

# Graduate Hooding Ceremony 2012

## Graduate Speaker Application / Guidelines

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Roger Williams University will begin a new tradition this year – having a graduate student speak at the graduate hooding ceremony. This is an opportunity for a graduate student to play a special role in the ceremony by giving the Student Address. All graduate students who will graduate in May 2012 and meet the requirements outlined in the application are invited to become candidates for this honor.

Please **carefully read** the contents of this packet before beginning your application process. You will find included:

- **Speech Guidelines**
- **Selection Process and Timeline**
- **Committee Information**
- **Final Speaker Responsibilities**
- **Student Commencement Speaker Application**

### **Speech Guidelines:**

The following information is provided to assist in the development of an appropriate speech.

1. The speech should mark the Graduate Hooding Ceremony as a special occasion. Your words will represent the entire graduating class of master's degree students.
2. The goal of your speech is to reflect the sentiments of your class, your experiences, and what you look forward to in the future. It should reflect the intellectual development your master's program has afforded you.
3. Strong essays will include a focus on your educational experience, the importance of graduate education, and things unique to your education here at RWU.
4. Be creative! This involves taking some appropriate risks. Think of what you would like to hear someone say if you were listening from the audience. It is perfectly alright to infuse **your own personality** into the speech itself and/or the delivery. Do not be reluctant to talk about your personal experience or those of your colleagues while graduate students at RWU
5. Be brief. Remember your time constraint. You **must** be able to deliver the speech in **5 minutes** or less. In **type written** form, 5 minutes is equal to about two and a half pages typed and double-spaced. “
6. Typically, these types of addresses may include the following:
  - Offers congratulations. Besides your classmates, spouses, significant others, parents and friends have been an important part of your success and this is a chance to thank them for their support.
  - Reviews accomplishments. As members of the Class of 2012, what obstacles did you overcome? What special characteristics have you exhibited? What are your significant accomplishments? These should be in sweeping terms with specifics that could apply to members of the graduating class.
  - Something to think about. What does the class look forward to now that you have earned your degree? Are there words of inspiration you would like to offer as you embark on new opportunities and challenges? Is there something you learned while a graduate student that has had a profound impact on you/your class? Is there something you want those in the audience to take with them from your remarks?

7. If you are selected as a semi-finalist, you will be expected to deliver the speech before the Committee. You will be judged on delivery as well as content, so please come to the audition fully prepared.

**Your application package should include ALL of the following components:**

- On a separate sheet of paper, briefly describe why you would like to be the Graduate Student Speaker
- Attach a current resume
- Attach one letter of recommendation which speaks specifically to your academic and leadership achievements and your ability to be a successful speaker.
- Attach a written draft of your proposed commencement address, which should not exceed five minutes.
- Submit a 5 minute video/CD of you giving your speech in a professional setting

If you have questions, please contact Allison Chase Padula, Associate Dean of Students, at [achasepadula@rwu.edu](mailto:achasepadula@rwu.edu) or x3067.

**Selection Process and Timeline**

**Action**

- Notice to graduate seniors / Call for Applications
- Application / draft speech submitted
- Application / draft speech review by Committee
- Speeches to Committee
- Final Speaker chosen / notified

**Deadline**

January 27  
March 19  
Week of March 19  
Week of March 26  
Week of April 2

**Committee Information**

The commencement committee designates a committee to assist in the selection process. The Committee is comprised of faculty, professional staff, and student representatives. Total number of committee members is between 5-7 individuals.

**Final Speaker Responsibilities**

The chosen finalist must be willing and available to revise and fine-tune the speech for time, content, word choice, clarity, speed, fact-checking, etc. Speaker works with a team of staff/faculty designated to assist in this process. Speaker must present an edited final version of the speech two weeks before the ceremony to the team.



## Graduate Student Speaker Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Mailbox Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**RELEASE TO VERIFY G.P.A. and JUDICIAL STANDING**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, SSN \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print Name)

authorize the Office of Student Affairs to verify my cumulative RWU G.P.A and Judicial standing. I hereby attest that the information in this application is true and correct.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please submit this application and all attachments to:

Allison Chase Padula  
Office of Conferences  
Campus Recreation Center, Suite 215A

ALSO e-mail **complete** application to [conferences@rwu.edu](mailto:conferences@rwu.edu)

**The application deadline is Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 5 pm.** Late applications will not be accepted. If you have any questions about this process, please call 254-3161 or email [achasepadula@rwu.edu](mailto:achasepadula@rwu.edu)