

# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INFORMATION



**Saturday, May 2, 2026**

Johnson Center | OCU Campus

Processional Walk 10:00 a.m. (CST) | Ceremony 10:15 a.m. (CST)

## REHEARSAL INFORMATION

Rehearsal will start promptly at 1:00 p.m. (CST) on Friday, May 1 in the Johnson Center.

Main Campus undergraduate candidates for Spring/Summer graduation must attend the rehearsal.

Fall graduates and fully online candidates are welcome to attend, though it is optional.

*Please arrive on time and plan to spend about one hour for the rehearsal.*

**Graduation Line-Up:** Information concerning line-up locations will be sent to you in the next few weeks. Please watch for emails that will be sent to the email address you provided on your graduation application.

## COMMENCEMENT FREE TO ATTEND

You are welcome to invite your family and friends to attend; tickets are not required.

For those who cannot attend in person, the ceremony will be streamed live on Facebook.



## DIRECTIONS & PARKING

Oakland City University's campus is located in Southwestern Indiana. Easily accessible from I-69 and I-64. Commencement parking for family and friends of graduates will be available in multiple areas on campus.

Driving directions and a map of the university can be found on our website at

<https://www.oak.edu/about/campus-map/>.

A limited number of parking spaces will be available for individuals who possess a disability parking permit. We recommend that you arrive early.

## PURCHASE YOUR CAP AND GOWN

All students who participate in the commencement ceremony are required to wear an academic cap, gown, and tassel.

To start an order, scan the QR Code or click the link <https://oakhallcg.com/pages/oaklandcity>.

- **Associate & Bachelor's**

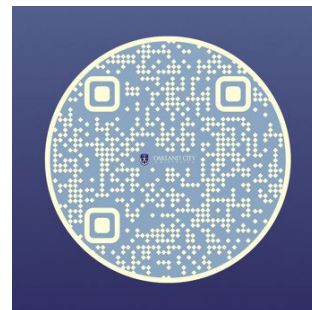
Cap, Gown & Tassel \$55.00

- **Masters**

Cap, Gown, Hood & Tassel \$75.00

- **Doctoral**

Tam, Gown, Hood & Tassel \$135.00



You can contact the Campus Store at **812.749.1403** with any questions.

**THE LAST DAY TO ORDER REGALIA IS  
APRIL 8, 2026**

## CAP DECORATION GUIDELINES

The university acknowledges that the focus of commencement is the celebration of our students' achievements. The decorating of the mortar board is an important activity for some students. Students choosing to wear a decorated cap during the ceremony must follow guidelines developed by the Office of the Provost.

The guidelines will be enforced on the day of the ceremony, and the university reserves the right to request that graduates change inappropriate attire before they will be allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony. Egregious violations of the decoration guidelines may result in a disciplinary referral to the Office of Student Life.

Only the flat, top area of the mortar board may be decorated, and adornments must lay flat on the surface of the cap. Decorations cannot

extend beyond the border of the cap or fall below the perimeter. Cap decorations that are motivated by animosity against a person or group or which infringe on the rights and freedom of others will not be tolerated.

### **Decorations may not include the following:**

- Profanity
- Political statements
- Symbols for or references to alcohol or controlled substances
- Three-dimensional objects (such as flowers or flower crowns)
- Lighted objects

### **BEFORE THE CEREMONY**

- Doors will open at 8:30 a.m. Plan to arrive no later than 9:30.
- Guests will receive a free program on arrival. A program will be placed on each graduate's chair, so you will receive it after the processional.
- After you park, graduates will walk to their designated area for your school. Information will follow on exact locations.
- ADA accessible seating is available upon request. If you have a disability and need special accommodations for the ceremony or entry to the venue, contact Academic Affairs at [academicaffairs@oak.edu](mailto:academicaffairs@oak.edu).
- You will not be allowed to carry anything with you as you approach the stage except the name card you receive when you arrive. This card will be used to announce your name as you walk across the stage.
- Make sure to silence your cell phone before the ceremony begins.

### **DURING THE CEREMONY**

- The ceremony will begin with a processional walk promptly at 10:00 a.m.



- You will receive cues from the marshals when it is time to "walk". When it's your turn, hand your name card to the individual who will read your name, then walk across the stage to receive your diploma from President Dempsey.
- Your picture will be taken after you exit the stage at the back of the gymnasium.
- As a display of respect, all participants are expected to remain standing until all graduates in their row have been recognized.
- After the conferring of degrees, you will be told when to stand for the recessional. Marshals will guide you out.

### **AFTER THE CEREMONY**

Diplomas for graduates with a May conferral date **will be available for pickup in the Provance Chapel immediately following the ceremony provided your graduation fee has been paid.** Any diplomas not picked up will be mailed to the address you submitted on your graduation application. All graduates with an August conferral date will receive their diploma by certified mail. To update where your diploma will be mailed, please email Academic Affairs at [academicaffairs@oak.edu](mailto:academicaffairs@oak.edu).

The diploma will indicate the degree earned and any honors received. A diploma will not state the major. For more detailed information about your major(s) and minor(s), please refer to your official OCU transcript.

**Diploma Covers:** Every graduate who attends the commencement ceremony will receive a complimentary OCU diploma cover. If you are not attending the ceremony, diploma covers and frames are available for purchase in the campus store.

## COMMENCEMENT PHOTOGRAPHY

We're excited to announce that Madison Toopes, our university photographer, will be the official photographer for this year's graduation. She'll be capturing professional headshots of each graduate during the commencement ceremony.



All graduates will have access to their individual portraits via a Google Drive folder. Simply use the link below or scan the QR code to view and download your high-quality portrait.

For the best image quality, please download directly to your device—avoid screenshots.

You may need to install the Google Drive app for easy access. Additionally, the portraits will be featured in a special album on the OCU Facebook page.



[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FO1\\_Nj8xnOE88HJFVG0m0ys9UpCvRw\\_W?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FO1_Nj8xnOE88HJFVG0m0ys9UpCvRw_W?usp=sharing)

Any questions? Contact Madison Toopes at [mtoopes@oak.edu](mailto:mtoopes@oak.edu).

## INDIVIDUAL PHOTO SESSIONS

If you're interested in learning more about booking individual portrait sessions, please reach out to Hannah Wissel, student worker for the OCU Marketing and Communications department, for more details.

HANNAH WISSEL MESSAGE TO BOOK: (618) 302-0169

# SENIOR SESSIONS

1 HOUR SESSIONS  
LOCATION OPTIONS

SCHOOL	\$150
SCENIC AREA & SPORTS	\$200

Three photos of graduates in various settings: a graduate in a white dress and blue sash, a graduate in a blue sash leaning on a railing, and a graduate in a white dress and blue sash holding a cap.

## GRADUATING STUDENT EXIT SURVEY

As you prepare to complete your final steps toward graduation, we want to hear about your experience.

Keep an eye on your email for a message from the Office of Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness with a link to the **Graduating Student Exit Survey**.

This short survey is your opportunity to share feedback about your academic journey at OCU and help improve programs for future students.

Your input is valuable, so be sure to check your OCU email and complete the survey once it opens.

## FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

*Direct Loan Exit Counseling is required for all students who have borrowed Federal Direct Loans.*

The Exit Counseling session can be accessed using the following steps:

- Visit [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov).
- Click on Loan Exit Counseling under the Loan Repayment tab.
- You will log in using your FSA ID.
- If you have forgotten your FSA ID, click on the Forgot FSA ID link under the Tools and Resources tab.
- If you don't have a FSA ID, click on Create a FSA ID, and follow the directions.
- The session will take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete. Please make sure that you select Oakland City University #00182400 to be notified once the session is complete.

You can log onto [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) to check on your student loan amounts and loan servicer information.

Please contact the Financial Aid Office at 812.749.1224 or [finaid@oak.edu](mailto:finaid@oak.edu) if you have questions concerning the session.

## STAY CONNECTED!

We're excited to see where your OCU degree or certificate takes you, and we hope that you'll keep in touch with us. Visit our OCU Alumni page at <https://alumni.oak.edu/>.



OAKLAND CITY  
UNIVERSITY

## HONOR CORDS

*(Undergraduate Graduates Only)*

- **May Graduates**  
Honors cords **will be distributed** on the day of the ceremony.
- **Previous December Graduates**  
If you have already received a gold honor cord with your diploma, **you will need to bring it with you on the day of the ceremony**. Honors cords will only be distributed to May graduates on the day of the ceremony.
- **Future August Graduates**  
All August graduates will not receive honor cords until all courses are completed. It will be placed in the envelope with your diploma and mailed.

**Cum Laude: GPA 3.5 – 3.69**

**Magna Cum Laude: GPA 3.7 – 3.89**

**Summa Cum Laude: GPA 3.9 – 4.0**

## INTERNATIONAL SASH/STOLE

If you are an international student, you are allowed to wear an international sash or stole to represent your country during the commencement ceremony. Each student is responsible for purchasing his or her own sash/stole. Only one sash or stole per student.

