

Banterra Center ■ 1400 Arena Drive ■ Carbondale, Illinois

COMMENCEMENT

MAY 9, 2026

THIS IS
YOUR DAY.



Southern Illinois University
CARBONDALE

PREPARING FOR YOUR DAY



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.



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

February

- 6 Deadline to apply for May 2026 graduation
- 17 Grad Bash

April

- 5 Deadline to order regalia for pick up
- 14 Deadline to order regalia with Home Ship

May

- 4 Regalia and reader card pick up begins
- 8 Academic Excellence
- 9 Commencement

Grad Bash

Plan to attend this event on Tuesday, February 17 from 10 a.m to 2 p.m. at the University Bookstore in the Student Center. During [Grad Bash](#), do the following:

- Order your regalia, announcements and more.
- Learn how to stay connected to the Alumni Association.
- Have a professional graduation portrait taken by GradImages.
- Visit with various campus departments about programs and services.

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, February 6.

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 Doctoral degree candidates: gradschl@siu.edu or 618/453-4550
- Law students: law@siu.edu or 618/536-7711

Order your regalia

The deadline to order your custom regalia for pick up is Sunday, April 5 by 10 p.m. The deadline to order for Home Ship is Tuesday, April 14 by 10 p.m. 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 reader card

Reader cards will be used to announce your name at Commencement. If you pick up your regalia from the University Bookstore, your reader card will be included. PhD, MFA and EdD students will receive their reader card the day of the ceremony when they check in at the Troutt-Wittmann Academic Center. Reader cards will be available on commencement day at the First Mid Bank Champions Club. To assist the commencement readers with announcing your name correctly, please neatly and clearly write the pronunciation of your name on the reader card.



SHARE YOUR DAY

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.

Guest seating

Tickets are not required.

Ceremony is held in the Banterra Center, 1400 Arena Drive, Carbondale, IL

General seating is limited. We anticipate a large crowd, and seating is first come, first served. We strongly urge guests to arrive as early as possible and find seats before the processional begins, no later than 15 minutes before the ceremony. Doors open 90 minutes before the start of the ceremony.

Flowers and gifts

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

Regalia and reader card

Don't forget to pick up your regalia and reader card. Regalia ordered for pick up at the University Bookstore will be available beginning May 4.

Reader cards will be available at the University Bookstore on May 4. Reader cards may also be picked up immediately before your ceremony in the First Mid Bank Champions Club in the Banterra Center.

Discouraged items

To be mindful of other guests, balloons, balloon bouquets, signs, and anything that obstructs the view are discouraged. Noise makers including air horns and cow bells are discouraged. No alcohol or tobacco products. Outside food and drink may not be brought inside the Banterra Center. Firearms and fireworks are prohibited. Pets are not allowed. All bags may be subject to inspection at all entries to the Banterra Center.

Parking

Graduates and guests will be directed to park in the two parking lots south of the Banterra Center (Lots 18 and 56). Designated parking for vehicles with disability plates or placards is available in Lot 18 (south of the Banterra Center) or in Lot 52, off Douglas Drive. 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

The Banterra Center is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Seating for wheelchairs and people with limited mobility is located on the concourse level, in all sections around the Banterra Center. Reservations are not needed for accessible seating. Drop off for guests with limited mobility is available at the west entrance to the Banterra Center, and parking for vehicles with disability placards or hang tags is available in Lot 18 and Lot 52. For more information regarding guests' special-needs accommodations, contact Events and Outreach at 618/536-7751 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 on commencement weekend

Carbondale has many fine restaurants to celebrate this special occasion, as well as great hotels to house our guests. Please visit the City of Carbondale website ([https://www.explorecarbondale.com/31/Things-to-Do](http://www.explorecarbondale.com/31/Things-to-Do)) for more information on dining and lodging. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Watch online

For supporters who cannot attend Commencement in person, all ceremonies will be available live at <https://commencement.siu.edu/photos/#video>

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.

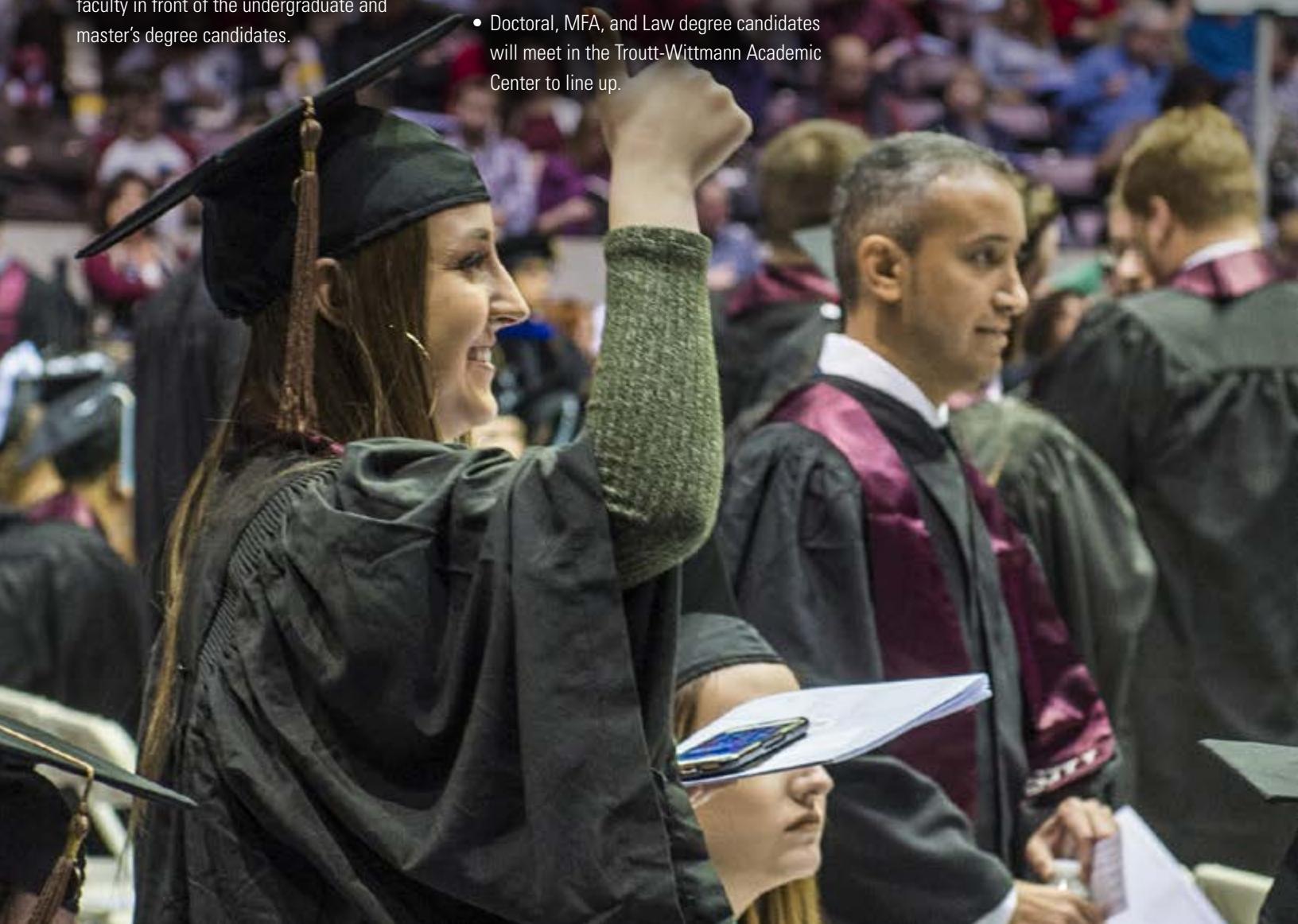
Seating: You will sit with your college, but there's no need to sit alphabetically. Doctoral degree candidates will sit together with faculty in front of the undergraduate and master's degree candidates.

Class Photo: Chancellor Lane will take a group photo with all graduates on the steps of the Banterra Center, 45 minutes before each ceremony. Meet at the steps for one final memory with the Class of 2026!

Processional: To ensure a prompt and orderly start to the ceremony, all graduates are required to report to the Banterra Center 45 minutes before the ceremony.

- Undergraduate degree candidates report to the Banterra Center floor for seating. Marshals will be there to assist.
- Master's degree candidates will meet in the lower level of Lingle Hall for lineup with their college/school.
- Doctoral, MFA, and Law degree candidates will meet in the Troutt-Wittmann Academic Center to line up.

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.



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.

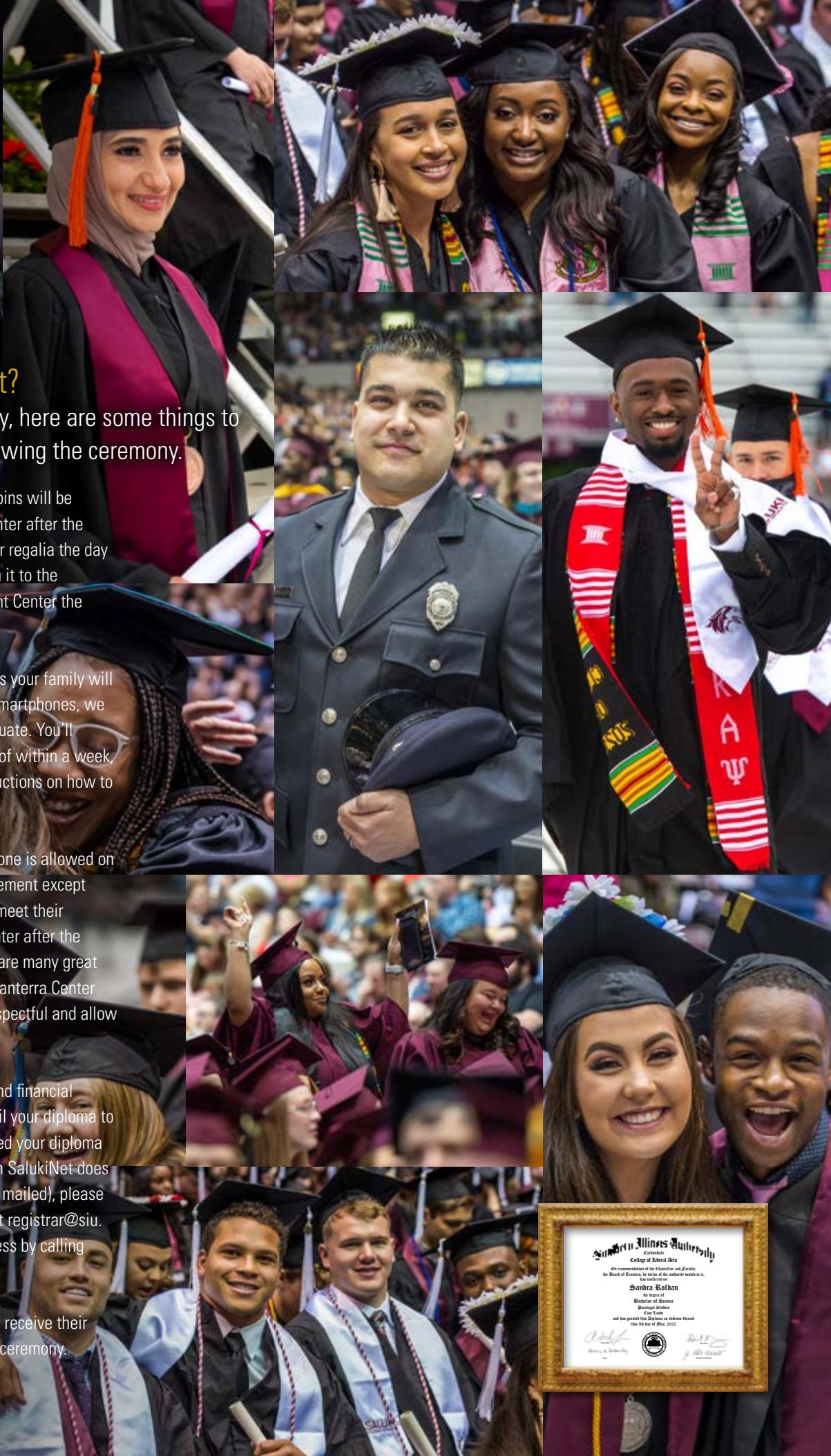
Return your regalia. Collection bins will be available outside the Banterra Center after the ceremony. If you do not return your regalia the day of Commencement, you can return it to the University Bookstore in the Student Center the following week.

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 is allowed on the floor during or after Commencement except graduates. Guests should plan to meet their graduate outside the Banterra Center after the Commencement ceremony. There are many great spots to take photos outside the Banterra Center and all over campus. Please be respectful 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.



STAY CONNECTED SHARE SALUKI PRIDE



TELL US WHERE YOU'RE GOING NEXT!

Update your record with a forwarding email, address, and any other information you'd like us to know. We're excited to learn what's next for you!

siualumni.com



Watch your SIU email! We're offering a gift to graduates later this year!



Offers exclusive resources and events for graduates under 35! Find out more by scanning the QR code.



FOLLOW US:

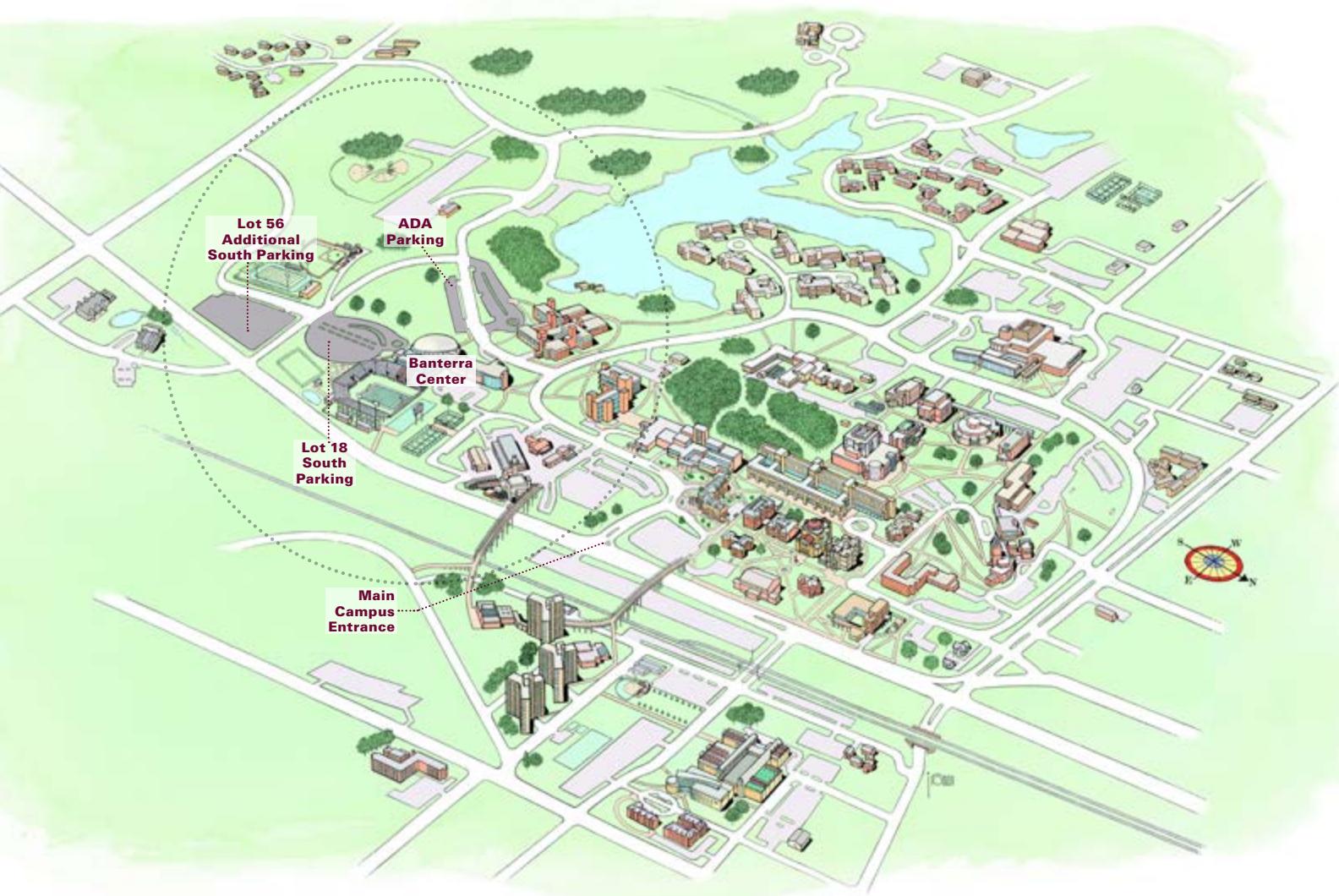


GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DAY

We welcome any questions, concerns, or cheers.

You can contact us at Events and Outreach, Anthony Hall Room 15, 618/536-7751. 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