COMMENCEMENT
December 11, 2021

Banterra Center ■ 1400 Arena Drive ■ Carbondale, Illinois

THIS IS YOUR DAY.

Southern Illinois University
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 for commencement ceremonies at the Banterra Center. 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 diligently followed health and safety protocols while remaining committed to education.

As we have learned over the past year and a half, plans often change. We were thrilled to celebrate in-person commencement ceremonies in May, and as of today, we are planning to resume our regular indoor commencement ceremony in December. Graduates and guests will be required to wear masks. Health and safety are of the utmost importance, and we will continue to monitor the situation to determine if any modifications are necessary, which could include limited capacity, social distancing and (as a last resort) move to a virtual ceremony. Please continue to check commencement.siu.edu for updates as we get closer to the event.

Despite the obstacles of 2020 and 2021, we have encouraged you to imagine a better world and your role in it. You have earned your degree through your ability to dream big and your own perseverance as well as the support of your family and talented faculty and dedicated staff. 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 we have worked to resume in-person ceremonies as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor data, and follow guidelines recommended by the CDC, the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Jackson County Health Department, and our campus emergency operations committee. If safety-related modifications are required, we will share that information as soon as possible. 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.
Grad Bash
Plan to attend this event on Thursday, September 9 at the University Bookstore in the Student Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. During Grad Bash, do the following:
• Verify your graduation application has been received. The application is available now.
• Order your regalia, announcements and more.
• Join 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, September 10.
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, November 5. 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 December 6. PhD, MFA and JD students will receive theirs the day of the ceremony when they check in at the Troutt-Wittman Academic Center. Name cards will be available on commencement day at the First-Mid Lounge.
To assist the commencement readers with announcing your name correctly, please neatly and clearly write the pronunciation of your name on the reader card.
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
Tickets are not required.
Ceremony is held in the Banterra Center (formerly SIU Arena), 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 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 December 6. Name cards will be available at the University Bookstore and the Banterra Center ticket office beginning December 6. Name cards may also be picked up immediately before your ceremony in the First-Mid Lounge 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). 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 and south entrances to the Banterra Center, and parking for vehicles with disability placards or hang tags is located near these entrances as well. 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 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 JD 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.
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 except graduates is allowed on the floor during or after Commencement. 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 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.
ONCE A SALUKI, ALWAYS A SALUKI

MORE THAN 250,000 ALUMNI WORLDWIDE

YOUR GATEWAY OF CONNECTION

Stay connected to your alma mater. Leverage a powerful network of Salukis helping Salukis. Engage with the colleges and programs to help other students achieve what you have done. The SIU Alumni Association is here to help guide you in your post-graduate life, offering a host of services, events, and programs to stay active and engaged in the life of your university.

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

Keep SIU at your fingertips with regular updates from the Association and campus. Available on iOS and Android devices.

FIND US ONLINE @

siualumni.com
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.