Commencement for Fall 2021 Graduates

Congratulations! You have been recommended for graduation for the 2021 Fall Semester. The conferring of your degree is contingent upon your successful completion of all degree requirements and your academic department officially certifying you as having met all degree requirements. The commencement ceremony is reserved for those students who have met all degree requirements and have been certified by their departments.

COMMENCEMENT

We extend an invitation to you to participate in commencement as outlined below. To ensure social distancing, three (3) ceremonies will be held that are organized by colleges. Each ceremony will be held in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center. There will not be a processional or a recessional due to current COVID-19 guidelines. Students will not march in or out of the arena. Upon arrival to the assembly center, please check in at the loading dock to obtain your name card and seating assignment.

CEREMONY 1

9:00 a.m. – Wednesday, December 15, 2021

This ceremony is for students earning the following degrees.

Graduate Studies (only the following degree programs)
(Doctor of Education, Master of Arts in Teaching, Master of Arts in Social Sciences, Master of Education in Special Education, Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Public Administration, Master of Science in Criminal Justice, Master of Science in Developmental Education, Master of Science in Sports Administration, Master of Science in Nursing, Master of Social Work, Post Master’s Certificate)

CEREMONY 2

9:00 a.m. – Thursday, December 16, 2021

This ceremony is for students earning the following degrees.

College of Education
(Kinesiology, Leisure Studies, Teacher Education degree programs)
College of Professional Studies
(Criminal Justice, Mass Communications, Nursing, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology)

CEREMONY 3

9:00 a.m. – Friday, December 17, 2021

This ceremony is for students earning the following degrees.

College of Arts & Sciences
(Biology, Chemistry, Child Development & Early Literacy, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Engineering Technology, English, General Studies, History, Mathematics & Physics, Music, Political Science, Visual & Performing Arts)

College of Business
(Accounting, Computer Information Systems, Economics, Management, Marketing)

GUEST PASSES
To support social distancing, each graduate should invite no more than twelve (12) guests. All guests should be seated 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony in designated seating. Guests will be required to wear masks at all times while in the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center.

TRANSFER CREDITS
If you were enrolled in courses at other regionally accredited institutions this semester or there is a hold for another transcript not yet received, please forward the official transcript to bostonji@gram.edu so credits may be added to your official transcript for certifying purposes as soon as possible.

GRADUATION REGALIA
Candidates may also contact the University Bookstore at (318) 247-1006 regarding ordering regalia and graduation announcements, or order online.

REHEARSAL
There will not be a rehearsal. All candidates are requested to check-in at the loading dock of the Fredrick C. Hobdy Assembly Center at 6:30 a.m. for temperature checks and to receive your name card. Candidates will be seated on the arena floor according to their assigned seat. It is important that you arrive on time and stay in your designated seat until the ceremony begins.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
Commencement is a significant ceremony; therefore, the ceremony is expected to be carried out in a proper and dignified manner. To guide candidates in selecting attire for participation the ceremony, outlined below are suggested forms of dress.

Cap and Gown
White or Black Dress
White or Black Slacks
Light Color Shirt
Black (or other dark color)Shoes
Mask
Your name will appear in the official commencement program. An official listing of the 2021 Fall Candidates for Graduation will be posted on the GSU graduation webpage. Additional information will be forwarded at a later date related to the commencement exercises.

**HONOR STUDENTS**
Students who graduate with honors will receive honor cords. There will also be a gold sticker placed on the diploma for all undergraduate honor students.

**CLEARANCE**
It is imperative that all indebtedness to the University be cleared by Friday, December 10, 2021. The online graduation clearance will begin November 29, 2021. Candidates can monitor the clearance process on-line via BannerWeb. *(The steps for online graduation clearance are found at the end of this document.)* Please allow approximately (3) business days for your clearance to be processed in the system. *Students who have been identified as having delinquent accounts will not be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.*

**CANCELLATION OF GRADUATION**
If for some reason you are not graduating this semester, please request permission from your academic dean to cancel your graduation application and they will notify the Registrar’s Office. Upon notification, the cancellation will be processed and updated in BannerWeb, and your graduation hold will be released. You will then be eligible to register for the upcoming semester.

**DIPLOMA ISSUANCE**
Diplomas *will* be released after the commencement ceremony. If you so not plan to attend the ceremony, your diploma will be mailed via certified mail in January or you may pick-up in the Office of the Registrar located in Grambling Hall, Suite 18. Please confirm your mailing address is accurate to avoid any shipping delays. If your address changed after you applied for graduation, please email your correct mailing address to registrar@gram.edu. Remember to include your name and G#, major and college in any correspondence sent to the Registrar’s Office.

**GRADUATE SCHOOL AT GSU**
Have you considered graduate school here at GSU? We encourage you to apply online today at www.gram.edu.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION/QUESTIONS/CONCERNS**
Look for updates regarding the ceremony, including distribution of tickets for guests, at a later date. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us via email at registrar@gram.edu.
The following units must clear holds for candidates for graduation, in support of participation in the graduation ceremony and receiving an official graduation diploma. A student may not have all of the holds listed in the table below. Students can monitor the clearance process and identify holds by logging into their BannerWeb accounts. For answers related to specific holds please contact the appropriate unit captured in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HOLD CODE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>CONTACT DEPARTMENT (If you have questions related to the holds on your account after December 3, 2021)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CJ</td>
<td>Judicial Affairs Graduation Clearance&lt;br&gt;If you have questions or need assistance please email <a href="mailto:wimberlyy@gram.edu">wimberlyy@gram.edu</a></td>
<td>Judicial Affairs&lt;br&gt;318-274-3169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GF</td>
<td>Financial Aid Graduation Clearance&lt;br&gt;Must Complete the Loan Counseling by accessing the following link: <a href="https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action">https://studentloans.gov/myDirectLoan/index.action</a>&lt;br&gt;Exit Spring 2021 Graduates&lt;br&gt;loan counseling must be completed on-line: <a href="http://www.studentloans.gov">http://www.studentloans.gov</a>&lt;br&gt;Sign in (same login used for FAFSA)&lt;br&gt;Select “Complete Loan Counseling” in the Center of Page&lt;br&gt;Select Exit Counseling under the section “Choose Loan Counseling Type”&lt;br&gt;Complete Exit Counseling Session&lt;br&gt;Email a copy of the Exit Counseling Confirmation Page to: <a href="mailto:hatterc@gram.edu">hatterc@gram.edu</a> or <a href="mailto:jacksonal@gram.edu">jacksonal@gram.edu</a> or with your G Number</td>
<td>Financial Aid &amp; Scholarships&lt;br&gt;318-274-6440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Account Graduation Clearance&lt;br&gt;A hold will be placed on your account if you have a balance due GSU. <a href="mailto:studentaccounts@gram.edu">studentaccounts@gram.edu</a></td>
<td>Student Accounts&lt;br&gt;318-274-2206</td>
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<tr>
<td>GS</td>
<td>Service Learning Graduation Clearance&lt;br&gt;If you have questions or need to obtain a status, please email: <a href="mailto:pereram@gram.edu">pereram@gram.edu</a> <a href="mailto:hopwoodm@gram.edu">hopwoodm@gram.edu</a> <a href="mailto:bedfordr@gram.edu">bedfordr@gram.edu</a></td>
<td>Service Learning&lt;br&gt;318-274-2118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GH</td>
<td>Graduation Hold&lt;br&gt;You do not have to take any actions! This hold will automatically release on 12/17/2021 or upon readmission to the university. If you need assistance, please email <a href="mailto:registrar@gram.edu">registrar@gram.edu</a></td>
<td>Registrar’s Office&lt;br&gt;318-274-2385</td>
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</tbody>
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All students are requested to complete the Graduation Exit Exam by accessing the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/CpJGsGdvzn