Commencement Special Faculty Roles

There are approximately 15 special roles faculty members fulfill during the university’s commencement ceremonies. This resource provides an overview of these special roles as well as a brief description of role responsibilities and functions.

Grand Marshal

This faculty member is nominated by the Dean and must then be approved by the Provost. This is typically a senior and well respected faculty member within the college. This person starts and concludes the ceremony, being the first one to process in and out.

VIP Marshals

VIP marshals lead the President’s Party (stage party) on and off the stage during the ceremonies. Frequently, retiring faculty are chosen for this honor.

Faculty Marshals

Faculty marshals will lead the faculty in and out of the ceremony. Typically, the Lead Marshal serves as one of the Faculty Marshals.

Undergraduate Student Marshals

Undergraduate student marshals lead the undergraduate students into the ceremony, direct them on and off the stage to receive their scrolls, and lead them out during the recessional.

Graduate Student Marshals

Graduate student marshals lead the graduate students into the ceremony, direct them on and off the stage to receive their diploma folders, and lead them out during the recessional.

Readers

Readers are responsible for reading the names of each student from their respective college.

Name Card Presenters

Name care presenters serve by handing the name cards to the readers as the students step onto the stage to get their scrolls.