



# 2021 RWU COMMENCEMENT Information

**A STEP BY STEP GUIDE ON WHAT TO EXPECT FOR YOUR GRAD  
WALK AND OTHER IMPORTANT GRADUATING INFORMATION**



# GRAD WALK OVERVIEW

- ▶ A Grad Walk is a constant, moving line of graduates processing across a celebratory stage.
- ▶ The Grad Walk allows each graduate to step on stage, have their name read, and an official graduation photo be taken.
- ▶ There is no sit down ceremony or speaking portion during the Grad Walk.
- ▶ The Grad Walk allows thousands of students and their guests to each have their celebratory moment in-person to mark this special occasion.
- ▶ The Grad Walk must continue to move to stay on schedule for each graduate.
- ▶ Out of respect for your fellow graduating Hawks, please be prepared for your Grad Walk, check-in 15 minutes prior to your time slot, and be dressed and ready to go before you enter the Rec Center.



# GRAD WALK PREPARATION

- ▶ Print out your Grad Pass and bring it with you to the Grad Walk for check-in.
- ▶ Please arrive dressed in your regalia, ready to go for your Grad Walk.
- ▶ Masks are required of all graduates, guests, staff, and volunteers.
- ▶ Check-in with your 2 guests 15 minutes prior to your scheduled Grad Walk time slot.  
**YOU MUST CHECK-IN WITH YOUR 2 GUESTS.**
- ▶ Please don't bring anything to the Grad Walk with you that you are not willing to carry throughout your Grad Walk. There will be no place to store or place bags, purses, etc.
- ▶ Bags will be checked by security before entering the building.
- ▶ Don't worry if you lost or forgot a piece of your regalia on that day. The Bookstore will be on-site, outside the Rec Center to assist any graduate with last minute needs *before* they enter the Rec Center.
- ▶ Yes, you can decorate your cap for your Grad Walk! It is yours to keep. Please be mindful and respectful in your decorations.



# SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2021

## GRAD WALK ARRIVAL

- ▶ Please follow signage to enter campus from the North entrance (by the athletic fields). Bristol Police Department and RWU Public Safety will be directing traffic.
- ▶ All graduates and guests should park in Lot D, by the North Campus Residence Halls. Handicap guests can park in any handicap spot on campus.
- ▶ If you arrive to campus extremely early to avoid traffic, we understand. We just ask that you remain in your car until it's time to report for your check-in.
- ▶ **PROHIBITED ITEMS:** Balloons, air horns, noise makers, weapons, obstructive signs, or any other obtrusive items are NOT allowed at or during the Grad Walk and will be confiscated at the door. Please be respectful of all graduates and guests.
- ▶ **MOBILE PHONES:** During the Grad Walk, we ask all graduates, guests, and staff to silence their mobile phones so every Graduate's name can be heard.



# GRAD WALK LOCATIONS

When you arrive on Saturday, there will be two lines to enter the Rec Center for the Grad Walk Check-in. Please identify your Grad Walk location in advance; it's also on your Grad Pass. There will be signage and volunteers to help direct you on the day.

## **LINE A -** **FIELDHOUSE**

- ❖ School of Engineering, Computing, and Construction Management
- ❖ Gabelli School of Business
- ❖ School of Justice Studies

## **LINE B -** **GYMNASIUM**

- ❖ University College
- ❖ School of Architecture, Art & Historic Preservation
- ❖ School of Social and Natural Sciences
- ❖ School of Humanities, Art & Education



# GRAD WALK CHECK-IN

Location: Rec Center Vestibule (main entrance)

- ▶ This is the ONLY entrance for the Grad Walk. Any person needing the handicap entrance should use the ramp into the Rec Center.
- ▶ Graduates should arrive on campus dressed in their regalia and ready to go.
- ▶ **Graduates and their 2 guests MUST check-in together.** Please plan accordingly.
- ▶ Graduates and their 2 guests need to check-in together at the Grad Walk Check-in table 15-minutes prior to the graduate's schedule time slot.
  - ▶ *Ex. If you signed up for a 9:45 a.m. time slot, you should be checking in at 9:30 a.m. in the Rec Center.*
- ▶ Please don't bring anything to the Grad Walk that you are not willing to carry throughout your Grad Walk. There will be no place to store or place bags, purses, personal belongings, etc.



# GRAD WALK CHECK-IN PROCESS

Graduates and their two guests enter either Line A or Line B, based on your school Grad Walk location.

## At the check-in table:

- ✓ Staff will scan the Graduate's Grad pass and verify their 2 guests. Graduates will KEEP their Grad Pass after they've checked-in. You will need this to cross the stage.
- ✓ Staff will check guest COVID test documentation.
- ✓ Staff will have records from Health Services of students that did their bi-weekly COVID testing.
- ✓ Staff will distribute Honors tassels to the graduate, if applicable.
- ✓ Security will be checking bags. Please leave anything you do not wish to carry in your car. There will be no storage at the Rec Center for these personal belongings.
- ✓ If you arrive late for your time slot, staff will work you into the line as soon as they can. If you arrive extremely late, you will miss your school timeframe and not see your school Dean, but you will still walk across the stage.
- ✓ **PLEASE ARRIVE ON TIME.**



# GRAD WALK PROCESS

- ▶ The Graduate and their 2 guests must remain in their pod throughout the Grad Walk, with the exception of the stage cross.
- ▶ After check-in, the graduate and their 2 guests will stay in their respective Line A or Line B down the main ramp inside the Rec Center.
- ▶ At the end of the ramp, the two lines will split, and a volunteer will direct Line A to the Fieldhouse and Line B to the Gymnasium.
- ▶ In the Fieldhouse/Gymnasium, volunteers will keep each pod in a socially distanced line.
- ▶ As you approach the staging area, the graduate and their 2 guests will be separated into two lines, (Graduate line and a Guest line) staying parallel with each other.
- ▶ The guest line and the graduate line will move forward as directed by staff/volunteers.



# GRAD WALK STAGE CROSS

- ▶ When it's time, the graduate will be directed by staff to the right of the stage, and their two guests will be directed to the left of the stage.
- ▶ The Graduate will pick up a diploma cover from the Registrar's table.
- ▶ The Graduate will hand their Grad Pass to a staff member to be scanned.
- ▶ The Graduate will wait for a cue from staff to step up on stage.
- ▶ The Graduate's name will be read as they walk to a marked spot on stage.
- ▶ The Graduate will stand on the mark, remove their mask, hold their diploma cover for their official graduation photo.
- ▶ After the photo, the graduate will be directed to exit the stage for another photo in front of the green screen off-stage.
- ▶ After the second photo, the graduate will put their mask back on, be congratulated by their Dean, and rejoin their 2 guests.
- ▶ The graduate and their 2 guests will exit the Grad Walk location, either out the back ramp of the Fieldhouse or the back doors of the Gymnasium.



# GRAD WALK STAGE CROSS cont.

- ▶ During the graduate's cross and photo op on stage, their two guests will be directed to a mark on the left side of the stage to stand so they can have optimal view of the stage to take photos and see their graduate have their celebratory moment.
- ▶ Friends and family viewing the livestream of the stage cross, will see their graduate in live view framed with a lower third banner on the screen, including their name, degree and honors. They will hear the graduate's name read, as well.
- ▶ The guests will reunite with their graduate after their second photo op off stage.
- ▶ The Graduate and their two guests will be given two official Commencement program books before they leave as a keepsake.
- ▶ Each Grad Walk location will each have it's own livestream link on the RWU website for all to view. The links will be go live on the DAY OF COMMENCEMENT.
- ▶ We ask graduates and their two guests to exit the building after their grad walk so we can make sure each graduate gets their time on stage for their registered time slot.
- ▶ Unless you still need to move out, we kindly ask graduates and guests to leave campus after their Grad Walk.



# VIRTUAL COMMENCEMENT SPEAKING PROGRAM

The 2021 Commencement Speaking program is pre-recorded and will be posted on the Commencement website on Saturday, May 22, 2021 for all to view. The Commencement Speaking program can be viewed at anytime the viewer wishes.

► The virtual Commencement Speaking Program will include:

- ❖ President Miaoulis
- ❖ Chairman Tim Baxter
- ❖ Student National Anthem Singer
- ❖ Student Commencement Speaker
- ❖ Honorary Degree Recipients
- ❖ Faculty in Excellence Award Recipients
- ❖ Senior Class President leading the Turning of the Tassel
- ❖ RWU Alumni Association President Greeting
- ❖ Special remarks from the Dean's



# VIRTUAL GRADUATES

## Graduating students NOT participating in the Grad Walk:

- ▶ Graduates who are unable or who have chosen not to participate in the Grad Walk, will be featured on the Field House live stream on Saturday, May 22, 2021 IF they created a slide via Marching Order.
- ▶ All Graduates had an opportunity to create a slide via Marching Order. **If you forgot to make a slide, you have one last chance! Send an email to [events@rwu.edu](mailto:events@rwu.edu) by FRIDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 P.M.**
- ▶ Graduates not participating in the Grad Walk will be mailed two official Commencement Program books after Commencement. Graduates will receive their Honors Tassels in the mail if they are not participating in the Grad Walk.
- ▶ The Virtual Commencement Speaking Program, the live stream of the Grad Walks, and the graduate slides will be stitched into a complete video after Commencement and shared on the website in June.
- ▶ All graduates, whether remote or in-person, can share their personal Grad Slide (if they created one) on social media to celebrate their Commencement.



# PHOTOGRAPHY

- ▶ Graduates who participate in the Grad Walk will have their official stage photo taken by Island Photography, as well a second photo off stage.
- ▶ The photo op after stepping off stage is in front of a green screen, which allows the graduate to choose the image from campus behind them. This will be done all via Island Photography.
- ▶ Graduates will receive communications directly from Island Photography AFTER Commencement with instructions on how graduates can order prints of their photos.
- ▶ Other professional photographers will be on site for the Grad Walk and those photos will be shared on the Commencement website after Commencement for graduates and families to view and save. Please allow a few weeks for these to be posted.



# FINAL IMPORTANT ITEMS:

- ▶ **DIPLOMAS:** Graduates do not receive their physical diploma on Commencement day. Diploma's are mailed to the Graduate's home over the summer via the Registrar's office.
- ▶ **REGALIA:** Regalia distributors have been overloaded this Spring. The Bookstore will email students when they have regalia back in stock. **Please don't worry – everyone will get regalia.**
- ▶ **LIVE STREAM:** links will be posted on the RWU Website on the day-of Commencement, Saturday, May 22.
  - ▶ There will be a link for the Grad Walk in the Fieldhouse and a link for the Grad Walk in the Gymnasium.
  - ▶ If graduates made a slide and are NOT attending the Grad Walk, those slides will be shown on the Fieldhouse livestream link after the last in-person walk. *Only graduates who made a slide via Marching Order will be shown.*



# FINAL IMPORTANT ITEMS cont.

- ▶ **MARCHING ORDER:** All Graduates had an opportunity to register for the Grad Walk and/or to create a slide via Marching Order. **If you forgot to make a slide, if you have edits for a slide you did make, OR if you have any guest edits to make, you have one last chance to submit! Send an email with the information for your slide, including your photo, and/or any edits to [events@rwu.edu](mailto:events@rwu.edu) by FRIDAY, MAY 14<sup>TH</sup> 4:00 P.M.**
- ▶ **GRAD SLIDES:** All graduates, whether remote or in-person, can share their personal Grad Slide (if they created one on Marching Order) on social media to celebrate their Commencement.
- ▶ **FINAL COMMENCEMENT VIDEO:** The Virtual Commencement Speaking Program, the live stream of the Grad Walks, and the graduate slides will be stitched into a complete video after Commencement and shared on the website in June.



# PRESIDENT'S GRADUATION RECEPTION

Wednesday, May 19, 2021

Location: Upper Commons, Bristol Campus

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Eligible graduating students only; no guests are allowed.

Business attire is required.

*Students will be asked to show their government-issued photo ID at check-in if they choose to partake in libations.*

Questions and/or any special assistance needed to attend the event can be sent to [events@rwu.edu](mailto:events@rwu.edu)



**CONGRATULATIONS,  
CLASS OF 2021 Hawks!**

