

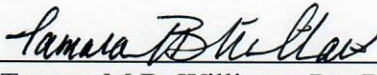
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA 23668

CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 24, 2025

TO: Administrators, Faculty and Seniors

FROM: 
Tamara M.B. Williams, Psy.D.
Grand Marshal

RE: Updated Opening Convocation Communique
September 28, 2025

The **82nd Annual Opening Convocation** Ceremony will be held Sunday, September 28, 2025, beginning at 10:45 a.m. in the Hampton University Convocation Center and will be **open to the public**.

Administrators, Faculty, and Seniors are required to participate in the ceremony. Due to the forecast of inclement weather, please note that you are now being asked to report directly into the Convocation Center and sit in your designated areas at 9 a.m.

Administrators in regalia, Faculty in regalia, Graduating Seniors in regalia, and HU staff are to enter through Door C of the Convocation Center. All guests are to enter the Convocation Center through Doors A and B.

Door A: Footbridge of Convocation Center (Guests)

Door B: Lot 11 facing Emancipation Drive (Guests)

Door C: Lot 11 facing Armstrong Stadium (Administrators, Faculty, Seniors & HU staff)

Prohibited Items

The following items are **prohibited** and will be confiscated before entry into the Convocation Center:

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| • Vape pens | • Home-made signs, banners, flags |
| • Lighters | • Lawn chairs |
| • Alcoholic Beverages | • Non-service animals |
| • Knives, firearms, weapons, or otherwise dangerous objects | • Bicycles |
| | • Balloons |

- Drones
- Laser Pointers
- Packages
- Selfie Sticks
- Structures
- Toy Guns
- Recreational Mobility Devices

In addition to the prohibited items, please note that **All** attendees should refrain from bringing purses or handbags larger than a clutch.

Administrators and Faculty

Please wear the appropriate academic regalia. We ask that you follow the instructions of the marshals as you arrive.

Students

Students, in required academic regalia, must wear auxiliary clothing that harmonizes with the black gown. Academic regalia should be worn with limited jewelry. Large earrings, bangles, chains, pins and other pieces are inappropriate and will not be allowed.

- Women: black dresses of appropriate length, solid black shoes, skin tone or dark stockings, no pants, or jeans;
- Men: white collared shirts with ties, black shoes, black dress slacks, and no jeans.
- Trans and non-binary students: please aim for a polished, professional look that is true to who you are; attire may include the following: suits with shirt or blouse, long trousers with shirt or blouse, dress, skirt with shirt or blouse, and neckties.

Academic regalia should be worn with limited jewelry. Large earrings, bangles, chains, pins, and other pieces are inappropriate and will not be allowed.

Caps are worn with tips in a horizontal position (not tilted) with tassels on the right side of the cap. Women should keep their caps on throughout the ceremony. Men should remove their caps during the invocation, replace them following the invocation, remove them again for the benediction, and replace them for the remainder of the ceremony.

Once again, upon arrival, students should enter directly into the Convocation Center through **Door C** and sit their assigned areas. Please follow the directions of the Marshals and sit in the specified seating.

Thank you for your cooperation as we celebrate the ethos of Hampton University. Questions concerning Opening Convocation can be directed to the Office of Ceremonial Occasions at 757-727-5402.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CONVOCATION

1. Administrators, Faculty, Graduating Seniors are to report directly into the Convocation Center through Door C and sit in their designated areas.
 - a. Administrators, Faculty, and Students are to report to the Convocation Center at 9:00 a.m. dressed in appropriate regalia.
 - b. **All attendees should refrain from bringing purses or handbags larger than a clutch.**
2. Entering the Convocation Center
 - a. Use the left and right aisle and follow the direction of the Marshals.
 - b. See the attached diagram.
3. Seating in the Convocation Center
 - a. Platform Party will be seated on the stage.
 - b. Administrators will be seated in the right and left sections facing the stage.
 - c. Deans will be seated on the front row in the center section.
 - d. Marshals will be seated beside the Deans in the first row.
 - e. The faculty will be seated in the left and right seating area behind the Administrators.
 - f. Students will be seated in the center section beginning with row 2 behind the Deans and Marshals.
4. Exiting the Convocation Center (The Recessional will be in the following order.)
 - a. Platform party
 - b. Administrators
 - c. Deans
 - d. Faculty
 - e. Students

ORDER OF PROCESSION

