# Commencement Guide for Visitors

**Date:** Saturday, May 11, 2019  
**Time:** 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
**Place:** Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall

## Commencement Activities

**Friday, May 10**  
- Army ROTC Commissioning Ceremony  
  10 a.m. Falk Theater  
- Interfaith Graduation Service  
  12 p.m. Sykes Chapel  
- Hooding Ceremonies  

Please see the complete list of all Master Degree hooding ceremonies at [www.ut.edu/hoodingceremonies](http://www.ut.edu/hoodingceremonies)

**Saturday, May 11**  
8 a.m.—3 p.m. UT Bookstore open  
8:45 a.m. All graduates assemble in cap and gowns for the morning ceremony procession.  
1:15 p.m. All graduates assemble in cap and gowns for the afternoon ceremony procession.  
9:30 a.m. Commencement will begin

## Guests

The doors to the Florida State Fairgrounds Expo Hall will open for seating at 8:00 a.m. for the morning ceremony and 12:30 p.m. for the afternoon ceremony. No tickets are required: there is plenty of seating for everyone. Concession stands will be open for food and beverages.

## Hotel Accommodations

The host hotels for the May 11, 2019, Commencement are the **Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa Downtown Convention Center** and **Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina**. Families and guests are urged to make reservations as soon as possible. Please identify yourself as an attendee of the UT Spring Commencement 2019. Reservation requests received after the cut-off date will be based on availability at the hotel’s prevailing rates. Contact **Embassy Suites by Hilton Tampa Downtown Convention Center** at (813) 769-8300 or visit the [reservation link](#) by April 2, 2019 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Contact the **Tampa Marriott Waterside Hotel & Marina** at (888) 789-3090 or visit the [reservation link](#) by April 11, 2019 or until the group block is sold out, whichever is first.

## Directions and Parking

The Florida State Fairgrounds is located at 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North in Tampa. From the University, travel on I-275 North toward I-4/Orlando and merge onto I-4 East via Exit 45B. Take Exit #7 (U.S. Hwy. 301 South) and stay in the right lane heading south for 1/4 mile. Turn right into the Fairgrounds entrance. Do NOT go past the light at MLK, Jr. Blvd.

**Please note that there is no fee for parking**

**Please take proper precautions for Tampa traffic.**

## Etiquette

During the reading of graduate names we ask guests to be considerate in their applause and celebration so that all names are heard clearly. We also ask that if you decide to attend the commencement ceremony, please remain in your seat for the entire event. We know that it is a long ceremony (approximately 2 hours), but please afford every other student and family the same respect and honor that you deserve.

## Guests with Disabilities

Guests in wheelchairs will be directed towards accessible seating upon entrance. Because seating in these areas is limited, only one individual may sit with the guest who has special needs. Your cooperation is required in order to accommodate all of our guests. These seats are not reserved.

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**Congratulations Class of 2018!**