

March 1, 2018

Dear Families of the Class of 2018:

Commencement, a significant event for you and your student, is quickly approaching. I would like to share with you information on the Convocation and Commencement exercises for the Class of 2018.

Convocation will take place on Friday, May 11, 2018. Convocation is the final assembling of the graduating class prior to the conferral of degrees at Commencement on Saturday. Members of the senior class plan the program for Convocation, including the selection of a faculty member who offers closing thoughts to the class.

Saturday, May 12, 2018 is Commencement for St. Mary's College of Maryland. Commencement is our collective recognition and celebration of your student's hard work and accomplishments. Out of respect for the significance of the occasion and to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all, the St. Mary's College of Maryland Commencement ceremony is an alcohol-free activity.

Beginning with this year's graduating class, the College will be mailing diplomas rather than handing them out at Commencement. This is a strategy that many college and universities use in order to ensure that diplomas are as accurate as possible; having more time to include late applications to graduate, to make changes to Latin honors, or to remove or add a second major will minimize mistakes that sometimes occur during the short turn-around time between finals and graduation.

A Commencement information sheet is enclosed. We encourage you to participate at the events on Friday and Saturday with your graduating senior. The information included in this letter is provided to assist with your plans to celebrate this important time. This information has also been provided to your senior.

The 2018 Senior Week activities orders are purchased online. The schedule has been planned by the Senior Class officers and designed to celebrate the closing of your student's undergraduate life the week preceding Commencement. Many of the Senior Week activities require prepaid tickets. Some families may wish to purchase tickets for their graduate as part of their graduation gift. Please discuss this with your student to avoid duplication of tickets, as this information has also been sent to them. Families must make their ticket orders online but seniors wanting to order tickets paying with cash or check must come to the Office of Student Activities in person to do so. Be sure that tickets are purchased by the Friday, May 4, 2018 deadline.

Friday, May 11

5:00 p.m.

A family dinner will be held in the Great Room/Campus Center patio). **Tickets can be ordered by clicking [here](#).**

8:30 p.m.

Senior convocation will be held under the tent on Townhouse Green. This is a free event and no tickets are required.

Saturday, May 12

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Breakfast in honor of the Class of 2018 will take place in the Great Room in the Campus Center. **Tickets can be ordered [here](#).** Seniors should arrive in their caps and gowns.

9:15 a.m.

Seniors gather at the recreation courts in the Michael P. O'Brien Athletic and Recreation Center for a class photo and are urged to be on time. This is a good time for family and friends to secure their seats at the Commencement site on Townhouse Green. (The Commencement site will open at 8:30 a.m.) The rest rooms will be located in the parking lot adjacent to Daugherty-Palmer Commons. A water station will be placed outside of Daugherty-Palmer Commons.

10:00 a.m.

Commencement begins on the Townhouse Green. (The Commencement site will open at 8:30 a.m.) Seating is open, and although the area will be tented, some seating is in an area in full sun. Guests should be prepared with hats, sunscreen, and other protective measures. Please bring rain gear if the weather is threatening. No seats may be held for guests without someone being physically present to hold them (no signs, jackets etc.). All items of this nature will be removed by the event staff prior to the start of the event.

Classic Photography will take individual photographs of each graduate as he or she receives a diploma. A proof will be mailed by the vendor to the individual student at the permanent address on file with the College with an option to buy additional photos. The proof is free. An 8 x 10" copy of the class photo will also be mailed to each graduate as a gift from the vendor. To assist Commencement officials and to make the ceremony more pleasant for everyone, we ask that persons taking personal photographs be courteous of others and remain behind barriers. There is no designated area for personal photography.

Please refer to the attached Commencement Information sheet for details about parking during Commencement weekend and special needs. If you have specific questions on these issues, please contact the Events & Conferences Office at 240-895-4310. If you would like this packet sent to an additional address, or have questions about Senior Week, please contact Amber Robey, office associate for Student Activities, at 240-895-4209.

The faculty, staff, and administrators of St. Mary's College look forward to sharing this special day with the Class of 2018 graduates, their families, and friends.

Sincerely,

Leonard E. Brown
Vice President for Student Affairs
and Dean of Students