

Pre-order your Commencement Ceremony DVD online at http://community.valdostastate.org/ commencement-dvd for \$30.00.

Professional Pictures/Photography

Grad Images, the official photographers, will take three individual photos of each graduate: before crossing stage, shaking hands with the president (and as they are hooded for graduate school), and after with diploma. **Proofs of these photos will be sent to the student's VSU email address along with information about ordering prints.** Follow ordering instructions or visit the Commencement website for more information. Services provided by GradImages Photography (1.800.261.2576).

Announcements

Jostens is the official provider of VSU's graduation announcements. You can go to the Commencement website for pricing information and to order online.



Valdosta State License Plate

When it's time to renew your license plate, think VSU! The VSU Foundation receives \$10 of every sale and renewal from license plates. For more information about your new VSU License Plate, visit your local tag office.

VSU Alumni Gear

The VSU Bookstore can meet all of your alumni gear needs! The VSU Bookstore will be open Friday, December 13, 2019 from 8:30AM-6:00PM and Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 10:00AM-5:00PM.





PARENTS & FAMILIES

Know before you go...

- Subscribe to Commencement text alerts for weather/location updates
- Check the website for latest updates
- Check weather.com for forecast
- Don't forget to confirm hotel reservations
- Make restaurant reservations
- Bring camera
- Bring ponchos
- Plan your attire, according to the weather
- Buy Alumni gear at the VSU Bookstore
- Take note of these prohibited items: umbrellas, noise makers, balloons
- Take care of any disabled guests needs

Indoor Viewing of the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Psychology Building

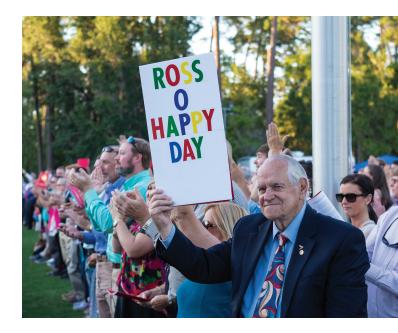
1204 - Located on the 1st Floor See Map on Page 18

Refreshments at the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

There will be several locations on the Front Lawn to purchase food and drinks before and during the ceremony.

Flowers for Graduates

Be on the lookout at the PE Complex and the VSU Front Lawn for flower sales for your graduate on their special day.



Getting to Valdosta State University from the Valdosta Airport

When leaving the airport, take a right onto Airport Road. At the stop sign take a left onto Madison Highway. When Madison Highway dead ends, take a left onto South Patterson St. After overpass, road veers to the right, taking you onto South Ashley Street. Take left onto Magnolia Ave. and then right onto N. Patterson St. As you near the campus, take a left onto Brookwood Dr. which will take you straight into the Oak St. Parking Deck.

Getting to Valdosta State University via Interstate 75

Follow Interstate 75 to Exit 18 and head east into Valdosta. Turn left at the second traffic signal onto Gornto Rd. At the next traffic signal, turn right onto Baytree Rd. Follow Baytree Rd. until in dead ends into VSU's campus. Take a right on Oak St. at the dead end and then take another right at the first light taking you into the Oak St. Parking Deck and surface lot.

1906 Society



Congratulations Seniors!

I know the light at the end of the tunnel is shining bright, and as you prepare for your next step in life, with your VSU degree in hand, we invite you to join the 1906 Society! This is your opportunity to make a difference today in the lives of those that will be at VSU tomorrow!

The 1906 Society is a student giving organization that is dedicated to the continued growth and development of VSU through individual gifts from seniors and graduate students. Your gift to the 1906 Society, will fund scholarships to help current students offset the cost of college.

In commemoration of Valdosta State's founding year, we ask graduates to donate \$19.06. Your gift may exceed this amount; however gifts of any size can make a difference to the students that receive the scholarship.

As a member of the 1906 Society, you will receive a red and black graduation cord and be recognized at commencement!

For more information and to join the 1906 Society, call VSU's Director of Annual Giving, Merritt Wall at **229.245.4329** or email her at **emwall@valdosta.edu**.

Class of 2019,

Congratulations on reaching this momentous milestone in your life, and welcome to the Valdosta State University Alumni Association!

You are joining over 60,000 fellow Blazers who proudly represent our alma mater across the country and around the world. Commencement activities will allow you and your families to celebrate this noteworthy accomplishment.



The primary role of the Alumni Association is to provide

you a means to stay connected with fellow alumni and to your VSU family as you enter this next phase of life. Your lifetime membership in the VSU Alumni Association is automatic and free of charge. We encourage you to become involved with one of the four Alumni Association Chapters (Atlanta, Coastal, Middle Georgia, Savannah, and Valdosta) and take advantage of the many opportunities to stay involved with VSU.

We hope you stay involved with Valdosta State and let us celebrate your future successes with you. Your graduation is only the beginning of your VSU experience.

You can update your information on our website by creating your alumni association membership profile at https://community.valdostastate.org/Login.

Please visit the VSU alumni website at valdostastate.org or contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 229.333.5797.

Congratulations on your significant accomplishment. Go Blazers!

Sincerely,

Scott Purvis Class of 1992 President, VSU Alumni Association

WELCOME TO THE VSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Don't forget to update your contact information at https://community.valdostastate.org/My-Profile

Benefits available to members of the VSU Alumni Association include:

- Opportunities to join Alumni Chapters in locations throughout the region;
- Regional Alumni Receptions throughout Georgia and North Florida, offering an opportunity to meet and network with other VSU Alumni;
- The potential to serve on the Association's board of directors

On Homecoming Weekend each year, alumni are invited to return to campus for an exciting weekend. Events include:

- Annual Alumni Golf Tournament
- VSU Homecoming Parade
- Distinguished Alumni Dinner

ON-CAMPUS BENEFITS

- Transcript Release Forms
- 20% discount on items at the VSU Bookstore.
- Alumni membership at the Student Recreation
 Center (SRC). Call the SRC at 229.333.5898 to learn about fees and hours of operation.
- Full user privileges at the **Odum Library** on main campus.
- Career counseling and services offered to all VSU Alumni. Career testing is a free service provided to alumni up to one semester after graduation. After the one-semester grace period, alumni receive a discount off the fee assessed to cover the cost of the testing materials. Please contact the Career Opportunities office for details at 229.333.5942.

VSU ALUMNI CHAPTERS

To become involved in one of our Alumni Chapters, or if you are interested in starting an Alumni Chapter, contact the Office of Alumni Relations at 229.333.5797.



CHAPTERS:

- Alumni Chapter of Atlanta
- Coastal Alumni Chapter
- Middle Georgia Alumni Chapter
- Savannah Alumni Chapter
- Alumni Chapter of Valdosta

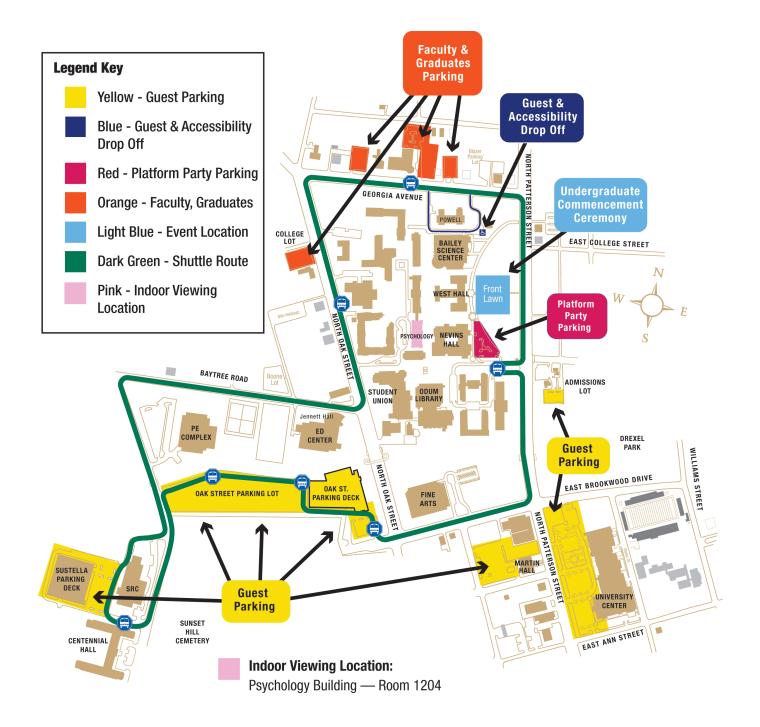
Visit our website for alumni advantages including:

- Nationwide Insurance® Alumni Discount
- First Bankcard
- Valdosta State License Plate
- VSU Voyagers Travel Program explore the world together with your fellow Blazers!

www.valdostastate.org/benefits/welcome.php

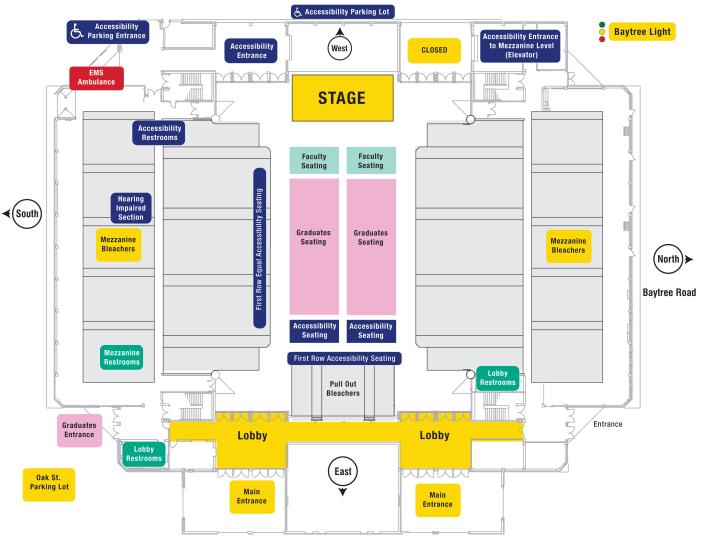
Follow VSU Alumni on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and download the Valdosta State Alumni app!





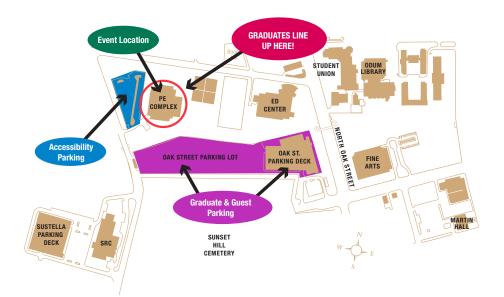




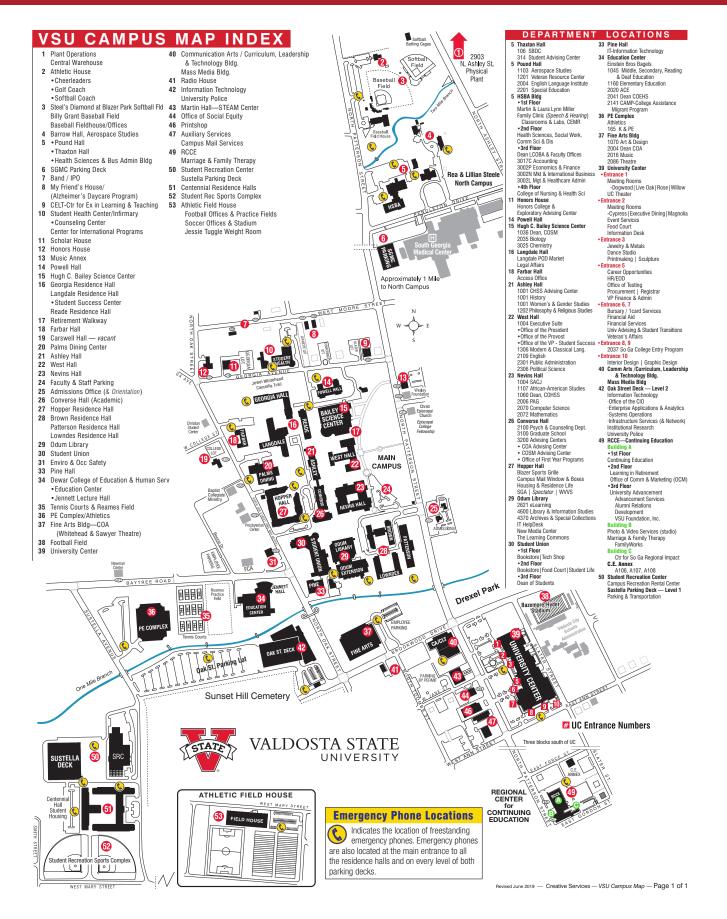


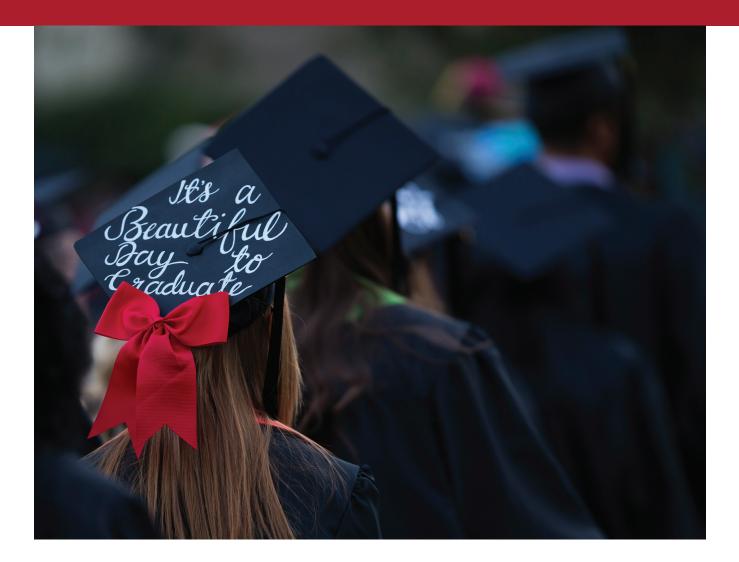
Severe Weather backup Site for Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Event Location & Parking



VSU Campus Map









'Mong the stately pines of Georgia Glorious to the view Stands our noble Alma Mater Basking 'neath the blue.

Alma Mater, thee we honor Praises never fail, For thy fame shall never perish, Red and Black — all hail!

Alma Mater's sons and daughters Ever will be true. Always to thy heart returning Dear old V.S.U.

Alma Mater, thee we honor Praises never fail, For thy fame shall never perish, Red and Black — all hail!







Event Services Valdosta State University 1500 N Patterson St Valdosta GA 31698-0115

Change Service Requested

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Event Services Office 229.333.5998 www.valdosta.edu/commencement

> **Facebook** Valdosta State University Commencement

Twitter *VSUcommencement*



Instagram Valdostastate

Access Office 229.245.2498 www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/welcome.php

On-Campus Housing 229.333.5920 housing@valdosta.edu

Campus Police Public Safety Emergency Line: 229.259.5555 Main Line TTY: 229.333.7816 Anonymous Tip Line: 229.219.3171

Regalia, Rings, & Announcements Jostens www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1040977/ Valdosta-State-University/ 800.854.7464

Live Webcast www.valdosta.edu/commencement

Professional Photography

Grad Images 800.261.2576 www.gradimages.com/

DVDs of Commencement Alumni Relations 229.333.5797 www.valdostastate.org/

Registrar's Office 229.333.5727 www.valdosta.edu/academics/registrar/

VSU Bookstore 229.333.5666 www.valdosta.edu/bookstore

Accommodations www.valdosta.edu/commencement