Commencement Ceremony Rehearsal for Doctoral Candidates and Thesis/Dissertation Chairpersons

Arrival and Rehearsal

1. Your thesis/dissertation advisors and you are to attend the commencement rehearsal. The rehearsal will occur in the Towson Center gym on the date scheduled for the commencement (See below dates).
2. Arrive 90 minutes before your commencement ceremony begins: 8:30 AM for morning commencement and 1:30 PM for afternoon commencement. Arrive promptly as there is only 30 minutes allotted for rehearsal: 8:30 to 9 AM for morning ceremonies and 1:30 to 2 PM for afternoon ceremonies.
3. Meet on the left side of the Towson Center gym for the rehearsal.
4. Contact disability Support Services in advance, if you have mobility challenges. Wheel chairs can be arranged to transport you.

Gowning

5. Bring your gowns, but leave your valuables with family members or in your cars as there will not be a secure location for storage. If you must bring personal items, they should be small enough to carry in the pockets of your clothing or in a very small pouch/purse that is concealable under your gown.
6. Wear comfortable shoes as you will need to walk at least ¼ mile from the Towson Center where all graduating students are to convene to the SECU Arena where the commencement ceremony will take place.
7. You will robe at the Towson Center. Place the tassel of your cap to the left. The tag on the inside of your cap indicates the back of the cap.
8. Doctoral candidate hoods will be distributed during the rehearsal. A green hood is for a Doctor of Audiology; a blue hood is for a Doctor of Education; and a yellow hood is for a Doctor of Science. Drape the hood over your right forearm with the colored fabric facing toward your hand and the black button hook by the collar (narrow part of the hood) facing the zipper of your gown.

Procession

9. The thesis/dissertation advisors and you lead the student procession from the Towson Center to the SECU Arena for the commencement ceremony. The procession starts at 9:30 AM for morning ceremonies and at 2:30 PM for afternoon ceremonies.
   b. You are to line up in front of your respective advisor. If more than one of you has the same advisor, whoever is first alphabetically stands in front of the advisor. The others line up alphabetically behind the advisor.
10. Enter the SECU Arena at the doors nearest the stage, process down the side aisles then up the center aisle. Depending on the number of doctoral candidates in your college, you will sit only on the left side or on both sides of the center aisle. In some circumstances, the doctoral candidate may sit on the left side of the aisle and the thesis/dissertation advisor may sit on the right side of the aisle. Follow the directions of the commencement marshals.
Hooding Ceremony

1. When the Provost says “Will the candidates for the doctoral degree in (name of program) please stand” you and all of the other candidates and thesis/dissertation advisors are to stand, remain by your seats and face the audience.

2. When the Provost says “I now ask (name of advisors) to escort the candidates to the stage” you and all of the other candidates and thesis/dissertation advisors move to the stage right stairs (stairs on the left side of the stage as you face it from the audience).
   - See A C in diagram below regarding where you and your advisor stand prior to being hooded.
   - See AS in diagram below regarding where to stand for those advisors who are part of the stage party

3. The Dean of your college will call each of your names individually for hooding.
   - When your name is called, walk from the top of the stairs and across the stage to the edge of the table where the graduate dean (GD) is standing. Your advisor will accompany you and stand to your right (See below diagram).
   - Hand your hood to the graduate dean then face the audience.

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**Diagram:**

- **Stage Right:**
  - Podium
  - Table
  - A
  - S
  - C
  - D
  - GD

- **Stage Left:**
  - Podium
  - Table
  - R
  - P

- **Center Stair:**

A= Advisor
C = candidate
AS = advisors who are part of stage party
CD= College Dean
GD= Graduate Dean
R= Regent or President
P= Provost

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Wheelchairs can be arranged to transport you in advance if you have mobility challenges.
4. As the college dean reads your name and the title of your thesis/dissertation, the graduate dean will pass your hood behind your back to your advisor. The graduate dean and your advisor will hood you, signifying doctoral status.

5. The graduate dean then will hand your diploma cover to you. Face forward for a photo.

6. After the Regent/President says “I now present Dr. (your name) exit the stage by the center stairs. The commence staff will direct you to the location to get your photo and return to your seat.
   - Your advisor will escort you off stage if your advisor is only hooding you
   - Advisors who have other candidates to hood will remain on stage by the graduate dean until they have hooded their last candidate,
     - then escort their last candidate off stage or
     - Return to their seat on stage

The link to the official commencement ceremony site is

https://www.towson.edu/academics/commencement/ceremony/

Review for parking, clothing recommendations, ticket options, etc.

Make sure you have contacted the Graduation Office to apply for graduation, and register for commencement, and order your commence attire. Note deadlines for each of these important tasks.