

**Southern Wesleyan University 2026 Spring Graduation Exercises  
Information for Graduates and Guests (Updated 02/06/2026)**

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**I. Ceremonies:**

The **2026 Spring Graduation Exercises** of Southern Wesleyan University will be held on Friday, May 1, 2026, in the Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center at Southern Wesleyan University in Central, SC.

Students will participate in the ceremony as follows:

**Friday, May 1, 2026.....10:30 AM**

**Students in the On-Campus programs who will be receiving the following degrees:**

Bachelor of Arts  
Bachelor of Science

**Students in the SWU Global programs who will be receiving the following degrees:**

Associate of Arts  
Bachelor of Arts  
Bachelor of Science  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Education  
Master of Science  
Doctor of Business Administration  
Doctor of Education

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**II. Graduation Timeline:**

February 4, 2026	Application information emailed to potential online students
February 9, 2026	First letter to potential graduates
<b>February 10, 2026</b>	<b>Potential graduates begin ordering regalia via Herff-Jones website</b>
<b>March 2, 2026</b>	<b>SWU Global application deadline</b>
March 15, 2026	All graduation requirements, excluding current courses, must be complete (including credit by exam, CLEP/DSST, & all official transcripts from other institutions)
March 15, 2026	Financial obligations must be cleared
March 16, 2026	Ceremony assignments emailed to SWU Faculty and Staff
<b>March 18, 2026</b>	List of candidates to Academic Council and Faculty for approval
March 18, 2026	Second letter to potential graduates
<b>April 1, 2026</b>	<b>Last day to order regalia</b>
<b>April 13, 2026</b>	<b>Last day to order regalia with expedited shipping</b>
April 16, 2026	Honors notifications sent via email
April 17, 2026	Email to all students participating in ceremony
April 17, 2026	Tickets mailed to online students
April 20, 2026	On-Campus students pick up tickets from Academic Records
<b>May 1, 2026</b>	<b>Graduation Ceremony – 10:30 AM</b>
May 1, 2026	Official degree conferral date
May 4, 2026	4:00 PM final grades due for all students
May 27, 2026	Diplomas ordered for graduates who successfully completed all obligations/requirements with no outstanding financial issues

**III. Graduation Day Schedule:**

Students assemble in Lower Level of the University Dining Commons for rehearsals. Guests with tickets should go directly to Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. **Graduates should make arrangements with their family members ahead of time to keep their valuables.** There is not a secure location in the rehearsal area to leave items during the ceremony. Southern Wesleyan University is not responsible for items left in the rehearsal area during the ceremony.

**Friday, May 1, 2026**

8:45 AM	<b>Graduates must check-in (University Dining Commons)</b>
9:00 AM	<b>Rehearsal (instructions, name pronunciation check)</b>
10:00 AM	<b>Devotions</b>
10:25 AM	<b>Processional</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Ceremony</b>

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**IV. Academic Regalia:**

The style of each academic gown indicates the highest degree earned by the wearer: bachelors—long, pointed sleeves; masters—long, closed sleeves with the arm going through a slit, giving the appearance of short-sleeves; doctors—full, round, and open, with three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The bars may be black or the color designating the major discipline.

Some universities have adopted an official doctoral gown incorporating the school colors.

These are examples worn by several Southern Wesleyan University Faculty:

Clemson University	Purple and Orange
University of Colorado	Gold and Silver
University of South Carolina	Garnet and Black

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The hood is lined in the official colors of the university that awarded the degree; the color of the facing indicates the degree.

Holders of all degrees wear caps with a long tassel conforming to the degree earned, except that doctors may wear tassels of gold thread.

The following colors have been established by the Intercollegiate Commission:

Apricot	- Nursing
Brown	- Fine Arts, including Architecture
Citron	- Social Work
Copper	- Economics
Crimson	- Journalism
Dark Blue	- Philosophy
Drab	- Commerce, Accountancy, Business
Gray	- Veterinary Science
Green	- Medicine
Lemon	- Library Science
Light Blue	- Education
Lilac	- Dentistry
Maize	- Agriculture
Olive Green	- Pharmacy
Orange	- Engineering
Peacock Blue	- Public Administration, including Foreign Service
Pink	- Music
Salmon	- Public Health
Purple	- Law
Russet	- Forestry
Sage Green	- Physical Education
Scarlet	- Theology
Silver Gray	- Oratory (Speech)
White	- Arts, Letters, Humanities
Golden Yellow	- Science

**V. Applause:**

When your name is called and you walk across the platform, your family is invited to stand in recognition of your achievement. Whistling and boisterous behavior is considered inappropriate.

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Applause is reserved for those earning honor; after all degrees have been awarded, all graduates will be applauded.

**VI. Applications:**

You must **apply** to graduate, regardless of whether you plan to participate in the ceremony or not. The deadline to apply is indicated in Section II. If you plan to graduate in May 2026, but have not applied, please contact Academic Records immediately. We must have your application, so we may check to see if you have met all requirements and order your diploma. Students who do not meet all the appropriate deadlines will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony and will have to wait until December 2026 to earn their degree.

**VII. Appropriate Attire for Graduates:**

This is a time of final honoring of members of the class. When in academic regalia, individuals should not try to draw attention to themselves by wearing flashy clothing or extraneous decorations. Please press your robe and **DO NOT DECORATE** your cap!

**VII. Cameras, Photographs, and Videos:**

A professional photographer will photograph you receiving your diploma from the president. You will receive an opportunity to purchase copies of these photos directly from the photographer approximately one week after the ceremony.

Cameras are allowed during the commencement services. Due to limited seating, tripods may not be used.

**IX. Cell Phones:**

Please make sure your cell phones are turned off. Also ask your guests to turn off their cell phones during the service.

**X. Diplomas:**

During the graduation ceremonies, students will be given a decorative diploma cover. Diplomas will be mailed to graduates once all graduation requirements and financial obligations have been certified as met.

All diplomas will be printed with the "Official Degree Conferral Date" indicated in the calendar above.

**XI. Food Service:**

The on-campus Coffee Shop and Campus Dining Services will be open on graduation day.

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**XII. Honors:**

For Latin Honors, calculation of the cumulative grade point average is based on all work attempted at SWU and from regionally accredited institutions, at least forty-five hours of which must be from Southern Wesleyan University with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.4 on all SWU work attempted. Based on this GPA, Latin Honors are awarded as follows:

*Summa cum laude* ("with highest praise"), indicated by an honor medallion and a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative GPA of 3.80 or above.

*Magna cum laude* ("with high praise"), indicated by a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative GPA of 3.60 to 3.79.

*Cum laude* ("with praise"), indicated by a single honor cord, denotes a cumulative GPA of 3.40 to 3.59.

*University Honors:* In the event that a student is ineligible for Latin Honors but has achieved a cumulative SWU GPA of at least 3.8 on no less than 60 credits earned at Southern Wesleyan University, that student will be assigned the designation of "university honors."

Grades earned in SWU courses and also in courses from accredited institutions that are equivalent to SWU offerings or are applicable to SWU degree programs are included in the calculation for graduation honors. Non-credit courses and 0.0 courses count as 0.0.

The Faculty Marshal is the senior faculty member; the Marshal is the junior with highest GPA.

Junior academic leaders serve as ushers.

Latin Honors are not awarded to students earning Masters' degrees. At the graduate level, academic hoods are worn as a part of the regalia and symbolize the graduate level achievement.

**XIII. Invitations:**

Graduation **invitations** may be ordered online from Herff Jones at [https://colleges.herrfjones.com/college/\\_swesleyanu/](https://colleges.herrfjones.com/college/_swesleyanu/). (The Herff Jones web page is typically available approximately two months prior to ceremony.) Class Rings are also ordered directly from Herff-Jones via their web site.

**XIV. Memorabilia:**

Southern Wesleyan **memorabilia** may be purchased from the SWU Campus Store at <https://swuwarriorgear.merchorders.com>. For the convenience of those attending the graduation ceremonies, the Warrior Zone Campus Store will be open on Graduation Day.

**XV. Multiple Degrees:**

After December 2003, students may not earn an Associate's and Bachelor's degree at the same ceremony. The Associate's degree must be awarded prior to the awarding of the Bachelor's degree.

Students earning both the Bachelor of Arts degree and the Bachelor of Science degree have completed an additional thirty hours of coursework, over and above the hours required for the first degree.

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**XVI. Nursery/Childcare:**

Childcare will not be provided. Children are welcome if they have a ticket, but please note the graduation program is not designed to keep the attention of young children.

**XVII. Parking and Travel Time to Campus:**

Graduates are expected to arrive on campus two hours prior to their assigned ceremony. Please allow sufficient travel time in order to arrive in time to participate in the ceremony. Graduates unfamiliar with Southern Wesleyan University should allow extra time for finding the campus, parking, and making their way to the check-in station. Guests requiring special parking must have a valid handicapped parking permit.

**XVIII. Processional:**

There will be a formal processional across campus leading to each ceremony.

**XIX. Rehearsal:**

Assemble ninety minutes prior to your assigned ceremony in the University Dining Commons for rehearsal, devotions, and a group picture.

**XXI. Rehearsal:**

Based on the current number of students scheduled to participate in the graduation and social distancing protocols, each student **will receive a minimum of four (4) tickets** to the ceremony. Graduates will receive an email regarding the exact number of tickets each graduate will receive after all applications have been processed. All guests must have a ticket for admittance to the ceremony. Tickets will be mailed to online graduates two weeks prior to the ceremony. **There will not be extra tickets available.** On-Campus students will be notified by email when tickets are ready for pickup from the Academic Records office.