2015 Celebration of Excellence
Information for Graduates

ARRIVAL INSTRUCTIONS & INFORMATION

- Arrive at the Mullins Center (in your cap & gown) no later than 12:30 p.m. on Friday, May 8, 2015.
- Graduates check-in and line up for the procession while their guests find seating in the arena. Guest seating is open.

GRADUATE CHECK-IN PROCEDURE

1. Upon arrival at the Mullins Center, proceed to the "Graduate Check-in" tables.
2. Find the notecard with your name on it. This card will be used to announce your name as you are congratulated on stage; it will also be used by the event photographers.
   a. Review the information on the card and correct or add information as needed.
   b. LEGIBLY print any phonetic information that will help the reader pronounce your name correctly.
   c. Keep this card in your possession!
3. Determine with which college/school you want to be seated. Graduates are called by college/school and then individually acknowledged.
4. Proceed past the check-in tables and downstairs to line up for the procession.
5. Find the sign for your college/school and line up under it (4 across). At the start of the ceremony, marshals will lead each group in the procession, by college/school.

NOTE: The procession begins at 1:15 p.m. so that the ceremony can start promptly at 1:30 p.m.

GOLD STOLE PRESENTATION

After processing into the arena and being seated, your college/school will be called to approach the stage. When your college/school is called:

1. Leave your hat/mortarboard at your seat (your stole will not fit over it).
2. Bring your name card with you.
3. Following the directions of the marshals and proceed, row by row, to one of the ramps on the side of the stage. There will be two awarding lines going at once; one from each side of the stage.
4. At the bottom of the ramp, a faculty member will place the stole over your head and onto your shoulders.
5. Proceed up the ramp and hand your card to the person at the microphone. QUIETLY say your name to help them pronounce it properly.
6. Receive congratulations from (i.e., shake hands with) the dignitaries on your side of the stage.
7. Proceed down the stairs at the front center of the stage and return to your seat via the center aisle.

AFTER THE EVENT

Meet your guests on the arena concourse, in the section that matches the first letter of your last name.

PARKING

- Park in the lots adjacent to the Mullins Center or in the parking garage.
- Plan to park once for both events (the Celebration of Excellence and University Commencement); shuttles will be available to help graduates and guests get from the Mullins Center to the stadium.
- Traffic patterns on campus will change in the early afternoon.
- Handicap parking is available. See the University Commencement site for disability access information: www.umass.edu/commencement