A Note from Academic Affairs

Congratulations to our Spring Graduates! Planning for the Spring Commencement of King University in its 149th year has been underway for some time. The faculty and staff of the University recognize the significance of your commencement ceremony and have worked to make the event reflect the ethos of King University and the honor of your achievement.

It is with much excitement that we circulate this newsletter detailing the event in hopes that the information provided will assist our King Community, including graduates and their families, as they prepare. Also, please refer to graduation.king.edu.

The Baccalaureate Service

Some of our upcoming graduates may be wondering what is “baccalaureate” or more specifically the Baccalaureate Worship Service? The word baccalaureate itself refers to an educational credential or qualification. With regard to the worship service, liturgical scholars trace its origins back to Oxford University in the 1400s when graduates were required to deliver a sermon as part of their degree qualification. This traveled to early American Universities and continues as part of national graduation passage events.

At King University, this tradition continues. On April 29 at 6:30 p.m., in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, we will gather for a worship service that will celebrate and give thanks to God for the learning, wisdom, and preparation for service graciously given during your course of study. Here at the King University Baccalaureate Worship Service, you can expect a formal worship experience with a procession of both faculty and students from all programs, hymns, special music offerings, prayers, the reading of Scripture, and a message relating God’s Word to this momentous occasion in your life.

Your family and friends will want to be in attendance! In light of our mission and vision, the Baccalaureate Worship Service is not only appropriate, but a vitally important testimony of who we are and Whose we are.

Schedule*

Monday, February 1
5 p.m. Deadline to turn in application for degree

Sunday, March 6
Midnight Deadline for ordering caps and gowns
$25.00 late fee for orders after this date

Monday, April 11
5 p.m. Deadline for change in marching status or name

Friday, April 15
5 p.m. Deadline for ordering invitations

Wednesday, April 20
5 p.m. Deadline for grades from other institutions

Sunday, April 24
3 p.m. Traditional & GPS Commencement Rehearsal
Maclellan Hall Dining Room

3:30 p.m. Faculty/Graduate Reception
Maclellan Hall Dining Room

Tuesday, April 26
6 p.m. Nurses Pinning Ceremony
West Park Baptist Church
Knoxville, Tennessee

Thursday, April 28
6 p.m. Nurses Pinning Ceremony
First Presbyterian Church
Bristol, Tennessee

Friday, April 29
Noon Deadline to clear holds
6 p.m. Graduates line up for Baccalaureate
Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church

6:30 p.m. The Baccalaureate Service
First Presbyterian Church

Saturday, April 30
9 a.m. Graduates line up for Commencement
King University

10 a.m. Commencement
King University

*Schedule is subject to change.
Information from the Registrar

Graduates who do not plan to participate in graduation in Spring 2016 should notify the Registrar immediately. Graduating students taking courses at another institution must have final grades into the Registrar’s office no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 20, if they wish to participate in the Commencement exercises. Those that cannot meet this deadline must contact the Registrar’s Office immediately.

Each student’s graduation fee and other outstanding balances must be paid in the Business Office before he or she receives their diploma.

Academic Honors

Academic honors will be determined by the undergraduate student’s King grade point average. In addition, certain departments also require honors candidates to undergo an external examination. Graduates who have completed a minimum of 62 semester hours of graded coursework at King (excluding PLA, and pass/fail credits) will be eligible for the following Latin honors:

- GPA meeting or exceeding 3.500: *cum laude*
- GPA meeting or exceeding 3.700: *magna cum laude*
- GPA meeting or exceeding 3.900: *summa cum laude*

Students who have completed 48-61 hours of graded coursework at King with an institutional grade point average of 3.70 or higher will graduate *With Distinction* in their given field. *Graduate & Professional Studies (GPS)* students completing a single program, such as the Bachelors of Business Administration, will *not* meet the minimum semester hour requirement to receive honors other than *With Distinction*. Final honors will be noted on the diploma. Summa cum laude graduates will receive a gold honor cord as they cross the platform during commencement exercises.

Rehearsal

Attendance at Commencement Rehearsal is required for all graduates. Rehearsal for all students (traditional and GPS) is scheduled for Sunday, April 24 at 3:00 p.m. in the Maclellan Hall Dining Room. A reception for graduates and faculty will be held immediately following rehearsal. Also, the Tornado Alley Shoppe will be open from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. Graduates who need to be excused must contact Chief Marshall Craig Streetman at wcstreetman@king.edu.

How to Order Caps, Gowns, & Invitations

Graduates are responsible for ordering their caps and gowns from Herff-Jones’ website:


The deadline for ordering caps and gowns is March 6. Orders after that date must be placed directly with Susan Marshall *(sdmarsha@king.edu)*. A $25 late fee will be applied to all late orders. Cap and Gown collection or delivery options will be announced at a later time by Susan Marshall. Invitations may also be ordered through Herff Jones’ website.

You Should Also Know . . .

Because the venue for the Spring 2016 Commencement Ceremony is outdoors, guests do not need tickets to attend. The ceremony will be held rain or shine; however, for safety reasons, umbrellas will not be permitted in seating areas.

Campus Accessibility

If you or a guest needs to make special arrangements because of a disability, please visit the King University Security “Event Parking” webpage after April 1, 2016 at [http://security.king.edu/event-parking](http://security.king.edu/event-parking).

Accommodations

Several hotels are located within a few miles of our campus. The following hotels offer a special King University rate.

- **Courtyard by Marriott**
  - 3169 Linden Dr.
  - Bristol, VA 24201
  - (276) 591-4400
  - Hampton Inn
  - 3299 W. State St.
  - Bristol, TN 37620
  - (423) 764-3600