

Commencement FAQs December 2025

General Questions

Q: When is the graduation ceremony?

A: The commencement ceremony will be held on December 12th, 2025 at 6p in Sadoff Gymnasium, Marian University Fond du Lac Campus. Please arrive one hour early for check-in and line-up.

Q: How long does the ceremony last?

A: Most ceremonies run 1.5–2 hours depending on the number of graduates and program elements.

Q: Do I have to attend to graduate?

A: No. Participation is optional. However, you must submit the Application for Graduation and complete all degree requirements to receive your diploma.

Q: Will there be a livestream?

A: Yes, the ceremony will be livestreamed for family and friends who can't attend. A link will be shared closer to the event date.

Applying for Graduation

Q: How do I apply for graduation?

A: Submit the online application in MyMarian by October 1 (FALL). You'll receive a confirmation email when it's processed.

Q: What if I miss the application deadline?

A: Late applications may delay degree conferral and your name may not appear in the printed program. Contact the Registrar's Office.

Q: How do I confirm I'm eligible to graduate?

A: Meet with your advisor. All degree requirements and financial obligations must be satisfied prior to conferral.

Regalia & Attire

Q: Where do I order my cap and gown?

A: Orders should be placed online at <https://collegegrad.herffjones.com/>. You can purchase cap and tassel, gown, hoods, class rings, graduation announcements, and more. You will have a home delivery option (at a fee) or delivery to campus.

Q: Can I decorate my cap?

A: Yes, modest and appropriate decorations are permitted. Please avoid any offensive language or imagery

Q: What color regalia should I wear?

A: All gowns are Black.

What color are the Master's and Doctoral hoods?

The velvet on the Master's and Doctoral hoods designates the program of study and are as follows:

Nursing (apricot)

Education (light blue)

Master of Science (gold)

Master of Health Care Administration (sage green)

Ph.D. (dark blue)

Guests & Tickets

Q: How many guest tickets do I get?

A: Each graduate receives 6 tickets. A request form for additional tickets if capacity allows.

Q: Do children need tickets?

A: Every seated guest needs a ticket. Infants who remain on a lap do need a ticket.

Q: Is there reserved seating?

A: First come, first serve basis. General admission seating opens 1 hour before the ceremony. Please arrive early to be seated together.

Honors & Recognition

Q: How are honors determined?

A: Latin honors (cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude) are based on cumulative GPA and listed in the program if earned by the print deadline.

Q: Will I receive honor cords or stoles?

A: Honors cords for academic honors are ordered by Marian University and distributed by the Office of the Registrar at check-in for the Commencement ceremony to students who have earned them. Cords for the various honor societies are distributed by the honor society advisors.

Q: How do I wear cords and stoles?

A: Drape cords evenly around the neck over the gown. Stoles lay flat over the shoulders.

Diplomas

Q: When will I receive my diploma?

A: Diplomas are mailed 6–8 weeks after the ceremony once degree audits are complete.

Q: What name appears on the diploma?

A: Your legal name on file will print unless a change request is submitted to the registrar's office

Day-of Details

Q: Where do graduates line up?

A: **All graduates will meet in the Sadoff Auditorium no later than 5:20 p.m.** Please check in at the station in the Michels Atrium of the Stayer Center. Signs will be posted within the auditorium designating areas for each degree type. The number on the name card you receive at check-in will also direct you to your correct location.

Q: Is there professional photography?

A: Yes. A photographer will capture each graduate crossing the stage. Proofs will be emailed within 5-7 days.

Miscellaneous

Q: What if I have an outstanding balance?

A: Balances must be cleared before diplomas and transcripts are released. Contact obf@marianuniversity.edu.

For additional questions, please contact specialevents@marianuniversity.edu.