Dear Fellow Saluki:

You’ve worked hard to earn your degree, and it’s almost time to celebrate your achievements. We are excited to join you, your family and friends in person for commencement ceremonies at Saluki Stadium. This brochure will help you and your family make the most of this important day.

For more than a year, we all have faced unprecedented challenges, yet Salukis have been a model of resilience. Our students, faculty and staff found innovative ways to learn, teach and work. Salukis have worn masks, practiced social distancing and followed other health and safety protocols while remaining committed to education.

We will continue to monitor the situation and hold in-person ceremonies only if it is safe to do so. As of this writing in March, we are on track to have the in-person ceremony that most of us want, thanks to the collective efforts of Salukis. Our ceremonies will have many of the familiar traditions, some of them modified to comply with COVID-19 health and safety protocols. For instance, we chose an outdoor setting and are holding more ceremonies to allow for social distancing and to keep attendance at a safe level.

You have earned your degree through your own perseverance as well as the support of your family and talented faculty and staff dedicated to student success and knowledge creation. You can take pride knowing you have graduated from a nationally ranked research institution offering students hands-on experiences that will give them an edge after graduation.

An SIU degree is your passport to a fulfilling future, whatever path you choose to follow. Thank you for being a part of our university and community. We are proud you are a part of the Saluki family. We encourage you to stay connected and look forward to hearing about your successes.

Austin A. Lane
Chancellor
You deserve the best commencement day possible. It’s one you will remember for the rest of your life, so we want to do everything we can to make it as smooth as possible. While there are things that are out of your control (weather, guests and the occasional travel delay), there are things you can do right now to help make it the celebration you deserve.

Commencement is one of the highlights of the academic experience, so it was important to us to hold an in-person ceremony as soon as it was possible. You’ll find we’ve taken many steps to comply with guidelines and promote health and safety of our graduates and guests, including: enhanced cleaning protocols, social distancing in graduate and guest seating, limited capacity for guests, hand sanitizer stations, and the move to an outdoor venue. All ceremonies will be broadcast live for supporters who cannot attend. Questions about safety can be directed to events@siu.edu or call 618/453-7424.
Graduation Application
You can apply for graduation via SalukiNet (salukinet.siu.edu). You will receive an email confirmation after you have completed the online application. The deadline is Friday, March 12.

If you have any questions or problems with the online application process, please contact:

- Undergraduates: graduation@siu.edu or 618/453-2054
- Master’s and Ph.D. degree candidates:gradschl@siu.edu or 618/453-4550
- Law students: lawreg@siu.edu or 618/453-8765

Order your regalia
The deadline to order your custom regalia is Friday, April 2. You can order regalia from the University Bookstore in the Student Center or from Herff Jones directly at colleges.herffjones.com/college/_siuc/. You will have the option to pick up your regalia in person at the University Bookstore or have it shipped to you. There is an additional charge for shipping, which includes a prepaid return label.

Your name card
Name cards will be used to announce your name at Commencement. If you pick up your regalia from the University Bookstore, your name card will be included. Name cards can also be picked up at the Banterra Center ticket office beginning May 3. They will also be available at the tent in Lot 89 before each Commencement ceremony.

To assist the commencement readers with announcing your name correctly, please neatly and clearly write the pronunciation of your name on the reader card.

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**2021 COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES**

**Friday, May 7**
2 p.m. School of Law (2020 and 2021 graduates)
6 p.m. College of Agricultural Sciences and College of Science (2021 graduates)

**Saturday, May 8**
9 a.m. College of Liberal Arts and College of Mass Communication and Media Arts
Noon College of Applied Sciences and Arts
3 p.m. College of Business, College of Engineering, and School of Medicine
6 p.m. College of Education and Human Services

**Sunday, May 9**
Noon Colleges of Agricultural Sciences, Applied Sciences and Arts, Engineering, and Science, and School of Medicine
3 p.m. Colleges of Business, Education and Human Services, Liberal Arts, Mass Communication and Media Arts

Due to COVID-19 guidelines, graduates may only participate in their assigned ceremony.
I’ve applied for graduation and my regalia is ordered. Is there anything else I should do before commencement?

In addition to reviewing this information carefully yourself, share this commencement information with your family and friends so they can plan to celebrate with you on this special day. Commencement is a very busy day for the campus, the city of Carbondale and the surrounding communities. Early planning helps to ensure your commencement experience is enjoyed by those important to you.
Graduation announcements and diploma frames
Announcements and diploma frames are available from the University Bookstore in the Student Center, or from Herff Jones directly at colleges.herffjones.com/college/_siuc/. Please plan to allow at least 10 days for announcements to arrive.

Tickets and seating
• Due to COVID-19, each graduate is limited to 4 guest tickets. All guests must have a ticket for admission. Additional guest tickets may be available. Ticketing will be handled through the Banterra Center ticketing office. More information about how graduates can claim their guest tickets, or request to be on the wait list for extra tickets, will be coming soon.
• Ceremonies will be held in Saluki Stadium, 1415 Arena Drive, Carbondale, IL
• Tickets will be for specific seats. To ensure social distance between household groups, guests should only sit in the seat designated on their ticket. People from the same household may sit together.
All ceremonies will be broadcast live on YouTube. Guests who are unable to attend in person are encouraged to watch remotely.

Flowers and gifts
Bouquets of flowers, SIU memorabilia and other commencement items will be available for purchase inside Saluki Stadium. If you would like to conveniently pre-order flowers, please click the following link: thecommencementgroup.com/siuc

Regalia and name card
Don’t forget to pick up your regalia and name card. Regalia ordered for pick up at the University Bookstore will be available beginning May 3.
Name cards will be available at the University Bookstore and the Banterra Center ticket office beginning May 3. Name cards may also be picked up immediately before your ceremony in the graduate tent in Lot 89 (west of Saluki Stadium).

Discouraged items
To be mindful of other guests, balloons, balloon bouquets, signs, and anything that obstructs the view are discouraged. In the event of rain, small umbrellas may be used, provided they do not obstruct the view of other guests. Noise makers including air horns and cow bells are discouraged.
No alcohol or tobacco products. Outside food and drink may not be brought inside Saluki Stadium. Firearms and fireworks are prohibited.
Pets are not allowed.
All bags may be subject to inspection at all entries to Saluki Stadium.

Parking
Graduates and guests will be directed to park in the two parking lots south of Saluki Stadium (Lots 18 and 56). Designated parking for vehicles with disability plates or placards is available in Lot 18 (south of Saluki Stadium). Remember, this is a very busy day on campus.
Allow extra time to park and arrive at your seat or lineup location.

For students or guests with disabilities
Saluki Stadium is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Seating for wheelchairs and people with limited mobility is located on the lower levels of all sections in the seating bowl. When reserving guest tickets, please indicate if accessible seating is needed. Reservations are not needed for special-needs seating. Drop off for guests with limited mobility is available at the north end of Lot 18 (near the south entrance to Saluki Stadium), and designated parking for vehicles with disability plates or placards is located in Lot 18 (south of Saluki Stadium). For more information regarding guests’ special-needs accommodations, contact University Events at 618/453-7424 or email events@siu.edu. Students with disabilities should contact Disability Support Services at 618/453-5738 to discuss specific accommodations that can be made. There will be an American Sign Language interpreter at all commencement ceremonies.

Lodging and dining after the ceremony
Carbondale has many fine restaurants to celebrate this special occasion, as well as great hotels to house our guests. Please visit the Carbondale Chamber of Commerce website (carbondalechamber.com) for more information on dining and lodging. The Carbondale Convention and Tourism Bureau’s website (www.carbondaletourism.org) is also a helpful resource. Please note many restaurants will have adjusted capacity and procedures to comply with state and local COVID-19 guidelines. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Watch online
For supporters who cannot attend Commencement in person, all ceremonies will be available live at commencement.siu.edu/videos/
YOUR DAY

It's Commencement Day. What should I expect?

Attire: Business or business casual (under your gown, of course).

Behavior: Stay positive, attentive and thrilled. Understand that you’re sharing this day with others, so make sure you give everyone the space and respect they need to enjoy the day with you. We ask for your assistance in being prompt to avoid disruption of the processional. Graduates arriving after the processional begins may not be seated with their college or degree. Late arrivals will be directed to specific seats.

Seating: You will sit with your college, but there’s no need to sit alphabetically. Doctoral degree candidates will sit together with faculty in front of the undergraduate and master’s degree candidates.

Processional: To minimize crowding and promote social distancing, graduates will not process into the ceremony. Upon arrival, graduates should go directly to the field for seating with your college or school. Check in with faculty and staff from your academic unit on the field. If you need to pick up regalia, medallions or honor cords, or a name card, you can do so in the tent in Lot 89 (west of Saluki Stadium).

Personal Items: SIU does not provide a secure location for graduates to leave purses, bags, jackets and other personal items, and the university is not responsible for items left unattended. Given the seating arrangement, graduates may not be seated in the same chair after receiving their scrolls or diplomas. Graduates should not plan to leave personal items under their chairs. Please leave personal items with a friend or family member during the ceremony.

Weather: If it’s cloudy or rainy, we will proceed with Commencement. Graduates will be provided clear ponchos to wear over their regalia. Guests should dress appropriately for the weather - warm layers, rain jackets, boots - as necessary. Small umbrellas are permitted in the stands, provided they do not obstruct the view of other guests.

Severe Weather: We have several alternate plans in case of severe weather, including possible delay or rescheduling of ceremony or move to a virtual ceremony (2021 graduates). Since 2020 graduates have already had the virtual experience, we plan to provide an in-person opportunity, even if it has to be modified from a typical ceremony to move indoors).

Hope for sunny skies, but know we have plans in place for any scenario.
FINISHING YOUR DAY

Congratulations! You’ve graduated. What happens next?

To help you finish the day, here are some things to do and be aware of following the ceremony.

Return your regalia. Collection bins will be available at Saluki Stadium after each ceremony. If you do not return your regalia the day of Commencement, you can return it to the University Bookstore in the Student Center the following week.

Photos. In addition to all the shots your family will take with personal cameras and smartphones, we will also take photos of each graduate. You’ll receive a complimentary color proof within a week, either by mail or email, with instructions on how to order more.

For health and safety reasons, no one except graduates is allowed on the field during or after Commencement. Guests should plan to meet their graduate outside Saluki Stadium after the Commencement ceremony. There are many great spots to take photos outside Saluki Stadium and all over campus. Please be respectful of social distance and allow space for others.

Your diploma. Once all degree and financial requirements are met, we will mail your diploma to you.* However, if you have changed your diploma address (changing your address on SalukiNet does not change where your diploma is mailed), please email the Office of the Registrar at registrar@siu.edu, or you can confirm your address by calling 618/453-2054.

* Doctoral degree candidates may receive their diplomas directly following the ceremony.
YOUR CONNECTIONS
Always a Saluki.

Commencement is a beginning. Just as all of your accomplishments at SIU will propel you to the stage during the graduation ceremony, this day will launch your future success. Although it may feel like an ending, as though you are leaving SIU behind, nothing could be further from the truth. In many ways, graduation connects you to something much bigger.

You are a Saluki. You share an identity built on a boundless experience, which means one not limited to Carbondale or the year you graduated. The group you now belong to stretches back decades, even as the network reaches around the world more than 250,000 strong.

We want you to stay connected, so that all of the great things you’ve accomplished – and all of the relationships you’ve built – can continue to bring you closer to your goals. That is why we’ve created multiple ways for you to stay engaged and active with the SIU community.

We are here for you. The SIU Alumni Association is your connection to campus, as well as a vast network of alumni around the world. We create opportunities for every Saluki, every day, in every way possible. Your membership matters, because it powers the relationships that keep the SIU Alumni Association strong and helps fund scholarships and resource programs for current students. Membership also allows you to network with professionals, enjoy discounts through its Member Advantages Program and reconnect with old classmates, even years after you leave campus. Learn more about the services the SIU Alumni Association offers at siualumni.com.

We’ve got your back. Be prepared for life after college. Take advantage of the SIU Career Development Center to strengthen your interview, résumé and networking skills to help you stand out from other applicants. For Salukis everywhere, at any time, we’re here to help. Visit careerdevelopment.siu.edu.

SIU is in your corner. There are countless ways to rely on your alma mater. Reach out to your department; it has experts in your field, and you can gain great advice from former professors.

Sign up for alumni email updates, follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook. These are some of the best ways to stay informed and still feel like you’re part of our campus community. We will always be your university. This is SIU.
GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DAY

We welcome any questions, concerns or cheers. You can contact us at the Office of University Events and Protocol, Anthony Hall room 15, 618/453-7424. We manage all activities related to the commencement ceremony.

Please refer to the commencement website for more information: commencement.siu.edu.

Stay informed and connected.

COMMENCEMENT.SIU.EDU