

KING  
UNIVERSITY  
CLASS  
OF 2026



SPRING 2026  
COMMENCEMENT  
NEWSLETTER

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Visit [graduation.king.edu](http://graduation.king.edu)  
for more details.



# Spring 2026 Commencement Calendar



01

## January

Herff-Jones website opens for announcement and regalia ordering. Additional regalia information available in the following pages.

01

## March

RSVP by submitting the [Intent to Graduate form](#).

**If you do not submit the Intent to Graduate form you will not receive a diploma.**

06

## March

Deadline to order graduation announcements and regalia through Herff-Jones. Late fees apply thereafter.

01

## April

Last day to change walking status or name for program.

01

## May

**6:00 PM** Baccalaureate Service

First Presbyterian Church (701 Florida Ave, Bristol, TN 37620).

02

## May

**8:30 AM** Graduates line up for Commencement on the Oval

King University (1350 King College Road, Bristol, TN 37620).

**10:00 AM** Commencement ceremony begins.

**This schedule is subject to change.**

**Announcements regarding program-specific celebrations will be released by the individual schools.**



## Intent to Graduate Form NOW AVAILABLE



**All graduates must submit the Intent to Graduate form.** Information submitted on this form is used to plan graduation, print the commencement programs, and order diplomas.

**Scan QR code above to complete form.**

## WALKING EARLY

Any student who graduates in summer or fall will normally participate in commencement exercises the following spring. Students in bachelor's and master's programs can petition to march in the spring ceremony held prior to the conferral of their degree if they are registered for the deficiencies in the subsequent semester.

To petition to participate in an early commencement ceremony, students must supply a copy of their degree audit showing their plan for degree completion as well as indicating their preferred ceremony when submitting the Intent to Graduate form. Students can obtain their degree audits, plan courses for future semesters, and download the audit in PDF format by clicking the link to Conclusive through student portal.

# Undergraduate Academic Honors

Academic honors shall be determined by the undergraduate student's King grade point average and total hours completed while in residency at King University.

## Latin Honors

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; or
- GPA meeting or exceeding 3.700: magna cum laude; or
- GPA meeting or exceeding 3.900: summa cum laude.

## With Distinction

Graduates who have completed 48-61 hours of graded coursework at King (excluding PLA, and Pass/Fail credits) and have a grade point average of 3.70 or higher will graduate With Distinction in their designated field of study.

Students in a graduate program are not eligible for academic honors due to the GPA expectations set by those programs. Students with degrees conferred in a later semester (ie summer or fall 2026) will not have their anticipated honors announced.

## Honors for Commencement Ceremony

Anticipated honors will be announced during commencement exercises. The GPA at the end of week 10 in the student's final semester will be used to calculate anticipated honors. Graduates with summa cum laude honors will receive a gold honor cord at the commencement ceremony.

Students who are approved to march early will not have honors announced.

Final honors will be noted on the diploma and transcripts.



# Cap and Gown Information

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

**Regular orders placed before March 06:**  
<http://www.herffjones.com/college/king/>

**Late orders placed after March 06:**  
Email [bookstore@king.edu](mailto:bookstore@king.edu)

A \$35 late fee will be applied to all orders after March 06.

When caps and gowns are ready for distribution, graduates will receive an email with pick-up/shipping instructions.

*Questions related to cap and gown orders should be directed to [bookstore@king.edu](mailto:bookstore@king.edu).*

# Regalia Guide

The gown for the bachelor's degree has pointed sleeves. The gown for the master's degree has an oblong sleeve, open at the wrist. The gown for the doctoral degree has bell-shaped sleeves.

Gowns for the bachelor's or master's degrees are untrimmed. For the doctoral degree, the gown is faced down the front with velvet (usually black); three bars of velvet are used across the sleeves. These facings and crossbars may be of velvet of the color distinctive for the degree, or the institution's colors.

The academic hood is the identifying symbol of the degree. Hoods are lined with the official color or colors of the college or university conferring the degree. King University hoods are lined in red and blue. The length of the hood worn for the bachelor's degree is three feet, for the master's degree three and one-half feet, and for the doctoral degree, four feet. The hood worn for the doctoral degree only shall have panels at the sides.

The binding or edging of the hood is two inches, three inches, and five inches wide for the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, respectively; the color is indicative of the subject to which the degree pertains. Students should order a hood which aligns with their academic program as indicated below.

Degree		Color of Hood Lining	Major
BA	Bachelor of Arts	White	Biology: General/Human/Education Tracks; Traditional Business: All Tracks; Digital Media Art & Design; Digital Marketing; AGS English; Traditional English: All Tracks; Traditional History: All Tracks; Interdisciplinary Studies; Music: All Tracks; Political Science/History; Religious Studies; Security and Intelligence Studies; Spanish; Theatre
BS	Bachelor of Science	Golden Yellow	AGS Accounting; Applied Science and Math: All Tracks; Biochemistry; Biology: Bioinformatics/Cell and Molecular/General/ Pharmacy Dual Degree Tracks; Chemistry: All Tracks; Cybersecurity & Cloud Computing; Criminal Justice and Criminology; Exercise Science: All Tracks; Forensic Science; Healthcare Administration; AGS History; Information Technology: All Tracks; Mathematics: All Tracks; Physics; Psychology; Sport Management
BSW & MSW	Bachelor of Social Work Master of Social Work	Citron	Social Work; Graduate Social Work
BBA & MBA	Bachelor of Business Administration Master of Business Administration	Drab	AGS Business Administration; AGS Business Management; Graduate Business.  NOTE: Traditional business majors will complete a BA degree. Their hoods have white lining - no drab lining.
BSN, MSN, & DNP	Bachelor of Science in Nursing Master of Science in Nursing Doctor of Nursing Practice	Apricot	Nursing; Graduate Nursing; Nurse Practice
MED	Master of Education	Light Blue	Graduate Education
MHA	Master of Healthcare Administration	Teal	Graduate Healthcare Administration

# Regalia Guide Continued

**Graduates may wear up to three academic accoutrements (cords, stoles, sashes, medallions, etc.), of the graduate's choice, at commencement ceremonies to represent:**

## **Academic honors, honors programs, and honor societies**

- Gold honor cords are reserved for those graduating *summa cum laude*.
- Graduates designated as Snider Honors Fellows will wear a medallion.
- Graduates who have been inducted into academic honor societies that are formally chartered and/or recognized by the University (and/or recognized by the Association of College Honor Societies) may wear academic accoutrements that are approved or supplied by the parent organization.

## **International affiliation**

- International students will be provided with a stole indicative of the colors of their home country's flag.

## **Military affiliation**

- Red, white, and blue military cords will be provided to all graduates who have or are serving in the United States Armed Forces.

## **Other academic accoutrements may be allowed within the following guidelines:**

- Primary representation of an academic discipline or field of study is solely by the trim of the academic hood. Other accoutrements representing an academic program of study are thus superfluous and not allowed.
- Sashes/stoles may not be wider than 5 inches. Medallions may not be greater than 3 inches in diameter.
- Sashes/stoles imprinted with the name of an organization or entity, the logo or initials representing an organization or entity, and/or the specific achievements of the wearer may not include any derogatory, offensive, or divisive language or symbolism, nor should they be disruptive or draw undue attention to an individual person or group that would detract from the dignity of the occasion.

Any accoutrements or modifications to the student's academic apparel, such as flamboyant mortarboard decorations, that draw attention to an individual and detract from the dignity of the occasion are not permitted.

## **WHAT TO WEAR:**

Graduates should wear business attire (jacket not required) under their academic regalia. Clothing and shoes are mandatory. Bare feet are not allowed. The commencement ceremony takes place outdoors in grass rain or shine. Graduates should expect to stand and walk on uneven surfaces. Shoes should be chosen with this terrain in mind. **Flat shoes are highly recommended.**

**Anyone who presents themselves for participation in commencement who is attired in a way that is not consistent with this policy may be asked to make the necessary adjustments prior to the ceremony by the Chief Marshal or their designee. Failure to comply with such a request may result in the individual not being allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony.**



# Commencement Parking

Parking on campus is limited and will open at 7:00 AM. Limited shuttle service on campus will be provided. No parking passes will be issued to graduates.

Those who are mobility impaired and require special parking accommodations must have a state-issued handicap placard or register to obtain a commencement parking permit to use special needs parking. Please note that special needs parking permits issued by King University Security Office are only valid for the Commencement service on May 02, 2026.

If you do not have a state-issued handicap placard and need to park in the special needs parking you must register to obtain your parking permit.

<https://www.king.edu/about/offices/security-and-safety/parking/special-event-parking/mobility-impaired-commencement-parking/>

# Diploma Information

Final grades for spring are due after the commencement ceremony. Once all grades are collected, each student's final degree audit will be reviewed and degrees conferred.

Following the conferral of all degrees, diplomas will be ordered with our vendor, Parchment. Once the order has been placed, a notice will be sent to each graduate's King email account where they will be able to access a digital diploma. The digital diploma allows graduates to share their accomplishments on social media sites such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter, and LinkedIn. We encourage all graduates to promote their talents in places where employers and future King students will see them.

In addition to a digital diploma, each graduate will receive a paper diploma. Paper diplomas will be mailed the graduate's home address within 10 to 14 business days after release of the digital copy.

## DIPLOMA FAQ

What name is printed on the diploma?

The graduate's name will appear on the diploma as indicated on their Intent to Graduate form.

How do graduate's ensure their diploma is mailed to their current address? Diplomas are sent via USPS to the HOME address on file. Graduates may verify their address by going to [my.king.edu](http://my.king.edu) and clicking Update Profile. There are different address types listed in the profile. We use the HOME address for mailing diplomas unless told otherwise prior to mailing.

Does the diploma include the student's major?

Diplomas only include the degree name (ex. Bachelor of Science) and any academic honors. Majors, minors, concentrations, etc are not included on the diploma. Academic transcripts contain specific program information.

# Additional Information

## Courses from Outside Institutions

Students taking courses from another institution within their graduation semester need to be aware that grades for such courses are due no later than 8:00 AM on Tuesday, May 5th.

Failure to meet this deadline could hold up conferral of the degree and the release of transcripts. Students are responsible for making arrangements with professors at other institutions to complete course requirements early, if necessary, in order to meet the King University deadline.

## Family Diploma at Commencement

A graduating student who has a parent or guardian that is a member of the King University faculty, staff, or Board of Trustees may request that the parent deliver the diploma case during commencement in lieu of the President. The student should make the request in writing to The Office of Academic Affairs at [provost@king.edu](mailto:provost@king.edu) at least two weeks prior to commencement. Requests after this date will not be approved.

## Guests of Graduates

Tickets are not required for commencement, but seating is provided on a first-come-first-serve basis. Pets are not invited to the ceremony. Service animals permitted under the control of its handler. Under the ADA, service animals must be harnessed, leashed, or tethered, unless the individual's disability prevents using these devices or these devices interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of tasks.

## Accomodations



**Courtyard by Marriott Bristol**  
3169 Linden Drive  
Bristol, VA 24202  
(276) 591-4400



**The Bristol Hotel**  
510 Birthplace of Country Music Way  
Bristol, VA 24201  
(276) 696-3535



**The Sessions Hotel**  
833 State Street  
Bristol, VA 24201  
(276) 285-5040

# Pinning Ceremonies

Eligible graduates will be invited to participate by their Schools.

## School of Education

Thursday, April 23rd at 6:00 PM  
King University Memorial Chapel  
1350 King College Road  
Bristol, TN 37620

## School of Nursing

Thursday, April 30th at 6:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church  
701 Florida Ave  
Bristol, TN 37620



# Baccalaureate Service

Friday, May 1st at 6:00 PM  
First Presbyterian Church  
701 Florida Ave  
Bristol, TN 37620

For graduating students and their guests, the Baccalaureate service is a great opportunity to reminisce with fellow students about their years at King University. The service is a vital and timeless expression of the commitment students have made to the values of excellence and service that King represents. It provides an occasion to acknowledge King's roots in the Christian academic tradition and to give thanks to God for the opportunities students have enjoyed as members of the King University community. The Baccalaureate service is a sacred part of the King experience and cherished by generations of King alumni. All graduating students are expected to attend and are encouraged to invite family and friends.

Graduating students should assemble in the Fellowship Hall at 5:15 p.m. and wear their robes without the hood or cap.



# Beyond the Degree

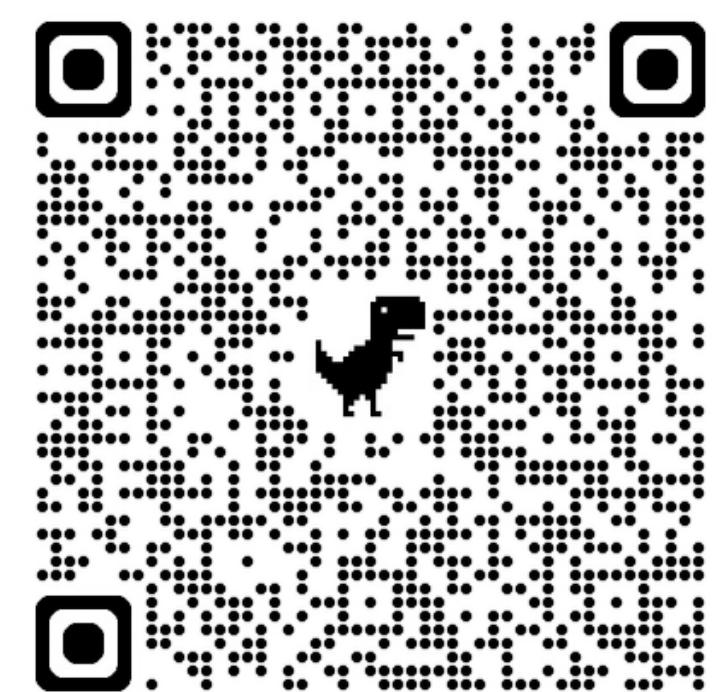


**Logan  
Jennings**

**Director of Alumni and  
Community Engagement**  
[alumni@king.edu](mailto:alumni@king.edu)

## Alumni Services

You've tossed your cap, but that doesn't mean your journey with King has to end! You can stay connected with your alma mater and other alumni and university friends. You can share your own excitement about King's future and reminisce about the past. You can help current students broaden their horizons by volunteering, giving, and connecting with the community today. You are the continuity that binds the past to the present. Together, we are King University.



Scan QR Code to update your contact information and stay connected.

## Career Services

The Career Success Center staff is available to assist you no matter where you are in your journey with the University, or in life. Our services include career assessment, career planning and coaching, resume and cover letter assistance, internship placement, graduate school preparation, and job search strategies.



**Amanda  
Pollard**  
**Director of Career  
Services**  
[careerservices@king.edu](mailto:careerservices@king.edu)