

## Commencement

**Original Implementation:** February, 1984

**Last Revision:** April 20, 2021

Stephen F. Austin State University will hold commencement ceremonies at the end of the fall, spring, and summer terms. Arrangements for the ceremonies are the responsibility of the registrar. Selection of and arrangements for a speaker are the responsibility of the president or his designee.

Commencement is an important symbol of the university's core function. In order to have adequate faculty representation at commencement, full-time faculty members are obligated to attend at least one commencement each academic year unless directed otherwise by the provost. For faculty teaching in the second summer term, attendance at the August ceremony is required. Academic unit heads are responsible for informing faculty members of the provisions of this policy and encouraging them to comply.

Faculty, staff, students and guests are expected to maintain decorum. As a formal ceremony, all attendees are expected to abide by any protocol or guidelines issued by the university. which will, at a minimum, include the following:

- All attendees must follow all written and verbal instructions.
- All attendees must remain seated during the ceremony and remain for the entire ceremony.
- All commencement participants are required to wear an official University recognized regalia or dress military uniform as communicated through commencement correspondence.
- All cell phones or other electronic devices must be silenced.
- The possession or use of alcohol or illegal substances, air horns and any other artificial noisemaker, fireworks, balloons, flags, or banners is prohibited.

Any attendee who is disruptive during the ceremony or fails to follow written or verbal instructions may be excused from the venue.

Prior to commencement, the Office of the Registrar will provide students with information regarding expected decorum and attire as approved by the provost and vice president for academic affairs. Students will additionally be provided with similar information to provide to their guests.

The Office of the Registrar will post signage at commencement reminding attendees of the prohibition of air horns and other artificial noisemakers and any other information deemed prudent by the provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The student regent, or other individual selected by the provost and vice president for academic affairs, will give an announcement regarding decorum at the start of the commencement ceremony.

**Cross Reference:** None

**Responsible for Implementation:** Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs;  
Executive Director of Enrollment Management

**Contact for Revision:** Executive Director of Enrollment Management

**Forms:** None

**Board Committee Assignment:** Academic and Student Affairs