INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

COMMENCEMENT
MAY 8, 2021
8:00 P.M.
VON BRAUN CENTER
700 MONROE STREET, HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR GRADUATION DAY
2021 OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY GRADUATION SCHEDULE
MAY 5-8, 2021

GOOD LUCK AS YOU EMBARK ON YOUR NEW JOURNEY!
FROM THE OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY FAMILY

NOTE: DUE TO COVID-19, DATES, EVENTS, AND TIMES MAY CHANGE.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5
1:00 p.m. (Virtual)
Education Teacher Dedication Ceremony
Speaker: Kim Galter, M.Ed.

3:00 p.m. (Virtual)
Social Work Pinning Ceremony
Speaker: Dianna McFarland, MSW, LCSW–C, LICSW

5:00 p.m. (Virtual)
Nutrition and Dietetics Pinning Ceremony
Speaker: Ed Bitok, DrPH, MS, RD

THURSDAY, MAY 6
1:00 p.m.
Tree Planting/Senior Class (Unity Pond)

3:00 p.m. (Virtual)
Nurses Pinning Ceremony
Speaker: Frederick Richardson, RN

5:00 p.m. (Virtual)
Theology Dedication Ceremony
Speaker: Amanda Hawley, MA

7:00 p.m. (Virtual)
LEAP Senior Ceremony
Speaker: Dr. Monica Sudeall–Hawkins

FRIDAY, MAY 7
Consecration (Virtual)
8:00 p.m.
Speaker: Darnisha Thomas, M. Div.

MAY 8 - SATURDAY
9:00 a.m. (Virtual)
Sabbath School

10:00 a.m. (Virtual)
Baccalaureate
Speaker: Alex Bryant, D.Min.,
President of North American Division

8:00 p.m.
Commencement
Speaker: Attorney Bakari Sellers, JD, CNN Analyst
Von Braun Center, Propst Arena
The procession will begin prior to the start of the ceremony—Please be on time! The Marching Card indicates your number in line and there will be University staff to assist with the line-up. Your Marching Card is the key to receiving your diploma jacket. **NO CARD, NO MARCHING and NO DIPLOMA JACKET.**
GRADUATION ATTIRE

- Senior Regalia Dress/Order:
  - Robe
  - Kenta Shawl
  - Honor Cords
  - Medallions
  - Hoods – Degree color shows in front/School color fan out in the rear.
  - Cap/Motor board – Tassel should be worn on the right side just over the right temple area.
  - Dark Shoes

Your Academic Regalia is the appropriate attire for the occasion.
- This includes: a black academic gown, hood, and mortarboard with no personal accessories.
- Student members of approved academic honoraria for Commencement may wear their insignia or honor cord of that academic honorary. *Flowers, personal jewelry, pins or cords from social fraternities or sororities are not to be worn on academic robes.*
- Failure to adhere to these guidelines may result in students being removed from the Commencement line-up.
GRADUATION HONORS

**Summa Cum Laude**
Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.90

**Magna Cum Laude**
Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.75

**Cum Laude**
Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.50

**Honorable Mention**
Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25
### TASSEL COLORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Color</th>
<th>College</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Golden Yellow</td>
<td>Allied Health, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Mathematics &amp; Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drab</td>
<td>Business Information Systems &amp; Adult and Continuing Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crimson</td>
<td>Communication &amp; Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light Blue</td>
<td>Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>Art, English, History &amp; Political Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maroon</td>
<td>Family &amp; Consumer Science &amp; Dietetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>General Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sage Green</td>
<td>Health &amp; Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pink</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scarlet</td>
<td>Theology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Citron</td>
<td>Social Work</td>
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</tbody>
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✓ **Security Check** - Bags will be checked, please abide by guidelines from [Von Braun Security and Safety](#). All patrons entering the Von Braun Center during an event are subject to screening. Screenings may vary from event-to-event. Screenings range from visual inspection and bag search to screenings by a magnetometer (metal detector) and/or pat-down search conducted by security personnel. The purpose of the inspection is to detect prohibited items.

✓ **Wellness Check-in** – In the VBC lobby near East Hall 2 Entrance there will be one or two people running the wellness check ([Graduates will enter in East Hall 3 Entrance](#)). Temperature checks required using the non-contact face temperature kiosk. Face masks are required.
• **Line Up Order According to Schools** – Banners will be placed in designated areas, so please line up according to your school and the number on your card. *Guest graduates* will be at the end of the line behind the School of Nursing and Health Professions.
  1. School of Theology
  2. School of Arts & Sciences
  3. School of Education & Social Sciences
  4. School of Business
  5. School of Nursing & Health Professions

• The ceremony begins with the entry of the procession. You should stand as the procession music begins and remain standing until the Chancellor or their designated representative declares the congregation ‘to be seated’.
 RECEIVING YOUR OU DIPLOMA

1. When the presentation of awards begins, the OU sponsors will signal to one row of graduates at a time to file out from their seats. It is important that you remain in the correct order.

2. You will stand by rows, move to the left. **Do not forget your MARCHING CARD.**

3. Hand your card to the person announcing the names.

4. Proceed to the designated “feet” about 6 feet away from Dr. Pollard.

5. When your name is called, walk across the stage and shake hands with Dr. Pollard. the platform to the photo station

6. You can remove your mask for the Graduation Photo with LifeTouch

7. Place mask back on, go back to your chair and be seated
OU GRADUATION RULES & RESPECT

• All guests shall remain respectful and courteous to their fellow patrons and comply with requests from VBC staff regarding policies, emergency response procedures and behavior which impacts the event experience of fellow patrons. The Von Braun Center values the support of all guests and reserves the right to eject any guest for any reason, including not treating other guests attending the event with dignity and respect.

• Von Braun Civic Center mandates that FACE MASKS must be always worn

• Dress Appropriate (NOTE: The Von Braun Civic Center arena is very cold due to their hockey season. Dress accordingly)

• Your guests may take photographs or film during the ceremony, but only from their seats. Due to health and safety regulations, all aisles and gangways are to be always kept clear.

• Remind your family members that the following are prohibited by the VBC:
  • Any noise making devices (air horns are prohibited -causes pain to some guests)
  • Frisbees and/or beach balls; silly string or confetti
  • Backpacks/briefcases; bags/purses larger than 14” x 14” x 6”
  • Large umbrellas; Professional camera/camera bags; Suitcases
  • Selfie sticks, Laser pointers, GoPro cameras
  • Illegal drugs or alcohol; weapons;
  • Food & Drink purchased outside of the VBC; Coolers

• Von Braun Center Security AND Lost & Found: Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. till 5:00 p.m.; 700 Monroe Street, Huntsville, Alabama 35801; phone: 256.603.2811; fax: 256.551.2203; housesecurity@vonbrauncenter.com
OU RECESSIONAL

- The Grand Marshal will stand and pick up the mace
- The platform party will leave first
- The faculty will follow immediately behind the platform party
- The graduates will follow faculty
- Do not stop or try to turn around to go back inside. It is recommended that you go directly to meet your family at one of your vehicles in order to encourage proper distancing.
Remember don't be late! You will not be able to participate in the graduation ceremony if you arrive late to the Von Braun Civic Center.