To Our Distinguished Graduates

Dear Members of the Class 2018,

You have worked hard, sacrificed much, learned a great deal, and are now ready to move into the next phase of your life and career. Commencement is an opportunity to celebrate your academic success with family and friends.

To highlight this special moment in your life, Mercer University has worked diligently to plan a ceremony befitting the more than 1,100 students who will graduate on May 12.

This handbook is designed to help you, your family and friends to prepare for this special and eventful day, providing all the information you need to make your graduation uncomplicated and memorable.

The Commencement ceremony will be held outdoors on the upper field of the Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus and will include graduates from Atlanta and the Atlanta Area Regional Academic Centers. Including the graduates, their family and friends, and Mercer faculty and staff, we expect 8,000 to 9,000 people to attend the ceremony.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement! We look forward to seeing you on May 12.

Sincerely,

William D. Underwood
President
2018 Commencement Schedule

PREPARATION DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to Order Caps, Gowns and Hoods</td>
<td>Friday, March 16</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Order at herffjones.com/college/mercer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deadline to Request a Mobility Impaired Parking Pass</td>
<td>Friday, April 20</td>
<td>12 p.m.</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>One pass may be requested by filling out the online form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Correct Mailing Address Updates</td>
<td>Friday, May 4</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Registrar’s Office</td>
<td>Official diplomas will be mailed to graduate’s address on file.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caps and Gowns Should be Picked Up</td>
<td>Monday, April 23</td>
<td>See Note</td>
<td>Atlanta Bookstore</td>
<td>Hours: Mon. – Thurs., 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Fri., 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRE-COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy Pinning Ceremony</td>
<td>Monday, May 7</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Sheffield Center</td>
<td>Reception following on the Quad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tift College of Education Hooding Ceremony</td>
<td>Thursday, May 10</td>
<td>4 p.m.</td>
<td>Day Hall</td>
<td>Reception following in Davis Lobby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Penfield College Ph.D. Hooding Ceremony</td>
<td>Thursday, May 10</td>
<td>6 p.m.</td>
<td>Atlanta Administration and Conference Center Auditorium</td>
<td>Reception following on 2nd Floor Atrium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Business Honors Ceremony</td>
<td>Thursday, May 10</td>
<td>6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Trustees Dining Room</td>
<td>Reception following</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Nursing Hooding and Pinning Ceremony</td>
<td>Friday, May 11</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Second-Ponce de Leon Baptist Church</td>
<td>Reception following</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Health Professions Hooding Ceremony</td>
<td>Friday, May 11</td>
<td>10 a.m.</td>
<td>Sheffield Center</td>
<td>Reception following on the Quad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Pharmacy Hooding Ceremony</td>
<td>Friday, May 11</td>
<td>2 p.m.</td>
<td>Sheffield Center</td>
<td>Reception following on the Quad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Theology Commissioning Service</td>
<td>Friday, May 11</td>
<td>8 p.m.</td>
<td>Smoke Rise Baptist Church</td>
<td>Reception at 6:30 p.m. (by invitation only)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMENCEMENT – SATURDAY, MAY 12, 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Reserved Parking Areas Open</td>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
<td>For locations, see Campus and Parking Map on page 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guest Parking Areas Open and Shuttle Service Begins</td>
<td>6:30 a.m.</td>
<td>For locations, see Campus and Parking Map on page 10.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduates Report to Sheffield Center</td>
<td>7:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration and Preparation at Sheffield Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduation Procession to the Event Area Begins</td>
<td>8 a.m.</td>
<td>Processional begins at Sheffield and proceeds to the event area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commencement Ceremony Begins</td>
<td>8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Graduates are seated and the Commencement ceremony begins.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approximate Time of Ceremony Conclusion</td>
<td>11 a.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuttle Service Ends</td>
<td>1 p.m.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GREETINGS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Dr. Spencer Bidwell King, III serves as the president of the Heart and Vascular Institute at Saint Joseph’s Health System Inc. Dr. King serves as editor-in-chief of JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions and an editorial consultant for the New England Journal of Medicine. He also serves as academic adviser of Celera Corporation, and has been a clinical investigator for many innovative medical devices. Dr. King serves as an executive director of academic affairs for Saint Joseph’s Health System and as president of the Saint Joseph’s Heart and Vascular Institute in Atlanta. He has served as the Fuqua Chair of Interventional Cardiology at the Fuqua Heart Center in Atlanta since July 2000. From 1986 to July 2000, he served as director of the Andreas Gruentzig Cardiovascular Center at Emory University, where he was hired as a physician in January 1972. He served as president of the American College of Cardiology from 1998 to 1999 and president of the Society for Cardiac Angiography and Interventions from 1990 to 1991. He has developed several devices used in interventional cardiology, and he has served as chairman of the American Board of Internal Medicine sub-board in interventional cardiology. Dr. King serves on the editorial boards of several professional journals, including Circulation, and is associate editor of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology. He has published more than 400 articles, directed numerous symposia and authored six books. Dr. King earned his B.A. from Mercer in 1959. He is an emeritus professor of medicine at Emory University and current chairman of the Mercer University Board of Trustees, having served on the board for five additional terms since 1975. He is also a former president of the Mercer University President’s Club and is a recipient of the Mercer Distinguished Alumnus Award.

CONFIRM MAILING ADDRESS
If you have had a change in your home or mailing address since registration with the University, it is important to notify the Registrar’s Office (Atlanta) immediately to assure graduation correspondence and documents are sent to your correct address. To confirm your correct mailing address, please contact the Registrar’s Office at (678) 547-6136 or jordan_e@mercer.edu.

REQUIREMENTS FOR GRADUATION
Please read carefully the following concerning degree requirements and eligibility to participate in the graduation ceremony. (Receipt of this Commencement handbook does not certify the completion of degree requirements, nor does it confirm eligibility to march in the graduation exercises.)

• A degree will be awarded only to students who have satisfied all requirements of the University and the school/college certifying the degree.

• All obligations to the University must be satisfied prior to the issuing of diplomas. This includes the returning of library books and other University property to the appropriate offices and payment in full of outstanding indebtedness (tuition balances, parking fines, library fines, etc.).

• Honors printed in the program are based on grades earned through the 2017 fall semester. Refer to the Mercer Catalog for information on the calculation of University honors. Mercer will provide cords to indicate specific undergraduate Latin honors.

CAPS, GOWNS AND HOODS
As previously notified, all graduating students must wear academic regalia in the ceremony. You should have ordered and purchased your regalia by March 16, 2018. It is important that caps, gowns and hoods be uniform in appearance. It will not be possible to “borrow” regalia from previous graduates as it will not match. You may pick up your ordered regalia from the Mercer Atlanta Bookstore beginning April 23. Be sure to try on and press your regalia before the ceremony.

Mercer Atlanta Bookstore
Monday - Thursday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
(678) 547-6350

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS
GradImages, a professional photographer, will photograph each graduate as they receive their diploma. A photograph of the occasion will be available should you choose this option. Visit GradImages at www.gradimages.com. (Mercer University is not involved in this process.) Commencement event photos by the University photographer, can be viewed and purchased at http://bit.ly/18AtlCom.

It is important to notify the Registrar’s Office immediately if you have had a change in your home or mailing address since registration with the University.

COMMENCEMENT PREPARATION
**RECOMMENDED ATTIRE**

In general, dress for comfort and the weather. Men should wear dark slacks, dark shoes, and a shirt with a white collar. Women should wear comfortable dark dress shoes (high heels are not a good idea; flats are best for walking on the stairs and lawns) with a dress or skirt that does not show below the gown, or dark slacks and a blouse. Layered clothing is a good strategy. Sunglasses could prove useful, but please remove them for your photograph and before walking across the stage to receive your diploma.

**COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE**

Commencement is a special event for both the graduates and their guests. During this time, Mercer requests that all participants and guests respect the importance of this occasion with the proper decorum.

In order to maintain propriety of this event, it is important that all cell phones are turned off or on “silent” during the entire ceremony, including the processional.

**ASSEMBLY OF GRADUATES**

Graduates must arrive at Sheffield Center by 7 a.m. for registration, line-up and instructions for the ceremony. Graduates will begin the processional walk from Sheffield to the event area at 8 a.m. There is no formal rehearsal for the Commencement ceremony, so being on time at 7 a.m. for line-up and instructions is crucial. Please do not plan to leave valuables in Sheffield. You may wish to arrange for family or friends to take care of them for you.

**DIPLOMAS**

At the Commencement ceremony, only diploma covers will be handed to graduates as they cross the stage during the ceremony. Actual diplomas will be mailed to your permanent address of record after the final graduation degree requirements have been completed and certified. If your address of record is no longer correct, email changes to the Registrar’s Office (Atlanta) at jordan_sz@mercer.edu.

**GUEST PHOTOGRAPHY**

To avoid blocking the view of other seated guests during the ceremony, there will be a roped-off area (on the left side of the stage, facing the platform) for families and friends to photograph graduates after they receive their diplomas.

Space is limited within the roped-off photography area. Guests taking photographs should go to the roped-off area only when your school or college is announced and return to the seating area immediately after you have moved past.

**SEVERE WEATHER**

In the event of intense rain or other severe weather, Commencement may be delayed or canceled. If the weather is uncertain, you may check the status by calling the University Hotline at (678) 547-6111 after 5 a.m. on the morning of Commencement. The Hotline will have regular updates to announce any delays or cancellations due to weather alerts. The University will also post updates to the Commencement schedule via its official Facebook and Twitter (@MercerYou) accounts.

You may also check the Mercer website at www.mercer.edu, or sign up for direct text alerts sent to your mobile phone by registering for text alerts at it.mercer.edu/student and look for “Emergency Alert Registration” under “Most Popular Topics.” Sign up in plenty of time prior to the event, because new registrations are not active until after 48 hours.

The ceremony begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. It is crucial for graduates to be at Sheffield Center at 7 a.m. for preparations.
TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

From I-85 North: If traveling north on I-85 from downtown Atlanta, take Exit 94 (Chamblee-Tucker Road) and turn right. Then turn right on Mercer University Drive toward the campus.

Graduates with an Orange Parking Pass should continue straight on Mercer University Drive and will be directed into the Graduate Reserved Parking areas. (See map on page 10.)

From I-85 South: If traveling south on I-85 from outside the perimeter, take Exit 94 (Chamblee-Tucker Road) and turn left. Then turn right on Mercer University Drive toward the campus.

Graduates with an Orange Parking Pass should continue straight on Mercer University Drive and will be directed into the Graduate Reserved Parking areas. (See map on page 10.)

From I-285: If traveling on I-285 east or west, take Exit 33 to I-85 south toward Atlanta, inside the perimeter. Take the first exit, Exit 94, to Chamblee-Tucker Road, and turn left. Then turn right on Mercer University Drive. Graduates with an Orange Parking Pass should continue straight on Mercer University Drive and will be directed into the Graduate Reserved Parking areas. (See map on page 10.)

LOCAL ACCOMMODATIONS

Some local accommodations are listed for your information. Contact the hotels for details.

- Double Tree
  Atlanta at North Druid Hills
  (404) 321-4174

- Crown Plaza Atlanta
  Perimeter-Ravinia
  (877) 270-1393 or
  (770) 395-7700

- Hampton Inn
  Northlake
  (770) 493-1966

- Sheraton
  Atlanta Perimeter North
  (404) 364-3000

- Marriott Courtyard
  Executive Park
  (404) 728-0708

- Marriott Courtyard
  Northlake
  (770) 938-1200

- Marriott Courtyard
  Perimeter Center
  (770) 393-1000

PARKING FOR GRADUATES

Parking for Commencement will include spaces on the Atlanta Campus, as well as overflow in the University Office Park. Special parking passes are required for graduates to park on campus. You can pick up your parking pass from the bookstore when you pick up your academic regalia beginning April 23.

All graduates can have an Orange Parking Pass. You should enter through the Mercer University Drive entrance where you will be directed to Reserved Parking. Before arriving on campus the morning of the ceremony, please place your parking pass on the left side of your car dashboard so that it will be clearly visible to police officers directing traffic. Without this parking pass you will not be admitted to the Reserved Parking areas; however, you may park in the designated Guest Parking areas. (Note: Guests may arrive in the same vehicle as a graduate with a parking pass and park in the space reserved for graduates.) (See map on page 10.)

PARKING OR ACCOMMODATIONS FOR MOBILITY IMPAIRED GUESTS

For guests with mobility impairment, there will be a reserved parking area in the campus East lot adjacent to the Commencement event area. To enter this lot, guests MUST HAVE a Mobility Impaired Parking Pass distributed by Mercer University.

Only one Mobility Impaired Parking Pass will be issued per graduate. To provide ample time for delivery, requests for a Mobility Impaired Parking Pass must be made no later than April 20, 2018. To request this parking pass, you must fill out an online form at commencement.mercer.edu/atlanta. It can be found under Parking or Accommodations for Guest with Disabilities. The parking pass and driving instructions will be mailed directly to the address of the graduate’s mobility impaired guest.

Along with reserved parking, Mercer offers a special area for seating mobility impaired guests. Space in this section is very limited and always reaches capacity, so tickets are required to enter this area. For individuals accompanying a mobility impaired guest, there are only two (2) “sit with” tickets available for each graduate. No exceptions to this number of tickets can be made. These tickets may be ordered on the same form requesting a Mobility Impaired Parking Pass noted above.

For guests needing accommodations unrelated to mobility, please contact Hannah Lawrence at (678) 547-6824 or lawrence_hw@mercer.edu no later than April 27, 2018. In all situations, a good faith effort will be made to provide appropriate accommodations upon request.

All graduates can have an Orange Parking Pass that can be picked up from the bookstore beginning April 23. No parking pass is needed for guests.
If traveling NORTH on I-85 from downtown Atlanta, take Exit 94 (Chamblee-Tucker Road) and turn right. You will be directed to the appropriate parking areas.

If traveling SOUTH on I-85 from outside the perimeter, take Exit 94 (Chamblee-Tucker Road) and turn left, and proceed toward the right lane. You will be directed to the appropriate parking areas.

Guests will be directed to turn onto Flowers Road South and into the Open Yellow Parking areas with regular shuttle bus service. Bus stops are designated in the circular, multi-colored map markers.

Mobility Impaired Guests will be directed to turn onto Mercer University Drive and into the Reserved Blue Parking area next to the event location (Pass Required). To request a pass for a guest with a disability, please refer to the section on page 9.

Mercer University’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus is located just east of the Chamblee-Tucker Road exit from Interstate 85.

For a guest with a disability, Required). To request a pass, go to the event location. (Pass Required.) See page 9.

Campus and Parking Map

Commencement Parking and Shuttle

Mercer University’s Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus is located just east of the Chamblee-Tucker Road exit from Interstate 85.

If traveling NORTH on I-85 from downtown Atlanta, take Exit 94 (Chamblee- Tucker Road) and turn right. You will be directed to the appropriate parking areas.

If traveling SOUTH on I-85 from outside the perimeter, take Exit 94 (Chamblee- Tucker Road) and turn left, and proceed toward the right lane. You will be directed to the appropriate parking areas.

Guests will be directed to turn onto Flowers Road South and into the Open Yellow Parking areas with regular shuttle bus service. Bus stops are designated in the circular, multi-colored map markers.

Mobility Impaired Guests will be directed to turn onto Mercer University Drive and into the Reserved Blue Parking area next to the event location (Pass Required). To request a pass for a guest with a disability, please refer to the section on page 9.
Below is a selection of Mercer University and related contacts that may help in your preparation for the upcoming Commencement.

**Registrars Office (Atlanta)**
Graduation eligibility and address confirmation  
(678) 547-6136  
jordan_sz@mercer.edu

**Atlanta Commencement Website**
Atlanta Commencement important dates and updates  
commencement.mercer.edu/atlanta/

**Mercer University Website**
General University information and inclement weather updates  
www.mercer.edu

**Requests for Mobility Impaired Parking Pass**  
commencement.mercer.edu/atlanta/

**Mercer Weather Hotline**
Changes to Commencement schedule due to severe weather  
(after 5 a.m. on May 12)  
(678) 547-6111

**Mercer Police**
Parking arrangements  
(678) 547-6358

**Mercer Bookstore**
Pick-up of academic robes, regalia and Mercer merchandise  
(678) 547-6350

**Herff-Jones**
Graduation announcements, caps and gowns  
herffjones.com/college/mercer

**GradImages**
Graduation photographs  
www.gradimages.com

**University Event Photos**
Commencement images  

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**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Why do graduates have to arrive so early?**
   The logistics of a graduation ceremony are very complex, and getting more than 1,380 graduates signed in, lined up and staged for the procession is time consuming. Coffee and light food will be available for purchase at Sheffield Center while graduates are preparing for the procession.

2. **As a graduate, can I bring family and friends with me in my car, so we can park closer to the Commencement event area?**
   We encourage you to bring as many guests as possible in your car. This helps reduce congestion.

3. **What if I have a guest who needs mobility impaired parking?**
   You must obtain a special Mobility Impaired Parking Pass (limit one per graduate) for a disabled guest who needs close proximity parking. The pass must be requested by completing a Mobility Impaired Request Form found on the Atlanta Commencement website at commencement.mercer.edu/atlanta/. The form must be completed no later than April 20, 2018. The pass will be mailed directly to the mobility impaired guest.

4. **Can I depend on Mercer to alert me regarding dangerous weather issues which might delay or cancel the ceremony?**
   Weather is difficult to predict. However, safety is the most important consideration in making weather related decisions, so if dangerous weather is in the vicinity, the ceremony may be delayed or canceled. If the weather is uncertain, you may check the status by calling the University Hotline at (678) 547-6111 after 5 a.m. on the morning of Commencement. The Hotline will have regular updates to announce any delays or cancellations due to weather alerts.

5. **What if it is very hot?**
   Beginning the program at 8:30 a.m. will allow the program to end before the warmest part of the day. Graduates will be provided with a bottle of water at their seat, and water will be available for all.

6. **Is the guest parking and shuttle convenient?**
   We will be providing parking for thousands of vehicles, so parking lots all around the campus will be used. We have arranged for attendants and police to guide guests into the parking areas, and will have buses running continuously before and after the ceremony to shuttle guests. (See map on page 10.)

7. **Refreshments, University Apparel and Mementos, Flowers?**
   The MAC and the Mercer Bookstore will be open; also, light refreshments (Carlyle’s), University memorabilia and apparel (Mercer Bookstore), and flowers (Grad Flowers) will be available for sale on the field.

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The University will also post updates to the Commencement schedule via its official Facebook and Twitter (@MercerYou) accounts.

You may also check the Mercer website at www.mercer.edu, or sign up for direct text alerts sent to your mobile phone by registering for text alerts at it.mercer.edu/student and look for “Emergency Alert Registration” under “Most Popular Topics.” Sign up in plenty of time prior to the event, because new registrations are not active until after 48 hours.

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In order to maintain propriety of the event, all cell phones should be off or on “silent” during the entire ceremony, including the processional.
Cecil B. Day Graduate and Professional Campus
3001 Mercer University Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30341
www.mercer.edu