

Letter from the Registrar

Congratulations Fiskite!

You achieved your goal. A lot of hard work, time, and effort went into helping you arrive at this point in your life, but you made it. Achieving this goal will open opportunities for you to pursue your vision of future career success. Your decision to obtain your college degree empowers you to participate in those opportunities fully.

While you continue your future career, always remember to give back to your alma mater by volunteering. Your words of encouragement to generations that will follow you will significantly impact future Fiskites. Thank you for using all your skills, work ethic, and determination to guide your pathway to victory during your matriculation.

As you continue to pursue future endeavors, I wish you much success. You are the reason Fisk University exists. We strive to cultivate leaders who want to make a difference in the world. Your accomplishment will be celebrated at commencement, and you are now a testament to what we strive to do every day. We look forward to all you will achieve in the future, and we are proud to call you a Fisk University graduate.

Sincerely,

A'Kira Nicole Black

A'Kira Nicole Black
University Registrar

Commencement Guide

Congratulations Class of 2025!

Best wishes to all students graduating from Fisk University on Sunday, May 4, 2025. Fisk University wishes you success in your chosen paths and looks forward to continuing our relationship and keeping you close in the years to come.

This Commencement Guide is designed to answer the most frequently asked questions about Fisk's Commencement weekend, May 3-May 4, 2025, and to provide information that will make it a memorable experience for each graduating senior, your family, and guests. You will find information about the events that celebrate senior achievements, details about attire, ceremonial protocol, rehearsal, tickets, parking, and helpful suggestions for making the most of this special time.

Please view the Commencement Web page for updates regularly. A link to the Commencement web may be found on the Fisk Homepage and at <https://www.fisk.edu/academics/commencement>. Additional information about graduation will be sent periodically to your Fisk email account, so check your Fisk email regularly for updates.

Failure to check your Fisk email account regularly may result in you missing important graduation information and opportunities.

To ensure that all important University mailings are delivered to the correct destination, submit any changes in your local/permanent contact information immediately to the Registrar's Office at 615-329-8586 or registrar@fisk.edu. All graduates must update their permanent address before leaving Fisk.

When you return to Fisk for homecoming, reunions, and other occasions, be sure to stop by Alumni Affairs in the Richardson House to fellowship and to provide updates such as a new address, an additional degree, or a new position. This will assist us in maintaining accurate records so you can receive all correspondences from your alma mater. You can always call Alumni Affairs at 615-329-8596, send us an email at alumni@fisk.edu or visit us online at <https://connect.fisk.edu/home>.

Again, please check <https://www.fisk.edu/academics/commencement> for the most up-to-date information.

Commencement Checklist

Candidates for graduation must complete an application for graduation and a degree audit. Commencement is held once a year. Summer 2024, fall 2024, and spring 2025 graduation students are invited to participate in this year's Commencement Sunday, May 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the House of God Church located on 2714 Scovel Street, Nashville, TN 37208.

The following checklist will help you in tracking your progress toward commencement:

- Be in good academic and financial standing.
- Complete the Core Curriculum, the prescribed common study in the liberal arts.
- Complete the Foreign Language Requirement - 3 semesters of college study, or equivalent, in one foreign language.
- Meet the computer proficiency requirement in basic proficiency in the areas of word processing, spreadsheet development, electronic presentations, email, and the Internet OR successful completion of BAD 110 or CSCI 100.
- Complete the program of study for an academic major.
- Complete at least 120 total credit hours – if Math 100 was required a total of 124 total credit hours, student teaching, and internships (only 4 of 12 hours count for PSCI 310).
- Have grades of "C" or better in major, cognates, and minor required courses.
- All incomplete grades, missing grades, and all other deficiencies removed by April 12th.
- Has a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 for all academic work.
- Meets the residency requirement - minimum of 6(4) semesters for students who entered as freshmen (transfer students); final 30 hours of work at FISK; three-fourths of work in major completed at FISK for transfer students.
- Has completed all degree requirements within 12 semesters of full-time study.
- Have Graduation Audit submission to Registrar's Office.
- Has taken the Academic Proficiency Profile Examination.
- Has taken Senior Exit/Major Field Examination.
- Has turned in Application for Degree by the deadline before intended graduation.
- Ordered cap and gown by the deadline.
- Complete Financial Aid Exit Loan Counseling, if required visit www.studentloans.gov.
- Has been financially cleared by the Business Office and paid the \$360 graduation fee.



Decorum

Graduation Day is a time of grandeur that requires each graduate to adhere to the following:

- All male graduating seniors are required to wear ***dark suits, dark ties, black dress shoes, and dark socks***. Other than a watch, no jewelry should be worn. The hairstyle should be one that can be neatly contained under the mortarboard (cap). The gown should be free of wrinkles, i.e., ironed.
- All female graduating seniors are required to wear ***daytime, knee, or tea-length black dresses or suits (no spandex or glitter); and black leather, and black shoes***. The hairstyle should be one that can be neatly contained under the mortarboard (cap). The gown should be free of wrinkles, i.e., ironed
- It is required that each graduate comes to commencement in the appropriate attire and regalia. All graduates must wear Fisk University academic regalia for their ceremony. Josten is the official university vendor for all caps and gowns and may be ordered through the Registrar's Office.
- The dignity of this Fisk University ceremony is important, so accordingly graduates are to refrain from the practice of gown embellishment. Kente, fraternity, or sorority stoles are permitted; however, they must be worn underneath the robe. If the attire and regalia are not appropriate, the graduate will comply immediately or be removed from the line and will not be allowed to cross the stage.

Graduating Cap Decorating Procedure and Etiquette

Please take into consideration the following rules when decorating your graduation cap. Failure to follow these rules will result in a replacement cap being given to you during Commencement.

- **No offensive language, sayings, nicknames, pictures, or lyrics on the cap.**
- **No objects such as signs, stuffed animals, bells, flowers, or any 3D object may rest on the cap.**
- All decorations **MUST lay FLAT** on the cap. Nothing can lay perpendicular thus allowing us to see the decoration beyond eye level.
- Your cap **CANNOT** make noise. No bells, horns, or anything that makes noise.

- It is appropriate to put the following on your cap.
- Thanks to parents, grandparent, teacher, or friend.
- Recognize the university you will be attending.

We will not furnish new caps if you mess yours up decorating. The administration will reserve the right to disallow anything that is not considered appropriate for the Commencement ceremony

- Please leave jackets, handbags, and all valuables at home or with your guests.
- Graduates will be seated according to discipline and degree. Please arrive on time; if you arrive late, you may not be seated with your designated group as you are not assured of proper seating.
- Graduates are required to remain for the entire ceremony.

In an effort to have a graduation ceremony that is both memorable and safe, Fisk University requests your cooperation regarding the following:

- The wearing of official Fisk Regalia only.
- Cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off when the ceremony begins.
- No food, beverage, liquid, balloons, or noisemakers are allowed during Commencement
- Graduation candidates photographing during commencement is strongly discouraged. The University has provided an official photographer to take pictures as candidates cross the stage. Therefore, it is requested that family members do not approach the stage or enter the aisle as the graduate approaches the stage to receive the degree.
- Please discuss with family and friends before Commencement that graduates are required to remain for the entire ceremony.
- Ticket information will be provided at a later time.
- The expected decorum of each graduate is that of consideration and celebration. Be considerate of all who have come to this important occasion and allow all to celebrate by hearing and seeing their loved ones. Once the graduate is introduced, all others should remain seated so that the graduates can be seen, and their names heard when called. Keep undue noise and clamor to an absolute minimum.



Graduation Tickets

Each student is allotted 8 tickets for their guest to attend. Tickets are given out at the mandatory graduation rehearsal. The event will also be live-streamed the link will be provided on the Fisk website. Ticket information for the Baccalaureate Ceremony and Commencement will be forthcoming; Guests will not be permitted to hold seats.

Guest Entrance to the Commencement venue will begin at 8:00 a.m. There is reserved general seating, and **guests are not permitted to hold seats. All guests must enter by 8:45 a.m. at which time entrance to the Commencement site will be closed** and will reopen after the processional has ended. The Commencement procession will begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. during which time no one will be seated.



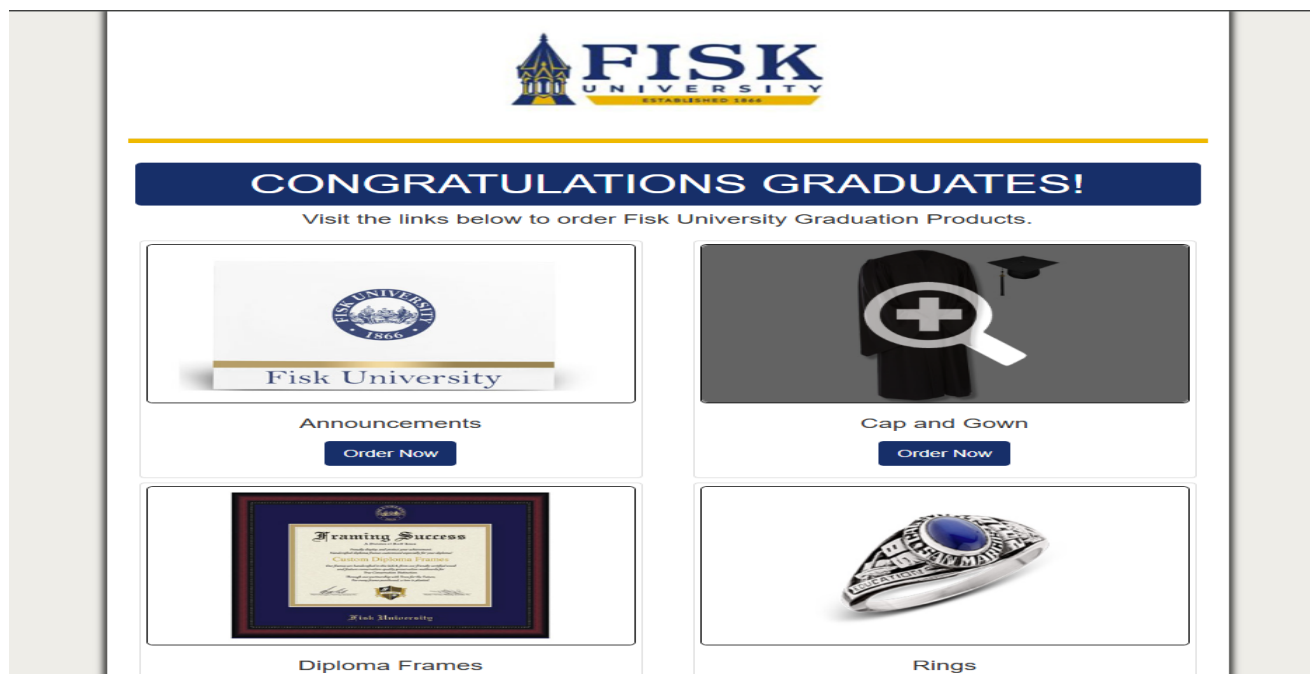
Latin Honors

Honors are calculated on all credit hours earned at Fisk University Honors status for the graduation commencement program is determined by grades posted as of the fall semester. Students will receive the Latin honors cords at the mandatory graduation rehearsal.

Cum Laude & Honors - 3.30 - 3.49 GPA
Magna Cum Laude & High Honors - 3.50 - 3.69 GPA
Summa Cum Laude & Highest Honors - 3.70 - 4.00 GPA

Cap & Gowns

Visit the [Herff Jones](#) website to order your cap and gown.



The screenshot shows the Fisk University website's graduation products page. At the top is the Fisk University logo with the text "FISK UNIVERSITY" and "ESTABLISHED 1866". Below the logo is a blue banner with the text "CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!". Underneath the banner is the text "Visit the links below to order Fisk University Graduation Products." There are four product categories displayed in a grid:

- Announcements:** A white card with the Fisk University logo and the text "Fisk University". Below it is the text "Announcements" and a blue "Order Now" button.
- Cap and Gown:** A black graduation cap and gown with a white cross symbol. Below it is the text "Cap and Gown" and a blue "Order Now" button.
- Diploma Frames:** A framed diploma with the text "Framing Success" and "Custom Diploma Frames". Below it is the text "Diploma Frames".
- Rings:** A silver ring with a blue gemstone and the text "FISK UNIVERSITY". Below it is the text "Rings".

Photography

Professional photographers take a photograph of each senior's moment of recognition on stage and a posed shot with their diploma. For the convenience of everyone, you should not stop and pose and should ask your guests to remain seated during the ceremony. You are not required to purchase videos or photographs. For more information about photographs taken at the Commencement ceremony, visit www.gradimages.com or contact their customer service department at 800.261.2576. Please take the time to complete the information card at the Senior Luncheon so Grad Images can effectively capture your information and provide you with your moment of recognition.



Guest Information

Information for Mobility Impaired Guests

Fisk University and its Commencement site do not provide wheelchairs for mobility-impaired guests. Guest arriving with their wheelchairs will need to report to the University Ushers located on the campus Grove to request an escort to an appropriate seating area. It is strongly encouraged that guests make arrangements before Commencement Weekend to ensure availability.

Mobility-impaired guests may be dropped off at the Commencement with a companion to accompany them. Early access to the site is not available, and all guests will utilize the same line for entrance.

Hearing Impaired Interpreting Services

A hearing-impaired interpreter will be provided for the Commencement. For seating and location of these services please see a University Usher.

First Aid

A Medic is on-site during the Commencement to assist with 1st Aid.

Lost and Found

All found items will be taken to the Fisk University Security Office following the ceremony. All inquiries regarding lost items should be directed accordingly.

The Ceremony Overview

Program books will be available at entrances for guests. Graduates are provided a program separately. Each ceremony will feature greetings by university officials, a guest speaker, a student speaker, the awarding of honorary degrees, conferral of degrees, during which the graduates' names will be called.

Processional

The academic processional, which marks the start of the ceremony, starts promptly at 9:00 a.m. on May 4, 2025. The platform party, faculty, and administrators will process to their seats. The graduates will process immediately after, the ceremony now officially begins.

Announcing of Graduates' Names

Graduates, your names will be announced when you walk across the stage to receive the diploma. The university designates an individual to work with the graduates in the pronunciation of their names for the commencement ceremony.

Graduates will be given a card at the graduation rehearsal to complete (please spell name phonetically and hand it to the name announcer(s) when they reach the stage during the commencement ceremony.

Recessional

All graduates are required to recess out of the commencement ceremony to the designated area. The platform party, faculty, and administrators will leave during the recessional march. Graduates will immediately follow/ recess out to the designated area. Guests should remain in designated areas until the end of the recessional.

Diploma and Transcripts

Each graduate is presented with a Fisk diploma cover when you walk across the stage. Degrees are mailed approximately six to eight weeks after degrees have been certified. Students will also receive a digital diploma from Parchment. Official transcripts that show your degree awarded will be available 45 days after commencement. Students must have cleared all financial obligations to the university before diplomas or transcripts will be released.

Graduation Fee

A fee of \$360 is charged to students who have submitted a degree application. This fee covers the purchase of your cap and gown, hood, diploma, and all related commencement expenses. In the event a student does not graduate, he/she should inform the Registrar's Office promptly at registrar@fisk.edu or call 615-329-8586, and they will contact the Office of Student Accounts to have the fee removed. Students are required to submit a new application for the term he/she will complete their degree requirements.

Commencement Etiquette

The Commencement exercise is a formal academic ceremony. We ask that all guests respect the ceremony, seniors, and other guests by behaving in a dignified manner. In keeping with decorum and the Fisk tradition, we ask that guests adhere to the following guidelines:

- Plan to arrive early and allow ample time to find parking and seating.
- Confetti, balloons, and noisemakers are not permitted during the commencement ceremony.
- Rude and disruptive behavior will not be permitted. Security personnel will be on-site to enforce these restrictions.
- Please start your day with a hearty meal in preparation for several hours with no food options.
- Cellular phones should be turned off, on vibrate, or on silent mode.
- During the reading of the seniors' names, guests are asked to be considerate in their applause so that all names are heard and ceremony audio taping is not disrupted.
- Please remain in your seats for the duration of the ceremony, which includes the recessional. Please do not block the aisles or passageways by attempting to greet or take photos with graduates.



Local Hotel Guide

Please contact the hotels directly for rates and directions

**Courtyard Nashville
Vanderbilt/West End**
1901 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
615-327-9900

Hampton Inn and Suites
2330 Elliston Place
Nashville, TN 37203
615-320-6060

Millennium Maxwell House
2025 Rosa L. Parks Boulevard
Nashville, TN 37228
615-259-4343

SpringHill Suites Nashville
250 Athens Way
Nashville, TN 37228
615-244-5474

DoubleTree by Hilton
315 4th Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219
615-244-8200

Courtyard Nashville Downtown
121 4th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37201
615-620-1000

Hyatt Place
301 3rd Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37201
615-687-9995

Holiday Inn Express
5612 Lenox Avenue
Nashville, TN 37209
615-353-0700

**Holiday Inn Express and Suites-
Opryland**
2461 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
615-829-7777

Courtyard Nashville Green Hills
3800 Bedford Avenue
Nashville, TN 37215
615-298-7700

class of **2025**
CONGRATULATIONS!

