

SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AT NEW ORLEANS

GRADUATION FACT SHEET

SPRING 2024

The Commencement Ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024 at 4:00 pm, with the Processional beginning at 3:45 pm at the Lakefront Arena. Graduates only are to report at 2:30 pm to the Auxiliary Gym entrance, which is located on the North side (lake side) of the Arena.

Please note that balloons, large signs, and glass vases are not allowed into the Arena. Guests will be asked to leave them in their cars or check them in the Administration Office or at the Guests Services desk of the Arena to be picked up after the Ceremony.

CLEARANCE FOR GRADUATION

Candidates for Graduation are responsible for satisfactorily completing all general University, major department, academic, and financial requirements. Participation in the Commencement Ceremonies, the appearance of names in the printed Program, or receipt of this information will not be considered evidence of graduation.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Graduation is a joyous and special occasion. It is a time for celebration and merriment. However, please be reminded that Commencement is a formal University function. Therefore, you are requested to maintain the order and solemnity of the proceedings. It is a courtesy we owe each other and our guests. As such, please adhere to the following:

- The University strictly prohibits “Greek strolling” of any kind during the Commencement ceremony.

- Cell phones should be placed on silent mode.
- Graduates **must** remain for the entire ceremony as a sign of respect for all Graduates.

GRADUATION INVITATIONS

While invitations and/or admit tickets are not required for your guests to be admitted, complimentary Invitations are available in the Office of Student Affairs (University Center).

REHEARSAL

Rehearsal will be held on **Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 1:00 pm** in the University Gymnasium. ALL graduates are required to attend Rehearsal. Important information will be provided regarding arrival instructions, seating and parking as well as any last-minute updates pertaining to the Commencement ceremony.

ATTIRE

In order to participate in the Commencement Ceremonies, all graduates must wear the cap, gown, and hood prescribed by the University. Suitable attire includes:

Gentlemen

- Dress shirt and tie (preferably white collars)
- Dark Pants
- Dark Dress Boots or Shoes

Ladies*

- Dark dresses
- Dark shoes

*If you wear heels, you will have to walk throughout the ceremony at your own risk.

Attire that is **not** suitable: jeans, tennis shoes, work boots, flip flops, shorts.

The appropriate cap for graduates is the familiar black “mortarboard.” The mortarboard is worn straight on the head with the point of the cap in the center of the forehead. The tassel should hang to the left of the face for undergraduate and on the right for graduate students.

Decoration of the mortarboard is acceptable with exceptions. NO profanity, 3-D objects, dangling ribbons, and any sizable accessories that distract others and yourself from the ceremony.

SPECIAL NOTES

All Graduates are to adhere to the attire requirements for commencement. Graduates who do not comply with the proper attire, will **not** be allowed to participate in the Commencement ceremony.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Candid Campus Photography has been engaged to take your picture with the Chancellor as you walk across the stage. You may order your pictures directly from the photographer. Specific details will be provided directly to you from Candid Campus Photography. In addition, only SUNO Photographer and Candid Campus Photography are allowed on the floor.

CONGRATULATIONS and Thank you!

Dr. Brenda Jackson
Commencement Chair