



2017 Commencement Guidebook

A complete guide for graduates and their families



COMMENCEMENT

FRIDAY, MAY 5

4:00 p.m. Graduate Ceremony

SATURDAY, May 6

9:30 a.m. Undergraduate Ceremony

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General Commencement Information

Commencement is the culmination of your years of hard work at Robert Morris University. You deserve an enjoyable experience, so read this guidebook carefully to ensure that your RMU commencement weekend becomes a source of lasting, happy memories.

Ceremonies and Tickets

Two commencement ceremonies will be held at Sewall Center Arena. The graduate ceremony for master's and doctoral degree students will be **Friday, May 5, 2017**, at 4:00 p.m. The undergraduate ceremony for bachelor's degree students will be **Saturday, May 6, 2017**, at 9:30 a.m.

Tickets are not required for guests at the graduate ceremony. All guests – including young children – must have tickets for admission to the undergraduate ceremony. **Each undergraduate will receive up to four tickets for the ceremony.** Students wishing to request extra tickets may sign up for the online ticket wait list on this website beginning Monday, April 3. The wait list will close on Monday, April 16, at midnight. Additional tickets will be distributed to students on the wait list should any become available.

Guest seating in the arena is on a first-come, first-served basis for both ceremonies. (Please note: Strollers are not permitted inside the arena. A designated stroller parking area will be provided.)

For answers to questions about academic issues, contact Academic Services at 412-397-6230.

Photography

Parking

Parking so many people in a short time on commencement day is a challenge. Please follow these rules to keep traffic going as smoothly as possible on campus and nearby roads.

- Do not drop off passengers directly in front of Sewall Center on Campus Drive. Instead, please proceed to the complimentary guest parking areas.
- Because traffic is unusually heavy in Moon Township on commencement day, allow an extra hour to ensure that you are not late.
- Do not park at the Moon Plaza shopping center.

Special Needs Seating and Parking

All general admission seating is located in the bleacher section of Sewall Center Arena. Individuals with special needs and older adults may find this type of seating inaccessible. Those who should request special needs reserved seating or parking passes in advance include:

- Vision or hearing impaired
- Wheelchair users
- Unable to walk long distances or climb stairs

If you are in need of Special Needs Seating, please contact the Office of Student Life at 412-397-6489. Due to time factor, all requests must be picked up in person at the Office of Student Life **before 5pm** on Friday, April 28.

Those with government-issued handicapped parking placards should still request a special needs parking pass to ensure enough spaces are reserved. **Undergraduate ceremony tickets are also required for guests seated in the special needs reserved seating area.** Due to space limitations, only one family member may accompany a guest sitting in the special needs reserved seating area.

Guests may not approach the stage to take photos or video while the ceremony is in progress. Handheld cameras and video cameras are permitted in the arena; tripods are not permitted. Please be respectful of other guests when taking photographs or video.

Professional photographers will take your picture as you receive your diploma on stage. Island Photography (islandphoto.com) will then send you sample proofs via e-mail, and you will have the option of ordering from a variety of enlargements. There is no obligation to purchase.

Bronze Bob

Be part of a new university tradition! Get your picture in cap and gown with our new "Bronze Bob" statue, a gift of the Class of 2013. Then share your photo on Twitter and Instagram with **#bronzebob** and on RMU's Facebook page.

Class Gift

The Class of 2017 continues Robert Morris University's tradition of philanthropy by raising funds for the class gift. This year, the Class of 2017 has elected to support three different funds for different areas of interest.

The Student Emergency Fund allows students access to financial assistance where traditional financial aid fails. The money can be used to help cover expenses in a time of emergency.

The Professional Success Award is a one time \$2,500 award that will benefit students who have the opportunity for an unpaid internship.

The Schroeder International Fund is an award available to students, either international or those studying abroad, to help defray the cost associated with their international studies.

In order to reach our goal, we are seeking 100% participation from the Class of 2017. If you would like to make a gift in honor of your graduation, please visit rmu.edu/classgift or call Institutional Advancement at 412-397-5420



ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY

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