Dear Webster University Class of 2020 and 2021 Graduates:

CONGRATULATIONS! We hope that you are as excited as we are about the statewide graduation ceremony for Webster University Florida. We are busy making arrangements so the event will be memorable for you, your family and your friends. This letter will advise you of some important details. If you have questions, or if we can be of any assistance, please contact Student Services at (727) 570-9300 or email kimberlyocasio64@webster.edu.

1. Graduation will be held on **Saturday, August 21, 2021**, at the Linda W. Chapin Theater, Orange County Convention Center, West Concourse Building, 9800 International Drive Orlando, FL 32819. The fee for parking is $10.00 per car per entry and $15.00 for oversized vehicles. Please note that guests with limited mobility should enter the Linda Chapin Theater through the International drive side of the building, so that they can avoid making the long walk from the parking lot to the theater. Doors to the amphitheater will open at approximately 9:45 AM, at which point guests can enter and find seats. The ceremony will commence at 11:00 AM sharp and will last until approximately 1:00 PM. Any guests arriving after 11:00 AM will be seated in the balcony. In order to have an accurate count of students and guests, complete your RSVP within the Webster University St. Petersburg’s Commencement webpage. PLEASE BE SURE TO RSVP BY THURSDAY, JULY 8, 2021.

2. Graduation regalia (caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels) are available for purchase exclusively through Jostens: [http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1035657/Webster-University/].

3. **The last day for ordering graduation regalia is FRIDAY, JULY 9, 2021.** There will be no representatives on campus; all ordering is handled exclusively online through the Jostens website. Shipping time is usually around 5 weeks. If you miss the online ordering deadline, you may call Jostens at 1-800-854-7464 and place your order by phone. Please note, this option will also incur an additional fee of $20.00. Do not leave this for the last minute! Students walking in the ceremony must wear appropriate regalia. For additional details, visit Webster St. Petersburg’s Commencement page at: [https://webster.edu/locations/st-petersburg/index.php](https://webster.edu/locations/st-petersburg/index.php).

4. **GRADUATION DAY - YOU MUST ARRIVE by 9:30 AM with your cap, gown, and hood.** (Please take your gowns out of the package before the day of the ceremony) Arrangements have been made for a changing area with bathrooms. We will have people ready to help you with your hoods, should you have any problems with it! At exactly 10:00, group pictures will be taken by campus. At exactly 10:45 AM, all graduates will line up by campus and prepare to march into the auditorium to be seated together in reserved seating. The ceremonial procession will begin PROMPTLY at 11:00 AM. Late arrivals will be seated behind all other students and may not be able to cross the stage with their campus. PLEASE LEAVE ALL VALUABLES, INCLUDING PURSES, WITH A GUEST! ALSO NOTE: BALLOONS ARE NOT ALLOWED INSIDE THE AUDITORIUM!

5. The Ceremony: The Presentation of Degrees will follow the commencement address and awards ceremonies. A professional photographer will be present and photos of the ceremony can be ordered.
Please ask your guests to refrain from taking photos during the ceremony. The graduates will approach the stage one campus at a time. When it is your turn, you will hand your information card (distributed during sign-in), which lists your name and degree, to the announcer. You will then proceed onto the stage where another stage official will hand a Congratulatory Letter to you pausing for the photographer. Continue across the stage with the other remaining stage officials and return to your seat.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the recessional will leave the auditorium in the same order in which it entered: stage party, faculty and graduates.

Once all graduates have left the area, they may be joined by family members and guests for pictures, etc. We request that all pictures be taken with family and friends BEFORE AND AFTER the ceremony.

6. A student who completes a graduate degree (including all required, elective, and transfer courses) while maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.950, receives Graduate Academic Honors. Accelerated sequential degrees are excluded from this designation. If you believe you qualify for honors, please inform your advisor so they may verify. You will receive a special honors cord at the ceremony.

Please Note: Your actual diploma will be mailed to you by the Registrar’s Office approximately 8 – 10 weeks after you have completed all the requirements for your degree and have a $0.00 balance with the Business Office.

We are all so proud of you and we hope that this is a special day for you and your family as you complete this journey and receive your well-earned master’s degree! Thank you for being a Webster University graduate student. Be sure to join the alumni association and stay connected – we want to hear about how you changed the world.