

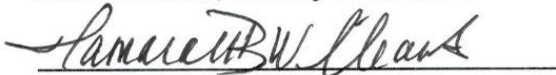
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY  
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA 23668

CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 17, 2025

TO: Administrators, Faculty and Seniors

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

RE: Opening Convocation – September 28, 2025

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The **82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Opening Convocation** Ceremony will be held Sunday, September 28, 2025, beginning at 10:45 a.m. in Hampton University Convocation Center.

**Administrators, Faculty, and Seniors are requested to participate in the ceremony. Please assemble at the Convocation Center parking lot (Lot 11) in academic regalia no later than 9:30 a.m. The processional will begin promptly at 10:15 a.m.**

**In case of inclement weather, please proceed inside the Convocation Center and be seated in your designated areas as indicated on the attached diagram of the Convocation Center.**

Administrators and Faculty

Please wear the appropriate academic regalia. We ask that you follow the instructions of the marshals as you arrive for the lineup and march into the venue to sit in the assigned seating. Please assemble behind your designated sign once you arrive in the parking lot of the Convocation Center (Lot 11).

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. Neither Cellular phones nor cameras are permitted during the processional.

- 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.

Anyone failing to meet these guidelines (carrying flowers or wearing sorority or fraternity Kente cloth stoles, attachments, corsages, ribbons, scarves, etc. with his or her academic attire) will be escorted from the procession. 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. Upon arrival, students should assemble in the Convocation Center parking lot (Lot 11) behind their School sign. Once the procession begins you will not be allowed to join the lineup. Please follow the directions of the marshals as you march into the location and sit in the specified seating.

**The 82<sup>nd</sup> Annual Opening Convocation Ceremony will be open to the public.**

**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. Assembling in the Convocation Center parking lot (Lot 11)
  - a. Administrators, Faculty, and Students assemble in designated areas by 9:30 a.m. dressed in appropriate regalia.
  - b. Line up in two columns behind your appropriate sign designating Administrators, Faculty, and Schools.
2. Marching into the Convocation Center
  - a. After the Grand Marshal calls the school name, schools will proceed in two columns to the Convocation Center.
  - b. The Order of the Processional is as follows:
    1. School of Business
    2. School of Liberal Arts & Education
    3. School of Engineering, Architecture & Aviation
    4. School of Science
    5. School of Nursing
    6. School of Pharmacy
    7. Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications
    8. School of Religion
    9. Graduate College
    10. HU Online
  - c. After the students have entered the Convocation Center, the Administrators, and Faculty will proceed into the Convocation Center.
3. Entering the Convocation Center
  - a. Use the left and right aisle and follow the direction of the Marshals.
  - b. See the attached diagram.
4. 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.
5. 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



