



PROVOST

January 5, 2026

Dear Friends:

Commencement is rapidly approaching!! I want to take this opportunity to share some important information that will help to make your graduation more enjoyable for you and your family.

The information contained in this letter is available at <https://www.geneva.edu/commencement> or here



#### **Baccalaureate**

Baccalaureate will be held on Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Metheny Fieldhouse. **Graduates should assemble for the procession in Merriman Gym by 6:30 p.m. dressed in their cap and gown.** The program is a worship service and an appropriate way to thank God for His provisions to our students and to commit them to His care for all their future endeavors. We encourage you to come for this special worship celebration.

#### **Commencement**

This year, we are planning to hold commencement outside in Reeves Stadium. It is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and will include graduates receiving their associate's, bachelor's, and master's degrees. The ceremony will last for approximately 2.5 hours. Gates will open at 8:00 am. If the weather does not cooperate, the ceremony will be moved into Metheny Fieldhouse where each graduate **may invite up to 8 family members/guests.** You can check the commencement website for location updates.

- Students who are graduating must be in Old Main – John H. White Chapel – by 8:45 a.m. to receive instructions. Please be on time!
- The ceremony will be live streamed. Family and guests not attending the ceremony may watch the ceremony live on the website.
- The bleachers in the stadium (and the Fieldhouse too) are hard and do not have seat backs. Your guests are welcome to bring a stadium cushion or stadium seat with a back.
- Everyone is invited to a light refreshment reception immediately following the ceremony at various sites around campus.

- Pictures of those graduating with honors will be taken at 8:00 am in Skye Lounge in the Student Center.
- If your name is pronounced differently than it looks to the usual reader, please call the registrar's office at 724-847-5566 to give us the correct pronunciation.
- Regalia should be ordered and paid for online **no later than March 26, 2026** either by clicking the Josten's link on the commencement website or by scanning this QR code:



- Regalia package for **Adult Degree Program and Center for Urban Biblical Ministry grads** includes a gown, cap and tassel and will be shipped directly to your home.
- Regalia package for **Masters grads** includes a gown, cap, hood and tassel and will be shipped directly to your home.
- Please contact Sarah Detrow with all questions at [sdetrow@slingshotedu.com](mailto:sdetrow@slingshotedu.com) or 724-847-6596.
- **IMPORTANT: Deadline to order regalia is March 26, 2026.**

**Parking and traffic flow** are always a special challenge at Commencement. If your family is able to walk, please park in one of the peripheral campus parking lots. Please be courteous to our neighbors and do not block private driveways or park in the lots of the local business establishments. Traffic is always heavy for Commencement, and it is advisable to give yourself an extra 20-30 minutes so that you and your family arrive on time and have adequate time to walk to campus.

- Information for persons with **disabilities or limited mobility**:
  - **Parking:** There are limited spaces available for individuals with physical disabilities and special needs. If your guests require wheelchair or limited mobility accessible parking, **even if they have a license plate or placard**, please complete the **Special Accommodations Form** located on the website. Those with a Geneva Commencement parking pass displayed on their dashboard will be directed to the drop off location where staff will be present to assist in parking and unloading.
  - **Seating:** Special seating is available for guests unable to climb bleachers. Limited space for wheelchairs is also available. Since space is limited, we ask that **only one** family member sit with this person during the ceremony. Please ask them to arrive early to secure seating accessibility. A special seating pass does not guarantee a seat for those arriving late.
  - Overall, it is very helpful if you can inform us in advance (**no later than April 17<sup>th</sup>**) if your guests have special needs so that we can provide the proper support. All special requests listed above, may be requested on the **Special Accommodations Form** which is located online on the commencement website or



- If you, the graduate, have difficulty walking and/or climbing stairs, notify us at [commencement@geneva.edu](mailto:commencement@geneva.edu) immediately.
- If you are unable to attend Commencement, please notify the Registrar's Office at 724-847-5566 as soon as possible. This information is critical for accurate planning.

- A **professional photographer** will take a picture of each graduate. The proofs are sent to the graduate a short time after graduation; however, you are under no obligation to make a purchase. Use of a photographer has worked well as it reduces congestion around the podium and makes a better experience for all concerned. In order to be respectful to all graduates and their family and friends, no one is permitted to approach the podium to take pictures. You are welcome to take photographs from your seat.

We look forward to seeing you on Commencement weekend. If you have special needs which are not addressed in this communication, please contact us at [commencement@geneva.edu](mailto:commencement@geneva.edu) as soon as possible so that we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melinda R. Stephens  
Provost

P.S. Please save this letter for reference when May 8 & 9 arrive!