Congratulations as you near completion of your degree from Northwestern State University. Northwestern has scheduled three ceremonies for fall on Wednesday – Thursday, December 13 - 14, 2023. Please carefully read the following information to determine important dates and times for all activities.

All ceremonies will be livestreamed at www.nsula.edu and will be recorded.

FALL 2023 CANDIDATES
IMPORTANT DATES

Grad Fest
The NSU Alumni Association will be hosting Grad Fest at the times and locations below. During this special event you will be able to order your cap and gown, announcements, and class ring, as well as take advantage of other events.

Natchitoches
Monday, September 11, 2023
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom – Main Campus

Shreveport
Monday, September 18, 2023
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Atrium- Shreveport Campus

Alexandria
Monday, October 2, 2023
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
The Gathering Spot – Cenla Campus

October 1, 2023
Graduation Application Deadline: The deadline for undergraduate and graduate students to apply for fall 2023 graduation is October 1, 2023.

How to Apply to Graduate: Log into your student 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.

November 17, 2023
Graduate School Candidates: The deadline for thesis defense for Graduate School candidates graduating in the fall 2023 is Friday, November 17, 2023.
The deadline for Graduate School candidates to submit theses, paper in lieu of thesis, comps reports, and transfer credits is 12:00 noon on Friday, December 1, 2023.

December 1, 2023
Attendance: Participation in commencement is mandatory for fall graduates. If a problem arises and you are unable to attend, notify the University Registrar’s Office in writing no later than December 1, 2023. 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.

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.

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

Fall 2023 commencement exercises will be held **Wednesday – Thursday, December 13 – 14, 2023**, 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, December 13, 2023**

*10:00 A.M. Ceremony*

**College of Business and Technology**

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

**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
BME – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal/Instrumental -Grades K-12
BSW – Social Work
Wednesday, December 13, 2023

2:00 P.M. Ceremony

College of Nursing and School of Allied Health

DNP – Doctor of Nursing Practice
MS – Radiologic Sciences
MSN – Master of Science in Nursing
BAS – Allied Health
BS – Radiologic Sciences
BSN – Bachelor of Science in Nursing
ASN – Associate of Science in Nursing

Thursday, December 14, 2023

10:00 A.M. Ceremony

College of Arts and Sciences

MA – Art, English
MM – Music
MS – Homeland Security
BA – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts
BFA – Dance, Fine and Graphic Arts, Musical Theatre, Production and Design
BGS – General Studies
BM – Music
BS – Applied Microbiology, Biology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Science, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration
AD – Veterinary Technology
AGS – Associate of General Studies
AS – Engineering Technology

Louisiana Scholars’ College

BA – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts
BFA – Dance, Fine & Graphic Arts, Production and Design
BM – Music
BME – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal-Grades K-12
BSW – Social Work
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. 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
- Business: Drab
- Education: Baby Blue
- Music: Pink
- Nursing: Apricot
- Science: Golden Yellow

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 December 1, 2023, 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).

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 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/edu/first_destination_surveys/6541 to complete the survey. We look forward to sharing the wonderful accomplishments of the Class of 2023 with the Northwestern State University community.
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INSTRUCTIONS

There is no practice for commencement.

Please carefully read and follow these instructions and keep these instructions for future reference and review before the ceremony.

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. Please complete the information on the reverse side of the card for photographer identification purposes. (Pens will be provided in the lineup area.) 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. LINING UP: Standards will be placed in the concourse areas of the coliseum. You will be lined up by rows within your college. Each new row starts at a standard when lining up. The first person on each row will line up first behind a standard; the last person, of a row will line up last. There will be staff members to assist each college. **At all times, please follow the directions of the staff assisting your college.**

4. HIGHEST GPA’S (Bachelor Degree Candidates only): The student with the highest GPA from each undergraduate college will lead their respective college into the coliseum and will sit on stage during the ceremony.

5. 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** and will be recognized by the academic dean as they cross the stage.

6. PROCESSIONAL INTO COLISEUM: Purple Jacket and Blue Key members will lead the students into the coliseum following the faculty. When you reach your row of chairs inside the coliseum, be sure to move down your row to allow room for everyone to fill the row. The first person behind a standard would go all the way to the outside seat of the row; the last person will take the last inside seat of the row. Do not skip chairs. **At all times, please follow the directions of the ushers helping you.**

7. UNOFFICIAL COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM: It is impossible to have an official commencement program since the program must be published before candidates’ application 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.

8. GRADUATE STUDENTS: Doctoral degree candidates will be the first ones to go across the stage. Specialist and master 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.

9. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS: **You will be escorted to the stage by an usher. 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 step 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.
10. **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.

11. **RECESSIONAL:** *The stage party will exit the coliseum first, followed by the faculty.* Following the faculty, Purple Jacket and Blue Key members will lead the graduates from the auditorium beginning at the front of the candidate seating. **Please follow usher instructions and follow the leader to exit the coliseum.**

12. **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.
To: University Registrar’s Office
Northwestern State University

I am a FALL 2023 graduate. I will not attend the commencement ceremonies on December 13 – 14, 2023. Please mail my diploma to the following address.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP

RETURN THIS NOTICE TO THE UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR’S OFFICE BY December 1, 2023.

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.)
To: University Registrar’s Office
Northwestern State University

Complete the information below if you plan to participate in commencement exercises. Return to the Registrar’s Office by December 1, 2023.

I am a summer 2023 graduate. I will participate in the fall 2023 commencement exercises on December 13 – 14, 2023.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP

RETURN THIS NOTICE TO THE UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE BY DECEMBER 1, 2023.

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.) ___________________________