

Greetings from the Academic Resource Center!

We're getting ready for Commencement Weekend! We hope that you and your party will find the weekend and particularly the Commencement ceremony accessible and enjoyable. The weekend of Commencement is very exciting, but as you can imagine, it can also be quite hectic. Here are a few things you might want to keep in mind to ensure that your visit to Whitman goes as smoothly as possible.

As with all guests to the Whitman Commencement Ceremony, we strongly suggest that you arrive early to find the seating location that best fits your needs. We are designating seating areas for those with mobility challenges to be located near the stage. Please be aware that this seating is limited to those with special needs *and one additional guest*. Personnel from the Academic Resource Center and the Dean of Students Office will be on hand to assist you in finding appropriate seating.

For those guests in need of seating in close view or in view of the American Sign Language signers, we have secured seating to meet your needs directly in front of the ramp on the right hand side of the stage.

Enclosed, please find a map of the Commencement setup. This map is also available online at <http://www.whitman.edu/content/commencement/media/setupmap>. Parking stalls designated for handicap access are available in all campus parking lots. Additional parking for those with handicap placards or permits will be available handicap in the parking stall immediately behind Harper Joy Theater (located just off the map to the top right). For those guests in wheelchairs or walkers in need of a nearby drop-off or pick-up location, there is access from the Harper Joy Theater Parking lot or from the corner of Otis Street and Boyer Avenue. Drivers using the latter drop off location can continue through the Baker Faculty Center driveway on to other campus parking.

The weather on the day of the Commencement varies from year to year; in years past the temperature has been in the high 80s to low 90s, but it can also be cool with a light rain and temperatures in the 50s and 60s. In order to be prepared for either, we recommend that guests bring not only an umbrella, but also a water bottle.

If you think someone in your party might require a walker or wheelchair while you're in Walla Walla, there are two medical supply stores in town that rent equipment. Walla Walla Home Medical (509.525.1066) and Adventist Health/Home Medical Supply (509.529.2649) are both

located on 2nd Avenue.

Restaurants around town fill up quickly at meal times, so it is recommended that if you are planning to eat meals out during your stay, you make reservations before getting into town. Descriptions of and contact information for most of the dining establishments in town and in the areas surrounding Walla Walla can be found online at the Walla Walla website: (<http://www.wallawalla.org>). Light refreshments will be provided following the Commencement ceremony.

If you have any other questions regarding the Commencement weekend festivities or if you might require accommodations for other events during Commencement weekend, such as Saturday's Baccalaureate, please do not hesitate to contact our office (509.527.5213). More information regarding the schedule of events is available at www.whitman.edu/commencement.

We want this weekend to be special, exciting, and enjoyable for you and your family.

Sincerely,

Julia Dunn
Director of Academic Resource

Mary Claire Gegen
Program Coordinator