

MAY 2025 COMMENCEMENT

FAQ

Q: When is Commencement?

A: *Commencement will take place*
Saturday, May 17, 2025
8:30 a.m. Plaza Mayor Courtyard
Stetson University College of Law
1401 61st Street South, Gulfport, FL

There will be one ceremony starting at 8:30 a.m.

Q: Which graduating classes are included in the May 2025 Commencement?

A: *December 2024 graduates (LL.M, MJur and JD Graduates), May 2025, and August 2025 graduates (LL.M, MJur and JD Graduates).*

Commencement Attendance

Q: When must graduates arrive?

A: *Graduates must be in full regalia and in their robing room by 6:30 a.m. on the morning of Commencement. Specific robing room location and processional details will be provided to graduates in advance of Commencement.*

Q: When can my guests arrive?

A: *Guests can arrive starting at 6:30 a.m. Guests should be seated by 8:15 a.m. Guests not seated by 8:15 a.m. will be seated at the conclusion of the Processional.*

Q: Can my family leave after my name is called?

A: *Guests can leave at any time during the ceremony. We ask that you respect the other guests in attendance.*

Q: Where can graduates and guests park?

A: *Parking is available on campus and streets surrounding the College of Law if there is not a “No Parking” sign. Please do not park on any grass area near the College of Law or campus housing.*

Overflow parking is located at Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 5800 15th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL. A shuttle will run on a loop from the church to the Stetson continuously both prior to the ceremony start, and at the conclusion of Commencement.

Q: Will the commencement ceremony be streamed live?

A: *Yes, The May 2025 Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed, with closed captions. Those wishing to view the livestream version of the May 2025 Commencement Ceremony may access the livestream link at the top of the [College of Law](#) website on the morning of May 17, 2025.*

Q: Is there a chance Commencement will be cancelled?

A: *Commencement plans are contingent upon the weather and are subject to change at any point between now and May 17, 2025.*

Q: What if there is inclement weather on the day of Commencement?

A: *In case of inclement weather, we will move to the alternate location of First Baptist Church, 1900 Gandy Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL. Graduates will be advised via email as well as the College of Law homepage. The ceremony will begin at 10:00 a.m. and graduates will report 8:00 a.m. Should we move to the alternate site, graduates will be limited to **FOUR** guests.*

Q: Who is the Commencement speaker?

A: *Please refer to the Stetson College of Law Graduation webpage for the most up to date information on the keynote speaker.*

Commencement Wristbands

Q: Is there a guest limit for the Commencement Ceremony?

A: *Graduates will be issued **EIGHT (8)** guest wristbands for the Commencement Ceremony. Should we move to the alternate site, graduates will be limited to **FOUR (4)** guests.*

Q: Why is there an 8-guest maximum?

A: *The safety of our graduates and guests is our number one priority. The space and facilities at the College of Law can only accommodate a certain number of guests. Attendance is determined in consultation with the Administration, Public Safety, and local officials, in response to the capacity of Stetson Law's facilities and local rules and regulations addressing public safety. *Our inclement weather facility has a maximum capacity that accommodates four guests per graduate.*

Q: Will the 8-guest maximum for on campus Commencement change based on the number of graduates who RSVP?

A: *No, the 8-guest maximum will not change. Guest wristbands will be distributed with graduation cords during the tabling event in May prior to Commencement. Graduates who are not attending Commencement are permitted to share their guest wristbands*

with other graduates – please complete the [Graduate Wristband Exchange form](#) provided by the Division of Student Affairs.

Q: If a child sits on my lap does that count as a guest?

A: Children aged four and under can sit on a guest's lap without utilizing a ticket/wristband.

Q: When will I receive my wristbands and alternate site tickets?

A: Guest wristbands and alternate site tickets will be distributed with graduation cords at the Composite Photo Session and tabling event hosted by the Office of Student Affairs, the Office of Career and Professional Development, and Bar Preparation on Tuesday, May 13, and Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Q: May I use someone else's 8-guest wristbands or alternate site tickets if they aren't using all of theirs?

A: Yes. Please complete the [Graduate Wristband Exchange form](#) by Friday, April 28, 2025. The Graduate Wristband Exchange form allows the Division of Student Affairs to assess the need and availability of wristbands among our students, to better assist with redistribution. The form also permits students to join a waitlist for additional wristbands if available. All students are asked to complete this form regardless of the number of wristbands they intend to use/not use for Commencement. While students may give wristbands directly to fellow graduates in need, the form submission must reflect this.

Q: Will there be a place on campus for my other guests (above 8) to watch the ceremony?

A: No. For any of a graduate's eight (8) guests who require or prefer indoor accommodations, the Eleazer Courtroom will carry a live-stream of the Commencement Ceremony. In addition, for those wishing to view the livestream version of the May 2025 Commencement Ceremony, the entire Commencement Ceremony will be livestreamed with a link to the livestream to be posted at the top of the [College of Law website](#) on the morning of Commencement, May 17, 2025.

If we move to the alternate site only four guests are permitted to attend. There will not be a place on campus for guests to watch the ceremony.

Q: Does my legacy presenter count toward the 8-guest maximum?

A: No, the legacy presenter(s) does not count toward the 8-guest maximum because they are seated behind the Faculty. Please contact the Dean's Office at lawdean@law.stetson.edu and the Development and Alumni Relations Office at tdjackso@law.stetson.edu with any questions regarding legacy participation at the graduation ceremony.

Commencement Attire

Q: What do I wear to Commencement?

A: *All graduates will wear regalia for Commencement. Regalia includes a tam, gown, hood and any cords awarded.*

Q: When will I receive my regalia?

A: *Regalia will be available for pick up by appointment from the Office of Career and Professional Development (Second Floor of the Student Center above the gym on the Gulfport campus) on its delivery from Herff Jones. Graduates will receive communication from the Office of Career and Professional Development in late March or early April regarding regalia pick-up timelines and procedures.*

*The cutoff order date of **February 21, 2025**, was set to guarantee delivery in time for the ceremony.*

Q: What are cords/When will I receive my cords?

A: *Graduation Cords are rope-like accessories worn with your Regalia at May Commencement. Cords are awarded for certain student academic leader recognitions, academic achievements, student leadership positions, pro bono service, and memberships in particular honor societies and organizations.*

The Office of Student Affairs will distribute cords at the tabling event on Tuesday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. outside the Student Affairs office.

A complete list of Graduation Cords is available on the Commencement Overview.

Commencement Week Events: Composite Photos, Graduate Brunch, Graduate Celebration, and Honors & Awards

Q: What are Composite Photos?

A: *Composite photos of your graduating law school class are lasting mementos of your successful law school journey; the composites are framed and hung on campus (examples are near the elevator in the Tower building) and a smaller version is made for you.*

Q: When are Composite Pictures taking place?

A: *Composite photos will take place on Tuesday, May 13, and Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.. Graduates will sign up at the below link or the link provided in Graduation emails and on the Graduation webpage. [Composite Photo sign-up](#).*

Graduates will don graduate robe and hood (no tams or cords) for the photo.

Q: What if I am unable to attend the Composite Pictures session?

A: *You can submit your composite photo directly to the composite vendor to be included in the May 2025 Commencement Composite Photo. Beth@universityphoto.com*

Photos should be taken in your regalia and must comply with the following file size/formats:

- *File Type: JPG/JPEG • Minimum File Size: 100 KB*
- *Minimum Dimensions: 2.5 in. x 3.5 in.*
- *Minimum Resolution: 300 DPI*

Q: Who should attend the Graduate Brunch?

A: *All Graduates.*

Graduation Brunch is only for graduates and will include recognition and awards for certain student leadership. Listed below are the Student Leadership Recognitions celebrated at Graduation Brunch.

*American Bar Association Leaders
Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division Law School Affiliates
Student Bar Association Leaders
Student Organization Presidents
Stetson Ambassadors
Student Leadership Development Committee
Student Leadership Development Certificates
Veterans Law Institute Award*

The Graduate Brunch is scheduled for Thursday, May 15, 2025 from 11:00a.m to 1:00p.m at The Coliseum, 535 4th Ave. N., St. Petersburg, FL, 33701.

Q: What is the Graduate Celebration?

A: *The Graduate Celebration is a unique moment to celebrate your achievement with family, friends, and fellow graduates. Held after the Honors & Awards ceremony in the Mann Lounge and Banyan Courtyard, and open to ALL graduates, the celebration features food, refreshments, music, and a photo booth – come celebrate in style with your Stetson Law community. There is no guest limit!*

The Graduate Celebration is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2025, from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m. and will be held in the Mann Lounge and Banyan Courtyard.

Q: Is there a dress code for the Graduate Celebration?

A: *This is your chance to Celebrate in style! Your choice to show off in festive and fun business professional, or cocktail attire is the order of the day. You've worked hard during your time at Stetson – the Graduate Celebration is an opportunity to shine.*

Q: Is there a guest limit for the Graduate Celebration?

A: *No – we look forward to celebrating with your family and friends.*

Q: Where can graduates and guests park for the Graduate Celebration?

A: *Parking is available on campus and streets surrounding the College of Law if there is not a “No Parking” sign. Please do not park on any grass area near the College of Law or campus housing.*

Overflow parking is located at Most Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church, 5800 15th Avenue South, Gulfport, FL. A shuttle will run on a loop from the church to the Stetson campus from 4:30p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Q: Who should attend the Honors & Awards Ceremony?

A: *The Honors and Awards Ceremony is dedicated to the academic recognition of our graduates. Participants in select activities, and recipients of named awards will be notified by the College and invited to the Honors & Awards Ceremony via direct correspondence in advance of the Ceremony.*

The Ceremony will be held from 4:00p.m. to 5:00p.m. in the Great Hall.

If you participated in any of the below, you are invited to attend the Honors and Awards Ceremony.

Anticipated Honors Graduates

Certificates of Concentration

Dispute Resolution Board

Dual Degrees

Honors Program

Journal of Comparative and International Aging Law and Policy

Journal of International Wildlife Law and Policy

Mock Trial Board (Trial Team)

Moot Court Board

*Named Awards**

Nominees for the National Order of Barristers

Public Service Fellows

Stetson Business Law Review

Stetson Journal of Advocacy and the Law

Stetson Law Review

William F. Blews Pro Bono Award Recipients

****Students receiving named awards will be notified by the Development and Alumni Relations office a few weeks before the ceremony.***

Q: Is there a guest limit for Honors & Awards?

A: *Yes – Graduates being recognized at the Honors and Awards Ceremony are*

*limited to **FOUR** guests. Honors & Awards seating is on a first-come, first-serve basis with limited seating in the Great Hall. Once the Great Hall is at capacity, guests may watch a live-stream of the H&A ceremony from the Advocacy Center trophy room.*

Commencement – Additional Inquiries

Q: What if I don't participate in the May 2025 Commencement Ceremony?

A: *Your cords and certificates will be available during the tabling events conducted at composite photo sessions on Tuesday, May 13 and Wednesday, May 14, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.*

If you are unable to attend the tabling event, your cords and certificates will be available when the Registrar hosts their diploma drive-through pick up (early to mid-summer with emails forthcoming detailing specific dates and procedures). You can also request to have your diploma, certificates and cards mailed to you. Detailed instructions on diploma pick-up are sent from the Registrar to graduates via email.

Q: Why am I being asked for my post-graduation employment information/status?

A: *Each year, Stetson Law is required to provide employment data for each member of our most recent graduating cohort to the American Bar Association (ABA), the National Association for Law Placement (NALP). This information is reported without revealing or reporting graduate names or individually identifying information. Employment data plays an important role in Stetson Law's accreditation, reputation, rankings, and research on the employment market. The most recent ABA Employment Report (for the graduating classes of December 2022, May 2023, and August 2023) is available online, at <https://www.stetson.edu/law/career/home/employment-reports.php>.*

Q: Why am I being asked for my permanent address?

A: *Your graduation from Stetson University College of Law marks not only the completion of your legal studies, but your entrance into the College's engaged alumni community. As a Stetson Law Alum, the College's services are always available to you.*

Completion of the Permanent Address Form allows the College to:

- Mail graduation related materials (diploma, cords, honors, etc) to you if requested;*
- Invite you to campus celebrations and events;*
- Update you on all the happenings and advancements with the College of Law.*