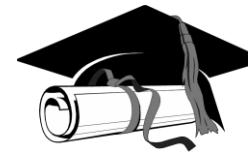




# NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2021



Congratulations as you near completion of your degree from Northwestern State University. Northwestern has scheduled six ceremonies for spring on Wednesday – Friday, May 5-7, 2021. Please carefully read the following information to determine important dates and times for all activities. The ceremonies will be **ticketed events** with attendance limitations. For complete ticket information visit <https://www.nsula.edu/commencement/graduationfaq/>.

All ceremonies will be livestreamed at [www.nsula.edu](http://www.nsula.edu) and will be recorded.

## SPRING 2021 CANDIDATES IMPORTANT DATES

### March 1, 2021

**Application Deadline:** The deadline for undergraduate and graduate students to apply for spring 2021 graduation is **March 1, 2021**.

**How to Apply to Graduate:** Log into your secure account through myNSU at <https://my.nsula.edu>. Navigate to NSUConnect from the QuickLinks Menu. From the student menu of NSUConnect, select “Apply to Graduate” and follow the instructions.

Visit “How to Apply to Graduate” at <http://registrar.nsula.edu/assets/Uploads/HOW-TO-APPLY-TO-GRADUATE.pdf> for detailed instructions on accessing the graduation application.

**Graduate School Candidates:** The deadline for paper defenses for Graduate School candidates graduating in the spring 2021 semester is **Friday, April 16, 2021**.

The deadline for Graduate School candidates to submit theses, papers in lieu of thesis, comps reports, and transfer credits is **12:00 noon on April 23, 2021**. All documentation must be received by this date or your name will be removed from the list of degree candidates and you must reapply for graduation.

### April 23, 2021

**Attendance:** Participation in commencement is mandatory for spring graduates. If a problem arises and you are unable to attend, notify the University Registrar's Office in writing no later than **April 23, 2021**. Please list your full name, campus wide ID number or social security number, the address to which you want your diploma mailed, and sign your statement. Mail or fax the notice to the University Registrar's Office. Contact information is listed below. A [form letter](#) is included with this information for your convenience.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana University  
Registrar's Office  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
Telephone (318) 357-6171 or 1-800-807-8849  
FAX (318) 357-5823

## COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Spring 2021 commencement exercises will be held Wednesday – Friday, May 5-7, 2021, in Prather Coliseum at the times listed below. Please report at least **thirty minutes** before your scheduled ceremony. *There is no practice for commencement.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** The appearance of a name in the commencement program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but it is **not** regarded as conclusive. It is impossible to have an official commencement program since the program must be printed before candidates' applications for a degree can be officially verified.

Therefore, a name listed in the commencement program and the participation in the commencement ceremony do not guarantee the awarding of a degree. The official Northwestern State University transcript, sealed and signed by the University Registrar, is documented evidence of the student's permanent academic record and the student's possession of degree(s) awarded by NSU.

### COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES SCHEDULE

#### **Wednesday, May 5, 2021**

*10:00 A.M. Ceremony*

#### **College of Nursing and School of Allied Health (Bachelor and Associate Degrees)**

**BAS** – Allied Health

**BS** – Radiologic Sciences

**BSN** – Bachelor of Science in Nursing

**ASN** – Associate of Science in Nursing

*2:00 P.M. Ceremony*

#### **Graduate School (Graduate Degrees)**

##### **College of Arts and Sciences**

**MA** – Art, English

**MM** – Music

**MS** – Homeland Security

##### **College of Nursing and School of Allied Health**

**DNP** – Doctor of Nursing Practice

**MS** – Radiologic Sciences

**MSN** – Master of Science in Nursing

##### **Gallaspy Family College of Education & Human Development**

**EDD** – Adult Learning and Development

**EDS** – Educational Leadership and Instruction

**MA** – Adult Learning & Development, Counseling, Student Affairs in Higher Education

**MAT** – Early Childhood Education-Grades PK-3, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Elementary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate-Grades 1-5, Middle School Education-Grades 4-8, Middle School Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate-Grades 4-8, Secondary Education-Grades 6-12, Secondary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate-Grades 6-12

**MED** – Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology Leadership, Special Education

**MS** – Health and Human Performance, Psychology-Clinical

## **Thursday, May 6, 2021**

*10:00 A.M. Ceremony*

### **College of Business and Technology (Bachelor Degrees)**

**BS** – Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Hospitality Management & Tourism

*2:00 P.M. Ceremony*

### **Gallaspy Family College of Education & Human Development (Bachelor Degrees)**

**BME** – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal/Instrumental -Grades K-12

**BS** – Addiction Studies, Child and Family Studies, Early Childhood Education-Grades Pre-K-3, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Health and Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education-Grades K-12, Psychology, Secondary Education and Teaching

**BSW** – Social Work

## **Friday, May 7, 2021**

*10:00 A.M. Ceremony*

### **College of Arts and Sciences (Bachelor of General Studies and Associate Degrees)**

**BGS** – General Studies

**AD** – Veterinary Technology

**AGS** – Associate of General Studies

**AS** – Engineering Technology

### **Louisiana Scholars' College (Bachelor Degrees)**

**BA** – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts

**BFA** – Fine & Graphic Arts

**BM** – Music

**BME** – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal-Grades K-12

**BS** – Accounting, Applied Microbiology, Biology, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Electronic Engineering Technology, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Health and Exercise Science, Hospitality Management and Tourism, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Psychology, Secondary Education and Teaching, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration

**BSW** – Social Work

*2:00 P.M. Ceremony*

### **College of Arts and Sciences (Bachelor Degrees)**

**BA** – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts

**BFA** – Dance, Fine and Graphic Arts

**BM** – Music

**BS** – Applied Microbiology, Biology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration

## GRAD FEST

The NSU Alumni Association will be hosting Grad Fest on March 16, 2021, from 9 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. in the Student Union Ballroom. During this special one-day event you will be able to order your cap and gown, announcements and class ring, as well as take advantage of other events.

## COLLEGE RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

Some colleges may hold individual recognition ceremonies and/or receptions on the day of commencement. Each college will send you information about their activities. You should contact your major college for additional information.

## ACADEMIC ATTIRE

All candidates participating in the commencement exercises must be in appropriate academic attire. You can order your cap and gown online directly from Jostens at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). The bookstore will be open the day of commencement.

Graduates receiving associate and bachelor degrees will also purchase college honor cords. These will be given to you when you receive your cap and gown.

The hoods of the candidates for advanced Northwestern State University degrees (Masters, Specialists, and Doctoral) are lined with the colors of the University, purple and white. The colors of the edging of hoods and tassels of the mortarboards are representative of the degree as follows:

Arts, Letters, and Humanities	White
Education	Baby Blue
Music	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
Science	Golden

## DRESS FOR COMMENCEMENT

Women should wear black dresses or pants and black shoes (**heels higher than 3 inches are not allowed on the coliseum floor**). Men should wear black suits or black trousers, black shoes, dark ties, and white shirts.

## IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Heels higher than 3 inches are not allowed on the coliseum floor.
- The Phi Kappa Phi medallion, Blue Key and Purple Jackets honor cords, honor medallions, honor stoles, and academic honor cords are the only items that you are authorized to wear on your gown.

## COMMENCEMENT INVITATIONS

Commencement invitations may be purchased through the bookstore at (318-238-3630) or directly from Jostens online at <http://college.jostens.com>. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SPECIFY THE CORRECT COLLEGE YOU ARE IN WHEN ORDERING INVITATIONS.** If you are unsure of your college, please check the list on the previous two pages under [Commencement Exercises](#), or you may contact the University Registrar's Office.

## SPECIAL HONORS

All undergraduate bachelor degree candidates who meet the criteria for special honors will be given a medallion when they report to the coliseum for their ceremony.

## PHI KAPPA PHI

All members of the fraternity may wear the Phi Kappa Phi medallion presented to them at initiation. Please bring your medallion with you to the ceremony. (Note: Phi Kappa Phi is a national honor society. Members will be listed in the commencement program. Membership in Phi Kappa Phi does not signify graduation with special honors.)

## DIPLOMAS

Diplomas will be mailed to students who have met all degree requirements following official verification.

**Note:** If you are unable to attend the commencement ceremony, **you must send a letter to the University Registrar's Office no later than April 23, 2021** stating that you will not attend. The letter must include your name, campus wide ID number or social security number, signature, and mailing address for your diploma. ([a form letter is included with this information for your convenience](#)).

## COMMENCEMENT VIDEO

NSU TV at Northwestern State University will professionally record the ceremony and produce a DVD. Do not miss a single minute of this ceremony that recognizes your academic achievements. Go to <https://commerce.cashnet.com/PRESSWEB> to complete the order form and submit your online payment. NSU accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Please call (318) 357-4417 or (318) 357-6588 with any questions.

**Note:** If you are unable to click on the link to access the website, copy and paste the address into your browser address bar.

## FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out your graduation survey to share your post-graduation plans with the Northwestern State University community. Go to [https://nsula.joinhandshake.com/first\\_destination\\_surveys/3576](https://nsula.joinhandshake.com/first_destination_surveys/3576) to complete the survey. We look forward to sharing the wonderful accomplishments of the Class of 2021 with the Northwestern State University community.

# COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INSTRUCTIONS

**COVID-19 health and safety protocols will be enforced.**

**Mask that cover the nose and mouth will be required.**

- 1. CAPS AND GOWNS:** When you purchase your cap and gown, be sure to specify the type of degree you are receiving, your major, and college. Undergraduate students must purchase color cords representing their college. Graduate students must purchase a hood to wear with the gown. **Candidates must be fully dressed in cap and gown to enter the coliseum.** Be sure to secure your cap with hairpins.
- 2. COMMENCEMENT CARDS:** **A commencement card with your name and address on it will be given to you when you report to the coliseum.** You will then be escorted directly to your seat where you will be required to remain until the end of the ceremony. Please complete the information on the reverse side of the card for photographer identification purposes. (A pen will be provided in your seat.) Write the phonetic spelling of your name on the front as indicated if your name has ever been mispronounced. If you are receiving special honors (*summa cum laude, magna cum laude, or cum laude*), this information will be printed on your card. **You must have the card to go across the stage.** This is used to read your name as you cross the stage.
- 3. DIPLOMA COVER:** **When you cross the stage, you will be handed a diploma cover.** Diplomas will be mailed to students who have met all degree requirements following official verification.
- 4. SPECIAL HONORS (Bachelor Degree Candidates only):** **Students who are graduating with special honors (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) will be given a medallion when reporting to the coliseum** ceremony and will be recognized by the academic dean as they cross the stage.
- 5. GRADUATE STUDENTS:** Doctoral degree candidates will be the first ones to go across the stage. Specialist degree candidates must pause at the ramp until the academic dean has finished calling all Doctoral degree candidates. Be sure to take your commencement card to the stage with you.
- 6. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:** **You will be escorted to the stage by a staff member. Be sure to take your commencement card with you** when you go to the stage. You must present the card to the person assisting your academic dean as you come up to the podium. The card will be used to call out your name and any special honors you have received.  
  
When you are escorted to the stage, **the first person in line for the college must stop at the bottom of the ramp to the stage.** When the emcee announces the dean to be presenting, go immediately up the ramp to the stage. A photographer will take a picture of each graduate as they receive their diploma cover on stage. Please watch for their directions as this moves very quickly. Upon exiting the stage, return to your seat and be seated.
- 7. RECESSIONAL:** **The stage party will exit the coliseum first.** Following the stage party, staff will lead the graduates from the coliseum beginning at the front of the candidate seating. Please follow the leader to exit the coliseum.
- 8. COMMENCEMENT PICTURES:** There will be no picture taking from the arena floor. During the ceremonies, **a photographer will be taking pictures as you receive your diploma cover on stage.** These pictures may be purchased from the photographer. The commencement card with your name and address will be given to the photographer to mail you a proof, prices, and information about ordering pictures. You are under no obligation to purchase these pictures.

## **GRADUATION WITH SPECIAL HONORS (Bachelor Degree Candidates Only)**

Scholastic honors represent the highest form of recognition that can be bestowed upon a student by a university. As a means of acknowledging the efforts and accomplishments of students whose scholastic performance is most worthy, Northwestern State University is pleased to grant special distinction to graduating seniors who meet or surpass the standards described below.

Students who have an **overall** grade point average of at least 3.50 and through 3.699 will be recognized as graduating *cum laude*. Those with a grade point average of at least 3.70 and through 3.899 will graduate *magna cum laude*. Those with a grade point average of 3.90 or higher will graduate *summa cum laude*.

1. All grades earned, including all grades earned in repeated courses, are used in computing eligibility for Special Honors. That is, grades for repeated courses have to be added back into totals and recalculated into the grade point average.
2. Students will be eligible for academic honors as justified by the **entire** academic record, which includes courses taken prior to the declaration of Academic Bankruptcy.
3. Special exams and CLEP hours **cannot** be used in computing eligibility for special honors.

Students graduating with Special Honors (e.g. *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*) are recognized at commencement in the following ways: wear a medallion that will be provided at the ceremony and the academic dean will recognize the special honor from the commencement card.

When you go across the stage to receive your diploma cover, your academic dean will read the following from your commencement card: name, special honor, and GPA (for 4.0 only). These items will be read according to the following guidelines:

1. Students graduating with the highest GPA within each college and a perfect 4.0 GPA: Academic dean will read name, special honor, GPA, and indicate that these students are graduating with the highest GPA within that college.
2. Students graduating with the highest GPA within each college and have less than a 4.0 GPA: Academic dean will read name, special honor, and indicate that these students are graduating with the highest GPA within that college.
3. Students graduating with Special Honors: Deans will read name of student and special honor.



**NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY  
COMMENCEMENT NON-ATTENDANCE FORM  
SPRING 2021 GRADUATE**

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**To: University Registrar's Office  
Northwestern State University**

\_\_\_\_ I am a spring 2021 graduate. I will not attend the commencement ceremonies on May 5-7th, 2021. Please mail my diploma to the following address.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**NAME (PLEASE PRINT)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**STREET ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY, STATE, AND ZIP**

**RETURN THIS NOTICE TO THE REGISTRAR'S OFFICE BY  
April 23, 2021.**

**The form may be faxed to: (318) 357-5823**

**Or**

**Mailed to: Northwestern State University  
University Registrar's Office  
Natchitoches, LA 71497**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Student ID Number**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Email Address (We will send an email confirmation to this address.)**

**Northwestern State University of Louisiana  
University Registrar's Office  
Natchitoches, LA 71497  
Telephone (318) 357-6171 or 1-800-807-8849  
FAX (318) 357-5823**