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## WINTER 2023 COMMENCEMENT POLICIES

The following policies will be in place for Walden's winter 2023 commencement held at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort on January 19-21, 2023.

### Health & Safety

Walden's health and safety policies as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are forthcoming and will be communicated by **November 11, 2022**. If at that time you are not comfortable with the policy, you may cancel your registration for the opportunity for a full refund of your commencement fee. Registration must be cancelled by December 7, 2022 to receive a refund.

### Crossing the Stage

Graduates are asked to cross the stage in a respectful and professional manner, refraining from large outbursts, taking selfies, dancing or other actions that may disrupt the ceremony. Registered graduates are the only people permitted to cross the commencement stage. If you need an accommodation, please email [commencement@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:commencement@mail.waldenu.edu) or [disability@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:disability@mail.waldenu.edu) for assistance.

### The Commencement Program Book

#### Inclusion in the Book

Inclusion in the commencement program book is determined by the academic completion date and it is independent of commencement attendance – this is because commencement attendance is optional and degree conferral is the official and final mark of the completion of a student's academic requirements. Everyone must receive confirmation of their degree conferral to complete their program, but not all graduates are required to attend commencement.

Therefore, if your degree is conferred (or is set to be conferred) between May 4 and December 7, 2022 then your name will be included in the final book that is published electronically 6-8 weeks after commencement. That final book will be posted to the commencement website and distributed via email by the Alumni Association. To be excluded from the commencement program, please send an e-mail to [commencement@mail.waldenu.edu](mailto:commencement@mail.waldenu.edu) before December 7, 2022.

#### Printed Book versus Final Electronic Book

The commencement program book that will be distributed on site only contains information about Walden's history, university leadership, details about the academic ceremony, and additional information about the university's organizations and initiatives. This book does not include the names of graduates first eligible to participate in this commencement.

After commencement, a final, electronic version of the commencement program book will be published with the names of graduates from the winter class of 2022. The winter class of 2022 is composed of all graduates, regardless of their commencement attendance, who received confirmation of their degree conferral between May 4, 2022 and December 7, 2022.



### Regalia

Graduates are required to wear regalia (a cap and gown) to walk in the ceremony. Walden does not provide gowns to keep or rental gowns. Graduates can [purchase regalia through Herff Jones](#) to be shipped to their home prior to the ceremony. The deadline to purchase regalia to have it in time for the ceremony is December 7, 2022.

*Note: Most graduates should purchase keepsake regalia. Doctoral graduates have the opportunity to purchase fine quality gowns depending upon their needs. More information about the regalia and their differences are explained [in this video](#).*

### Cancellations and Fees

The \$300 commencement fee is non-transferable. Graduates must successfully pay the fee and complete their commencement registration, marked by receipt of a confirmation email, in order to be included in the event. After December 7, 2022, no refunds will be issued if you cancel your registration or you do not attend your ceremony (no-show). Cancellations because of COVID-19, other illness or emergencies will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Graduates who cancel their registration are also responsible for the cancellation of their own airfare, hotel, regalia, etc.

### Photo Release Statement

Walden University may film or photograph commencement and its associated activities for marketing and publicity purposes. By participating in these events, graduates along with their guests, may be photographed or filmed. These images and/or video footage belong to Walden University and graduates are not entitled to compensation or fees for use of their image or likeness. If you have questions or concerns about this, please [email us](#) by December 7, 2022.

### Guest Tickets

Each graduate is allotted a maximum of four guest tickets in addition to their graduate ticket (the GradPass). A ticket denotes a seat and is needed for anyone over the age of 3. We are unable to provide more tickets or make exceptions due to safety and space restrictions.

Guest Tickets and GradPasses will be distributed electronically through MarchingOrder two weeks prior to commencement. Information and instructions on how to access MarchingOrder will be communicated to registered graduates no later than December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Walden does not approve or sanction the sale or exchange of tickets between graduates and guests.





### Commencement Name Reading

All registered graduates will have their names called as they cross the stage during their ceremony. Registered graduates will be provided instructions on how to access MarchingOrder to confirm their name to appear on screen and the phonetic pronunciation of their name by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Academic titles will only be read alongside a name if it corresponds to the degree for which the graduate is being recognized with the respective degree program. For example, if John Smith is being recognized for his master's degree during this ceremony, but holds a separate doctoral degree, his doctoral title will not be read. If he is being recognized for his doctoral degree, his doctoral title will be read.

Honors, accolades, and honor society information (e.g., Magna Cum Laude or National Society of Leadership and Success) will not be read during the individual recognition for each graduate.

### Ceremony Etiquette

Commencement is a special and memorable experience for graduates to celebrate their achievements with their families. To facilitate an enjoyable ceremony, we ask that all attendees participate in a positive and respectful manner. To that end, please:

- Remain in your designated seat for the duration of the ceremony.
- Place all cellphones and other devices on silent.
- Avoid extended cheering so all graduates' names can be heard as they cross the stage.
- Request that guests remain seated during the recessional until all graduates and faculty members have exited.
- Respect commencement speakers, event staff, faculty, fellow graduates, and their guests.
- Additional health and safety protocols, which will be communicated to registered graduates, may be instituted on site to ensure a safe and successful ceremony.

### Prohibited Items

To facilitate an enjoyable ceremony, noisemakers, balloons, confetti, oversized signs or banners, alcohol and weapons are not permitted in the exhibit hall where the ceremonies will be held.

### Embedded Degrees

Graduates who have earned an embedded graduate credential within their higher-level degree are only eligible to participate in commencement for their higher-level degree. Embedded graduate credentials will not be recognized during the commencement ceremony.





### Latin Honors

Walden awards Latin honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude) and the Presidential Commendation for Academic Achievement (cumulative GPA of 4.0) at the bachelor's level only. Latin honors cords and presidential medals will be mailed to all registered graduates who are eligible to receive Latin honors or a presidential medal.

### Honor Societies

Graduates are responsible for identifying and contacting their respective honor societies for any event information, honor cords/commencement attire, or membership status. The commencement team is not responsible for any communications regarding activities outside of the commencement ceremony and Walden-hosted graduate events.

### Graduating Students

Graduating students are invited to register for commencement if their degree conferral is anticipated on or before the conferral deadline of December 7, 2022. If a graduating student does not receive their conferral confirmation by the deadline, the graduation team will evaluate the students' eligibility and determine if the student can participate as a special consideration or if they will be removed from the event.

### Special Consideration Registrants

Special consideration registrants will be subject to the following:

- Only the names of graduates who have received confirmation of their degree conferral between May 4, 2022 and December 7 2022, will appear in the online commencement program.
- Special consideration registrants will not be eligible to receive honors cords or medallions.

### Late Registrants

Late registrants will be subject to the following:

- Only the names of graduates who have received confirmation of their degree conferral between May 4, 2022 and December 7 2022, will appear in the online commencement program.
- Late registrants will not receive honors cords if they are eligible.
- Discounted room rates, regalia, and other resources may not be available for graduates who are approved for a late registration.

