

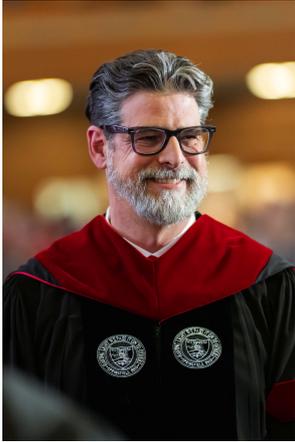
COMMENCEMENT



MAY 16, 2026



wittenberg
UNIVERSITY



Wittenberg Families,

On Saturday, May 16, we will gather in community to celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of the Class of 2026. On behalf of Wittenberg University, I am honored to invite you to our 176th Commencement Exercises.

This will be my first Commencement ceremony as Wittenberg's 16th president, so I am just as excited as you and our future graduates. Together, we will stand in awe as your student walks across the stage with newfound confidence formed by the Wittenberg Way of learning, leading, and living with light.

In preparation for this milestone in your students' lives, we are providing this communication, which contains helpful information leading up to this special day. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Chief of Staff Brandee Kern at bbates@wittenberg.edu, who also leads our Commencement planning.

I cannot wait to welcome you to our beautiful Commencement Hollow this spring where our motto, "Having Light We Pass It On To Others," will be on full display.

Yours,

Christian M. M. Brady, DPhil (Oxon.)
President

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2026

Lavender Graduation Celebration

6-8 p.m.

Center Dining Room (CDR), Benham-Pence Student Center

Hosted by The William A. McClain Center, the Lavender Graduation Celebration is a cultural tradition that began in the mid-1990s created to recognize and celebrate LGBTQ+ students of all ethnicities for their persistence, leadership, and contributions to the University. Students will be presented with lavender cords, which may be worn at Commencement. Dinner will be provided. *Registration is required.* Visit www.wittenberg.edu/commencement for more information.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026

Senior Send-Off

4:30-7:30 p.m.

Mother Stewart's Brewing, 102 W. Columbia Street

Graduating seniors and their guests are invited to celebrate the end of the academic year. *Registration is required.* Visit www.wittenberg.edu/commencement for more information.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

Baccalaureate Service

4 p.m.

Weaver Chapel

Planned by chapel staff and members of the senior class, the Baccalaureate Service lasts approximately one hour. Graduates do not wear their academic regalia.

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2026

Senior Reception with President Brady

5-6 p.m.

Benjamin Prince House

Graduating seniors and their families are invited to attend a reception with the President and First Lady. *Registration is required. Please visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_wittenberg/) for more information.*

Hitimu-Multicultural Graduation Celebration

6-8 p.m.

Center Dining Room (CDR), Benham-Pence Student Center

Hosted by The William A. McClain Center, Hitimu, meaning “graduate” in Swahili, is an opportunity for students to celebrate the accomplishment of graduation while honoring and celebrating the traditions of the cultural communities in which students belong. Students will be presented with a graduation stole representing their cultural affinity, which may be worn at Commencement. Dinner will be provided. *Registration is required. Visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_wittenberg/) for more information.*

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2026

Commencement Exercises

11:30 a.m. Ceremony begins

Commencement Hollow

Venue opens at 9:30 a.m. All guests must be seated by 11 a.m. Graduates report to the assembly location no later than 10:45 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, Commencement Exercises will take place in Pam Evans Smith Arena, located in the Health, Wellness & Athletics (HWA) Complex.

Caps and Gowns

Wittenberg hosted the Countdown to Commencement event on Thursday, Feb. 19, where graduating seniors were able to pre-order their cap and gown. If your student has not yet ordered their cap and gown, they may do so at https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_wittenberg/.

The deadline for online ordering of caps and gowns for the 2026 Commencement Exercises is **April 8, 2026**. For assistance, please contact the University Bookstore at SM686@bncollege.com or Sierra Moore, assistant bookstore manager, at smoore@bncollege.com.

Tickets

Tickets will be required for an indoor ceremony. Each graduate will receive nine tickets, which will be available for pick-up during the Senior Salute event on Thursday, April 16, 2026 (rain date: April 23, 2026). Extra tickets may be requested by your graduate, but are not guaranteed. To request additional tickets, visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_wittenberg/), and complete the Extra Ticket Request Form.

Parking

On the day of Commencement, parking will be available in several locations. Special arrangements have been made to accommodate parking for those with limited mobility. Officers will be at various parking lots and other locations to assist you with your needs.

Accessible parking for outdoor Commencement Exercises is located behind Recitation Hall and Carnegie Hall. Accessible parking for indoor Commencement Exercises is located in the Upper Lot, across from the Health, Wellness & Athletics (HWA) Complex. A shuttle service will be provided prior to and after the ceremony for those with mobility issues. Please visit [www.wittenberg.edu/commencement](https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/_wittenberg/) for more detailed parking information.

Seating

Commencement Exercises will begin at 11:30 a.m. Access to the venue will be restricted until 9:30 a.m. All guests must be seated by 11 a.m. Commencement Hollow will be set up with approximately 3,000 chairs. Visitors are welcomed to bring their own chairs or blankets.

Photography

Each year, the University partners with GradImages, a leader in Commencement photography, to take photos for purchase of graduates receiving their diplomas. Visit www.GradImages.com to pre-register for photos and receive a coupon code for 20% off your purchase.

Commencement Flowers

Wittenberg will hold its annual Commencement flower sale to honor all graduates. Seniors are grateful to receive recognition of their milestone accomplishment, and receiving flowers on this special day enhances their recognition. Parents and families of graduates can pre-order flowers for their graduate, and the flowers will be available for pick-up on the day of Commencement. To place your order, visit www.wittenberg.edu/commencement.



For More Information

Visit www.wittenberg.edu/commencement to sign up for email communications. Click on Parent Resources, and then click on Sign Up For Parent Communications.

For general questions, contact Brandee Kern, chief of staff in the Office of the President, at bbates@wittenberg.edu or (937) 327-7923.

For questions regarding diplomas and graduation eligibility, contact the Office of the Registrar at registrar@wittenberg.edu or (937) 327-6131.

For questions about indoor Commencement tickets, contact Tammy Schiessler, director of alumni programs in the Office of Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement, at schiesslert@wittenberg.edu or (937)-327-7406.



Scan the QR code to link to the Commencement website.

Disclaimer: Receipt of this brochure does not guarantee that your student is eligible to graduate this spring.



Parking

Benham-Pence Student Center

Carnegie Hall

Accessible parking

HWA Upper Lot

Accessible parking (rain site)

Krieg Hall

Kuss Science Center

Recitation Hall

Accessible parking

Tower Hall/Firestine Hall



Restrooms

Blair Hall

Accessible restrooms

Carnegie Hall

Portable restrooms located behind building

Accessible restrooms

Ferndcliff Hall

Accessible restrooms

Weaver Chapel

Accessible restrooms



“This is a lovely spot for the location of a literary institution. It requires some faith to believe that in after years it will be an academic grove, to which hundreds will drink at the pure fountains of knowledge, and go forth into the world to do good, to bless mankind.”

- Ezra Keller, Founder and First President of Wittenberg College (1845-1848)



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