

Important Spring 2024 Graduation Information – 5/1/2024

Congratulations! This is a Celebration of your Academic Success!

Ceremony Date and Times:

- **Location:**
 - Walter Sillers Coliseum
- **Ceremony Times:**
 - Friday, May 10th
 - Time: 10:00 am – Graduate candidates (all programs) and all undergraduate candidates in the College of Business and Aviation
 - Time: 2:00 pm – All undergraduate candidates in the College of Arts and Sciences, College of Education and Human Sciences, and the School of Nursing

Immediate Next Steps:

- **Commencement Participation Survey**
 - The commencement participation survey is now closed. If you failed to participate, you **can** still pick up your graduation tickets May 6-9th from the Registrar's office, or on May 10th from the Walter Sillers Coliseum.
- **Work with your Advisor**
 - Make sure you have been in communication with your advisor to make sure you will meet graduation requirements upon successful completion of your courses this semester. If course substitutions or degree modifications are going to be made on your behalf, they should be submitted by this time. If they haven't already been submitted follow up with your advisor to expedite the process.
- **Purchase of Regalia**
 - You must purchase regalia from the Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore (located in the Union). Students will keep their entire regalia package. **You will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony unless you are wearing regalia.**
 - **Regalia Distribution:**
 - **IF YOU CHOOSE IN-STORE PICK-UP:** Your regalia order will be ready for pick-up starting Monday, April 29, 2024, in the Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore.
 - **IF YOU CHOOSE SHIP-TO-HOME:** Your regalia order will be shipped to you during the week of April 15, 2024.
 - **IF YOU DID NOT ORDER BY MARCH 29, 2023, DEADLINE:** You will need to visit the Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore starting April 29, 2024, to purchase your regalia from a limited number of extras. A \$25 late fee will be assessed at that time.
 - **Questions/Concerns about regalia – Please contact the Jimmy R. Williams Bookstore by phone at 662-846-4640 or by email at SM8031@bncollege.com.**

Guest Ticket Pickup:

- **Pickup Times:** Please note, **candidates must pick up their guest tickets** and are required to show a **photo ID** at the window, at the time of pickup. The ticket limit for each student is 12 tickets. However, extra tickets may be available on Thursday, May 9.
 - **Monday, May 6th - Thursday, May 9th, 10:00 am-4:00 pm**, at the Registrar's office in Kent Wyatt Hall 152
 - If unable to pick up your tickets before the day of Commencement, they will be available for pickup at the Walter Sillers Coliseum during student check-in.
 - **Please only take the number of tickets you need for your guests.** If we have extra tickets remaining, these will be made available to candidates on **Thursday, May 9th at 10:00 am**. These will be given out one or two at a time on a first-come, first-served basis until all tickets have been distributed.
- Seating for Wheelchair and Easy Access Guests: Limited seating is available for guests in wheelchairs and guests who need easy-access seating. Easy-access seating is reserved for guests who have trouble navigating stairs. This seating will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Check-In and Line-Up:

- **To participate in the ceremony, candidates for graduation must arrive and check in at the Walter Sillers Coliseum by 9 am for the 10 am ceremony, or 1 pm for the 2 pm ceremony. If you are late, you may not be able to participate in the ceremony.**
- After picking up your seating card, you will line up in front of the Coliseum (look for the sign for your row). Candidates will march in the processional according to their assigned seating order.
- In the event of rain, candidates will be seated prior to the ceremony.

Professional Photographs:

- A professional photographer, provided through the DSU Alumni Association, will be available inside the Walter Sillers Coliseum. **Candidates can be photographed between 8-9 am or 12-1 pm before the ceremonies.**

The Ceremony:

- Dress Code:
 - Men: dark pants, shirt, tie, and dark dress shoes
 - Ladies: any color dress, or dark pants and dark dress shoes
 - Cords/Stoles/Medals are allowed for DSU academic honors and one stole and pins are allowed for official DSU organizations. **NO** homemade cords or stoles are permitted. There are no cords/stoles provided for Latin honors.

- Caps:
 - Please do not decorate your cap. If it is decorated with items that stand up on top of it or hang off from it, you will be asked to remove your cap and wear a temporary replacement. You cannot remove your tassel or alter it in any way.
 - Undergraduate candidates: Wear the tassel on the right. After the degree is conferred, move to the left.
 - Graduate candidates: Wear the tassel on the left. Do not move your tassel after the degree is conferred.
- Do not bring any personal items with you, except for an umbrella in case of rain.
- Use the restroom before getting in line.
- Commencement Program: Printed programs will be available for the candidates during the ceremony. The Program will be available electronically for all guests via a QR code. All candidates, including those not participating in the ceremony, will be included in the program unless their record is marked confidential.
- Conferring the Degree:
 - The Graduate students will graduate first followed by the Undergraduate students.
 - Graduate Students:
 - Doctoral and Master's candidates need to have their hood unbuttoned and draped over their right arm when approaching the stage
 - Ed Specialist Candidates wear their hoods during the entire ceremony
 - Undergraduate Students:
 - Honor diploma recipients, will be called first at the beginning of the Bachelor's degree conferral. Each of these candidates will all rise and walk towards the stage as called. Wait until you are told to walk across the stage to receive your diploma cover. Each one will walk across individually. You will not return to the stage to walk a second time with your degree group.
 - Candidates will all rise when Interim Provost Griffin announces their group should rise, but candidates should keep their eyes on the staff instructing them on the floor. They will give the motion to the first few rows to line up and will motion everyone else to sit until it is time for them to walk.
 - The DSU President will greet individual candidates after their names are called. Briefly pause for a photo during the handshake.
 - Candidates will cross the stage to the table and receive their diploma cover, proceed down the stairs on the right side of the stage, and return to their seats.
- Leaving the Ceremony:
 - At the close of the ceremony, the staff on the floor of the Coliseum will guide the recession of candidates.

Spring 2024 Commencement Guest Information

- Guests must have a valid ticket to enter the Coliseum.
- Guests who do not have a valid ticket can view the graduation via the live link listed below. The Commencement live stream can be viewed in real time for relatives and friends of graduates who are unable to attend and will also be available to watch at a later time.
 - Live Stream Link: <https://livestream.com/deltastateuniversity>

- Guests who need wheelchair-access or easy-access seating will have access to limited seating on the floor of the coliseum. Easy-access seating is reserved for guests who have trouble navigating stairs. Each guest that needs easy access seating will be allowed to have one companion sit with them. Upon entry to the lobby, let the ushers know if you need access to this seating.
- **There is limited handicap parking available in front of the Coliseum.** If you have difficulty finding handicap parking, please ask parking security for assistance.
- Families and guests are urged to arrive at the doors of the Coliseum at least 45 minutes in advance of the start of the ceremony. Please allow adequate time for parking, walking, and seating in the Coliseum.
- Be respectful. Please express your excitement in ways that will not prevent others from enjoying the ceremony or hearing names of graduates when announced. Please don't applaud, as the other graduates and their guests will not be able to hear their name being read.
- As we have limited time to seat everyone, please do not save seats for others who did not arrive at the same time.
- Adherence to the University's tobacco and alcohol policy is expected.
- Guests are expected to act in a civilized manner. If they cause a disruption before or during the ceremony, they will be warned the first time. If they continue the behavior, they will be escorted out of the building by security and will not be allowed to return to the ceremony.
- No children under the age of 6 will be allowed in the ceremony unless they are the child of the graduating student. All children must have their own ticket in order to enter the auditorium, regardless of their age.
- Cell phones are to be turned off or on silent.
- We ask that guests remain at their seats until the platform party, faculty and graduates have recessed.
- Delta State University is proud of our students' accomplishments and success. We appreciate your cooperation celebrating a major milestone in students' and their family's lives. We want everyone to share and enjoy a memorable and dignified commencement ceremony.