

Virginia Commonwealth University
May and December Commencement ceremonies
Change in assembly, procession, seating and recognition of graduate students

In an effort to simplify the assembly, procession, seating and recognition of graduate students, the Graduate School has outlined the following changes for upcoming universitywide Commencement ceremonies, starting December 2016:

- All master's degree, post-master's certificate and post-baccalaureate graduate certificate candidates from all disciplines will assemble, process and sit together at the universitywide commencement ceremonies. Therefore, these candidates will not assemble, process or sit with professional or bachelor's degree candidates from other schools or colleges. These candidates will be presented to the president of the university by the dean of the Graduate School.
- This change will decrease the number of faculty marshals needed from each school. Please review the information chart on Page 2.
- All master's degree and post-baccalaureate certificate candidates will process after the Ph.D. and Ed.D. candidates. A faculty marshal from the Graduate School or a designee will lead these candidates in the processional.
- Ph.D. candidates will continue to be presented to the president by the dean of the Graduate School.
- Starting December 2016, Ed.D. candidates will be presented to the president by the dean of the School of Education.
- Any school without professional or bachelor's degree candidates participating in the ceremony will not be represented by a faculty marshal or banner in the ceremony.
 - This may affect the representation of the Schools of Dentistry, Medicine and Pharmacy at the winter ceremonies as these schools typically do not have professional or bachelor's degree candidates participating in December. Likewise, the respective deans of these schools will not present any candidates to the president. These schools will have full representation at the May Commencement ceremonies. The information chart on Page 2 provides additional details.
 - Please note: If professional or bachelor's degree candidates from Dentistry, Medicine or Pharmacy plan to participate in the December Commencement ceremony, this guideline will not apply and the school with participating candidates will receive full representation at the winter ceremony.
- The order of the conferring of degrees for graduate students will change to the following:
 - For December ceremonies:
 - Doctor of Philosophy candidates – Dean, Graduate School
 - Doctor of Education candidates – Dean, School of Education
 - Graduate School (all master's degree candidates) – Dean, Graduate School
 - School of Allied Health Professions (professional degree candidates only) – Dean, School of Allied Health Professions
 - For May ceremonies:
 - Doctor of Philosophy candidates – Dean, Graduate School
 - Doctor of Education candidates – Dean, School of Education
 - Graduate School (all master's degree candidates) – Dean, Graduate School
 - School of Allied Health Professions (professional degree candidates only) – Dean, School of Allied Health Professions
 - School of Dentistry (professional degree candidates only) – Dean, School of Dentistry
 - School of Medicine (professional degree candidates only) – Dean, School of Medicine
 - School of Pharmacy (professional degree candidates only) – Dean, School of Pharmacy

Faculty Marshal and Banner Representation

The following chart details the number of faculty marshals and use of banner for each school after the new guideline.

School/College	No. of Faculty Marshals Needed	Banner
College of Humanities and Sciences	One to two marshals for bachelor's degree, baccalaureate certificate and post-baccalaureate undergraduate certificate candidates	Yes
School of Allied Health Professions	One marshal for professional and bachelor's degree candidates	Yes
School of the Arts	One marshal for bachelor's degree and baccalaureate certificate candidates	Yes
School of Business	One marshal for bachelor's degree, baccalaureate certificate and post-baccalaureate undergraduate certificate candidates	Yes
School of Dentistry	One marshal for professional and bachelor's degree candidates (May only)*	Yes (May only)*
School of Education	One marshal for doctoral degree candidates	Yes
School of Engineering	One marshal for bachelor's degree, baccalaureate certificate and post-baccalaureate undergraduate certificate candidates	Yes
L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs	One marshal for bachelor's degree and baccalaureate certificate candidates	Yes
School of Medicine	One marshal for professional degree candidates (May only)*	Yes (May only)*
School of Nursing	One marshal for bachelor's degree candidates	Yes
School of Pharmacy	One marshal for professional degree candidates (May only)*	Yes (May only)*
School of Social Work	One marshal for bachelor's degree candidates	Yes
University College	One marshal for bachelor's degree and baccalaureate certificate candidates	Yes
VCU Life Sciences	One marshal for bachelor's degree candidates	Yes
Graduate School	Two marshals for doctoral degree candidates and one marshal for all master's degree, post-master's certificate and post-baccalaureate graduate certificate candidates	Yes

*If professional or bachelor's degree candidates from Dentistry, Medicine or Pharmacy plan to participate in the December Commencement ceremony, this guideline will not apply and the school with participating candidates will receive full representation at the winter ceremony.