Commencement Rain Plan

Sunday, May 7, 2017

Our hope is always to perform Commencement outside in front of historic Woodworth Chapel where students are welcome to bring an unlimited number of guests. However, in the event there is a forecast for severe weather, including heavy rain and/or thunder and lightning, we will need to move the ceremony indoors to Kroger Gymnasium located in the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health & Wellness Center.

It is important to note that, once the rain plan is in place, the ceremony will be held indoors, even if the weather clears up before the ceremony. A decision will be made by 9:00 a.m., Friday, May 5, regarding the implementation of the rain plan.

With such a forecast, the Office of Campus Safety will send a campus alert to all students, faculty and staff. The College’s website will be updated and the local media will be notified. Please check the website regularly for further information concerning the rain plan.

The following details will apply IF AND ONLY IF the Commencement ceremony is moved inside.

Doors Open
8:00 a.m. for all ticket holders. All others without tickets will be directed to the overflow sites, Holmes Auditorium and the Auditorium in the Bennie G. Thompson Academic and Research Center.

Rain Plan Tickets
To ensure a smooth transition in the event the ceremony is relocated to Kroger Gymnasium, each graduate will be provided with 8 rain tickets. It is the responsibility of the degree candidate to ensure these tickets are in the possession of those who will be using them on the morning of Commencement. EVERYONE MUST HAVE a rain ticket to enter Kroger Gymnasium. All degree candidates will be issued their rain tickets when they pick-up their cap and gown. Immediately following the processional, ticketed seating will become general seating. The goal should be to ask family and friends to arrive early. Degree candidates are encouraged to share their tickets with other graduating seniors who need extra tickets if they know they will not use all of their issued tickets.

All graduates are encouraged to pick up their tickets in advance of Commencement so that they may have plenty of time to distribute them ahead of time to their guests. Those graduates who are unable to connect with their guests until the morning of Commencement are encouraged to pre-determine a plan for how they would meet in the event that the ceremony is moved indoors. Due to the numerous last-minute logistical changes that will be required if the Commencement ceremony because of inclement weather, the College will be unable to operate a “will call” window for distributing tickets to guests. Lost tickets cannot be replaced.

Due to the limited seating capacity of the Kroger Gymnasium and the need to adhere to safety and fire code regulations for indoor programs, ticketing is strictly enforced. Once capacity is reached, no one will be allowed to enter Kroger Gymnasium.
**Guests**
All family members and friends of the graduates and other guests are required to have a rain ticket to enter Kroger Gymnasium. Guests should enter at the rear of the building, which is designated the General Entrance. Seating will be granted on a first come, first seated basis. Guests will need to locate their seat and stay seated, to allow room for other guests entering the building.

**Overflow**
Guests without tickets may view the ceremony in Holmes Hall Auditorium (200 capacity) and the auditorium of the Bennie G. Thompson Academic and Research Center (150 capacity). Tickets will NOT be required for admission into these venues; however seating will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Live Streaming**
For those not wishing to come to campus, a live stream of the Commencement ceremony will be available at [www.tougaloo.edu](http://www.tougaloo.edu).

**Parking**
The Office of Campus Safety will direct all parking for Commencement.

**Graduates**
Graduates should report at 9:20 a.m. to Room 212A&B dressed in academic regalia, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Health Clinic.

**Faculty and Staff**
Faculty should report at 9:20 a.m. to Room 223 dressed in academic regalia, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Health Clinic. Family members and friend of faculty and staff must enter at the General Entrance.

**Trustees and Program Participants**
Trustees and program participants should report to Room 223 at 9:20 a.m. for robing, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Health Clinic. Family members and friend of trustees and program participants must enter at the General Entrance.

**Golden and Silver Classes**
Golden and Silver Class Graduates should report to Room 202 at 9:20 a.m. for robing, and enter the front entrance of the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center near the Fitness Center. Family members and friend of golden and silver graduates must enter at the General Entrance.

**Choir**
Choir members should report at 9:20 a.m. to the Fitness Center dressed in the choir robes, and enter the George A. & Ruth B. Owens Health and Wellness Center at the handicap/crop-off entrance.