

*Francis Marion University  
Commencement  
FAQ*



*Calendar of Events:*

Friday	May 2, 2008	2:30 pm	Rehearsal
Saturday	May 3, 2008	10:00 am	Commencement

*Graduation Requirements:*

The Office of the Registrar clears students for graduation after final exams have been concluded and grades have been submitted. Students will be notified prior to the Commencement Rehearsal if they have not been cleared to graduate. **All requirements** must be completed in order to participate in the Commencement Ceremony.

*Caps and Gowns:*

Caps and gowns are available for purchase in the Patriot Bookstore. Please feel free to contact the Patriot Bookstore at (843) 661-1345 to place your order. Caps and gowns do not have to be returned after the ceremony. All graduating candidates should also pick up hoods when placing their order.

*Commencement Rehearsal:*

Commencement rehearsal will be held on Friday, May 2, 2008 beginning at 2:30 pm in the Smith University Center Gymnasium. It is important that all degree candidates be present. It is assumed that those absent from the rehearsal will not participate in the Commencement exercises unless approval has been received from the Registrar prior to rehearsal. Please notify the Office of the Registrar, (843) 661-1175, immediately if you do not plan to participate.

*Academic Regalia:*

Graduates frequently ask about the proper accessories to wear with formal academic regalia. Traditionally for men, dark shoes and dark trousers are worn with the robes. It is suggested that women wear dark shoes and hose.

*Processional:*

At the beginning of the procession, all **Bachelor's** degree candidates wear tassels on the right side; during the conferring of the **Bachelor's** degrees by President Carter, tassels are moved to the left side, thereby noting the actual moment of degree conferral.

**Master's** Degree candidates wear tassels on the left side throughout the ceremony.

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*Grades:*

We realize that degree candidates may be concerned about meeting the grade point average required for graduation. The Registrar will contact students individually prior to commencement rehearsal should a problem with graduation occur. It is requested that the Registrar's Office is not contacted to request grade information during the grading period. Your cooperation is appreciated.

*Commencement:*

Commencement will begin at 10:00 am on Saturday, May 3, 2008. Please plan to arrive by 9:15 am to robe and form the processional line. **Undergraduate** degree candidates will robe in **Room 228** of the Smith University Center; **Master's** degree candidates will robe in **Room 207** of the Smith University Center. All graduates are invited to the reception immediately following Commencement.

*Parking:*

To provide family and guests with adequate parking near the Smith University Center, it is suggested that candidates plan to use parking lots A through D. The commencement ceremony is open to the public and your guests are welcome.

*A Final Note:*

Please remind your relatives and friends that the Commencement program will begin promptly at 10:00 am. It is important to remember early arrival will permit attendees to have adequate time to be seated before the ceremonies begin.

*Persons with Disabilities:*

Every effort will be made to ensure ceremony proceedings will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you plan to attend graduation and require assistance relating to a disability, please contact the Office of Business Affairs-Human Resources (ADA Coordinator) at (843) 661-1140, Monday-Friday between 8:30 am – 5:00 pm, preferably ten (10 days) prior to the program.