



Congratulations on your upcoming Graduation!

Below is important information you will need to participate in the Ashtabula Campus Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 14th at 7:00 PM at SPIRE Institute.

We ask that you read this email carefully.

Before the ceremony

- In the original invite for commencement, you were told about a health screening required of Spire. We have been informed that the health screening is no longer required, however, you and your guests will have your temperature taken upon arrival. If your temperature is above 100.4, you will not be permitted to enter based on Spire's protocols.
- There are no paper tickets for the Ashtabula Commencement. Only the guests that you RSVP'd for will be allowed to enter into Spire.

- Each student and guest must wear a facial covering for the entire event. If a facial covering is not worn, you will be asked to leave.
- Students should wear the Kent State University facial covering given to you at the beginning of the semester or at the bookstore.
- Upon entering and having your temperature taken, each student and guest will be given a wristband.
- This is reserved seating only. Only the guests that you have RSVP'd for will be seated at Spire. Guests will have assigned seating in socially distanced pods . A KSUA Staff member will seat them.
- Guests needing disability accommodation seating will be seated in the assigned section.
- Due to COVID-19 protocols, there will be assigned arrival times. Please arrive promptly at your assigned arrival time wearing your cap, gown and facial covering with your guests. Please do not arrive earlier than your assigned time, you will not be allowed to enter. If you do arrive earlier than your time, please wait in your vehicle. We need to adhere to the social distancing protocols.

Your guests will be seated in sections by your last name (not the guests).

Arrival Times

If your last name begins with **A - F**, please arrive at 6:00 PM *

If your last name begins with **G - O**, please arrive at 6:15 PM

If your last name begins with **P - Z**, please arrive at 6:30 PM.

*If you stated on your RSVP for either a wheelchair/walker accommodation, please arrive at the 6:00 PM time frame, regardless of your last name.

- It is important that you arrive at your arrival time, and not before. This will help with the large crowd and social distancing.
- Do not bring any valuables with you. If you have something of value, give it to your guests to hold during the ceremony.
- At 6:45 PM, you will be escorted to the hallway behind the bleachers to be lined up for the processional. You will be seated *within each degree program (Certificate, Associate degrees and Bachelor's degrees)* by last name, alphabetical order. KSUA Staff will put you in the correct order.
- Please do not get out of line once you have been put in the proper order. We will be following the social distancing protocols.
- Please silence your cell phone.
- Please make a plan to meet your family outside after the ceremony.
- We will have a photographer to take pictures during the ceremony.

The ceremony will be live streamed on the campus

YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0CiuSCGdoCZs0b0qWl93rw>

- Students graduating with institutional honors will receive their honor cords in the mail prior to commencement day, please wear it to commencement.
- If you are a Veteran, you will receive your cords in the mail prior to commencement day, please wear it to commencement.
- Social Media sharing is encouraged utilizing #KSUAGrads2021.
- All photos from commencement will be posted on our Flickr account within one week after commencement. You may download and print them on your own.

During the Ceremony

- The ceremony will last about one hour.
 - The ceremony will start promptly at 7:00 PM.
 - After the processional, staff will guide you to your seats.
 - Programs for the ceremony will be placed on your seats.
 - Men, please remove your caps during the playing of the National Anthem and the Alma Mater.
 - We will have staff members prompt you when to sit and stand and when it's your row's turn to go up and receive your diploma cover.
 - Students who earned institutional honors (distinction, Cum Laude, etc...) and / or a dual degree will have this announced when your name is called during the ceremony.
 - To help us pronounce your name correctly during commencement, please email Kathy by Wednesday, May 12th at kbarbat3@kent.edu with your name spelled phonetically, if you think it is necessary.
 - Take the diploma cover from the Dean and walk toward the photographer. There will be no hand shaking.
 - After you receive your Diploma cover, you will be directed to the Kent backdrop for a **photo**. Please then promptly return to your seat.
 - Be aware, a video camera may be on you during the ceremony since it is live streamed.
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After the Ceremony

- After the Alma Mater you will be dismissed from the ceremony. Please meet your family outside. Your family will be dismissed by section.
- Diplomas will be mailed from the **Kent Campus** six to eight weeks after the ceremony.
- Be sure to tell the faculty and staff you see on the night of commencement “thank you”!



If you have borrowed student loans, you must complete Exit Loan Counseling by going to www.studentloans.gov, even if you plan on coming back to complete on a different degree. You must “exit” out of the loans you have already borrowed.

You must contact your loan servicer in the event you change your name or any of your contact information.

You can access the National Student Loan Database by going to https://nsldsfa.ed.gov/nslds_SA/, this is where any federal loan associated with your social security number is located, along with who your loan servicers are and their contact information.

Student Survey

Kent State University at Ashtabula is committed to providing an excellent educational experience for all of our students. In order to do this, we rely on your feedback for continuous improvement on how we can best serve our students.

We would greatly appreciate your time in completing this brief 5-minute survey. Your hard-work and commitment is commendable, and we congratulate you on your upcoming graduation!

Link to survey:

https://kent.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_2f7JN0YXpjhMJtY

Questions

If you have any questions, please contact
Rebecca Harvey at rharve10@kent.edu

*Thank you for attending Kent State Ashtabula!
We wish you a bright future!*

Dean Susan Stocker