

February 2019

Dear Families of M.A.T. Candidates,

We, like you, look forward to this last fulfilling chapter in your student's hard work toward earning a master's degree. Please review the enclosed Commencement information that may be helpful in planning travel, lodging, and other logistics related to the weekend. Included in the mailing, you will find a Commencement weekend schedule of events and information for ordering graduation announcements (including a sample announcement). We also strongly encourage you to explore our Commencement website, where you will find helpful links and frequently asked questions related to this exciting event: <http://www.randolphcollege.edu/commencement/>.

For information on local hotels or lodging, please go to www.discoverlynchburg.org. Please note that other local institutions also have their Commencement activities the same weekend as ours. ***We recommend you obtain hotel accommodations immediately, if you have not already done so.***

M.A.T. Picnic

The M.A.T. student and faculty picnic is scheduled for Thursday, May 9. The Education Department faculty will provide more information at a later date.

Master's Degree Awards Ceremony

The Master of Arts in Teaching graduates will be honored during an awards ceremony at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, May 10, 2019. Awards give recognition to candidates who have earned the highest honors during intern teaching, on the action research project, and those who were nominated for Virginia's Teachers of Promise. At the awards ceremony each candidate will be recognized for individual achievements and will receive the master's hood. Master degree hoods are presented during this ceremony and candidates will be formally hooded during Commencement on Sunday, May 12.

Baccalaureate Service

All graduates and their guests are invited to the Baccalaureate Service. Graduates will process in their robes. This event is open to all graduating seniors and M.A.T. candidates who wish to attend.

Commencement Rehearsal

All graduates are *required* to attend Commencement rehearsal at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday, May 12. Meet at Michels Plaza (if raining meet in Smith Banquet Hall located in Smith Memorial Building). Graduates should arrive dressed and ready for Commencement; caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels should be readily available.

Commencement Ceremony

Commencement will begin at 10:00 A.M. on Sunday, May 12 in The Dell (if rain, Smith Memorial Building, Smith Hall Theatre). If the ceremony is outdoors there is nearly limitless seating, but if forced indoors by rain, each graduate will be allotted 3 guest rain tickets for seating in Smith Hall Theatre. *Graduates do not need tickets.* Guests without tickets may view the ceremony in the Student Center. ***A system to reserve allotted rain tickets and request additional tickets will be emailed to graduates in February.*** The ceremony typically lasts approximately 1½ hours. A graduation luncheon is available for purchase in Cheatham Dining Hall following the ceremony. The College will provide lunch free of charge for all graduates.

Assistance for Guests with Special Needs

If your party will include someone who has special needs, please contact Jill Mazzone in the Office of the Dean of Students. Requests for a sign language interpreter and/or handicap-accessible seating and shuttle ride into and out of The Dell must be made in advance by emailing deanofstudents@randolphcollege.edu or calling (434) 947-8895. One companion may accompany the guest in the handicap-accessible seating area in The Dell. Handicap-accessible seating in The Dell is limited. When this seating area fills, overflow seating will be available in the air-conditioned Hampson Commons where the ceremony will be simulcast.

Please visit <http://www.randolphcollege.edu/commencement> for more information about Commencement weekend. Questions may be directed to Jill Mazzone in the Office of the Dean of Students at (434) 947-8895 or by e-mail to deanofstudents@randolphcollege.edu.

Sincerely,

Wesley R. Fugate, Ph.D.
Vice President for Student Affairs
and Dean of Students

Enclosures