


HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
HAMPTON, VIRGINIA 23668

CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS

May 1, 2025

TO: Administrators
Faculty
Staff
Graduates

FROM: 
Dr. Tamara M.B. Williams
University Grand Marshal

RE: Commencement Ceremony – May 11, 2025

As we approach our high celebration of academic achievement and the marking of yet another milestone in the history of Hampton University, "Our Home by the Sea," the following information provides instructions and schematic drawings for Commencement 2025. There will be one ceremony this year for the entire University which will be held in the Hampton University Convocation Center.

TIME TO ASSEMBLE

All participants are to assemble on visitor's side inside Armstrong Stadium by **8:30 a.m.** on May 11, 2025. Please refer to the first attached diagram.

COMMENCEMENT EXPECTATIONS AT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY

The Commencement Ceremony at Hampton University is conducted with **dignity and pride**. Appropriate academic regalia and accessories should complement the robe. Caps are worn with the tips in a horizontal position, not tilted. Students in academic regalia must wear auxiliary clothing that is in harmony with the black robe. Women: black dresses of appropriate length, 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 your polished, professional look that is true to who you are. Attire may include the following: black suits with shirt or blouse, long black trousers with shirt or blouse, black 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. **Do not bring purses with you to the procession. Anyone failing to meet these guidelines (carrying flowers or wearing sorority or fraternity Kente cloth stoles, attachments, corsages, ribbons, scarves, etc. with academic attire) will be escorted from the procession.**

No cellphones are permitted during the processional nor recessional portions of the Commencement Ceremony. This applies to Armstrong Stadium, Convocation Center.

PROCESSIONAL

1. The Procession will begin promptly at **9:30 a.m. on May 11, 2025**. Graduation Candidates will move down the route and march from Armstrong Stadium according and form a corridor through which the Presidential Party, Administrators, Faculty, Staff, the Emeritus and 50 Year Class will walk to the Convocation Center. Then, the Candidates will close the corridor and proceed to seats in the Convocation Center.

2. Ph.D. Candidates will march with the Graduate College and University College into the Convocation Center and sit in the designated area according to the diagram.

REHEARSAL – MONDAY, MAY 5, 2025, 10:00 A.M. & FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

The initial rehearsal requires the attendance of the graduates and marshals only and will be held on **Monday, May 5, 2025 in Ogden Hall starting promptly at 10:00 a.m.** Please arrive early and find a seat. In addition, please bring your **cap and hood** with you to rehearsal.

A subsequent rehearsal will be held on **Friday, May 9, 2025**. Participants should report to the visitor's side of Armstrong Stadium lawn no later than **9:00 a.m. Friday, May 9, 2025** with **caps and hoods**. Participants will assemble by schools in designated sections. Rehearsal will end by 12:00 noon. **Students are not to leave before rehearsal has ended.** Undergraduate students, who are unable to participate in rehearsal, but plan to participate in the ceremony, should report to the School Dean immediately upon their arrival at Armstrong Field on Sunday, May 11, 2025 by 8:30 a.m. in order to be correctly placed in the processional. ***IF INCLEMENT WEATHER OCCURS, REHEARSAL WILL BE IN THE CONVOCATION CENTER.***

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES FOR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY (see diagram)

In the case of inclement weather, the outdoor processional of the program will be cancelled and the main program will continue as directed in the Convocation Center. Announcements for inclement weather will be made via local media radio, TV stations, the University's web page, and the University's marquee. The following instructions apply, if necessary:

1. Administrators, Faculty, Staff, Emeritus, and 50 Year Class will proceed directly to the Convocation Center and be seated by **9:15 a.m.** The Emeritus and 50 Year Class will be seated on the floor behind the Senior Class.
2. The Platform Party will assemble at **9:10 a.m.** in the Green Room and be escorted to the platform by Faculty Marshals at **9:25 a.m.** Graduates will process into the Convocation arena following the Platform Party.
3. Deans, Flag Bearers, and graduates will **ENTER AND ASSEMBLE** at the below-designated staging areas of the Convocation Center at **8:45 a.m.** Graduates will march into the Convocation arena at 9:30 a.m.

ALL GRADUATES MAY USE ENTRANCES A, B, C, AND D. PLEASE REFER TO THE FOLLOWING LIST FOR THE AREA WHERE YOUR SCHOOL WILL ASSEMBLE IN THE CONVOCATION CENTER PRIOR TO THE PROCESSIONAL.

**** Please note that, in the list below, the letters under the "AREA TO ASSEMBLE" and "PROCESSIONAL ENTRANCE" columns refer to the letters above the outside entrances to the Convocation Center. Entrances A & B face Emancipation Drive. School/College signs will be posted in the "Area to Assemble"**

SCHOOL/COLLEGE	AREA TO ASSEMBLE	PROCESSIONAL ENTRANCE
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS	Lobby Area Between A & B	B
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING ARCHITECTURE & AVIATION	Band Room 2nd Floor	B
SCRIPPS HOWARD SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM & COMMUNICATIONS	Hallway Area Between B & C	B
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE	Hallway Area Between B & C	B
GRADUATE COLLEGE	Hallway Area Between B & C	B
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS AND EDUCATION	Lobby Area Between A & B	C
SCHOOL OF NURSING	Hallway Area Between C & D	C
SCHOOL OF PHARMACY	Hallway Area Between C & D	C
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE	Hallway Area Between A & D	C

