



PHOENIX SEMINARY

SCHOLARSHIP WITH A SHEPHERD'S HEART

2023 Commencement Information

Congratulations! You will soon be joining our growing number of Phoenix Seminary Alumni!

The following document will answer many of your questions about the graduation process.

Please read it carefully.

Location and Schedule of Events

The Ceremony will begin at 11:00am, May 5, 2023. Location to be determined. The general schedule for the event is as follows:

- 8:45am: Rehearsal
- 9:45am: Cap and Gown Adornment for Students
- 9:45-10:05am: Individual Graduate Photos* – open to all graduates but not required
- 10:05-10:15am: Graduate Photos with President* – open to all graduates but not required
- 10:15am: Group Photos* – Graduates, Professors, and Administrative Faculty
- 10:30am: Doors Open to Family, Friends, and Visitors
- 10:45am: Students Assemble for Processional
- 11:00am: Ceremony
- 12:30-1:15pm: Gown Return ***[DO NOT LEAVE WITH YOUR GOWN!]***

What do I need to do prior to the event?

Graduation Announcements will arrive at the end of March and a notification will be emailed to you. Announcements will be available for pickup at the Reception Desk during normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am—4:00pm). Please contact [Merry Stenson \(mstenson@ps.edu\)](mailto:mstenson@ps.edu) if you need to make alternative arrangements to receive your announcements after hours. Each graduate receives 20 announcements with envelopes.

Regalia (Cap, Gown, Tassel, and Hood) will also be available for pickup in April. A notification will be emailed to you. The Regalia will be available for pickup at the Reception Desk during normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am—4:00pm). Please contact [Merry Stenson](#) to make arrangements to pick up your regalia outside of normal office hours.

What do I need to know about the day?

Rehearsal

Rehearsal starts at 8:45 am on May 5th. About half-way through the ceremony, graduates and faculty will be called to their positions. Graduates will line up along the side of the sanctuary to in preparation to walking across the stage to receive their diploma. Graduates will pause for a photo with President Dr. Arnold. Finally, the graduate will return to his/her seat. This will be further elaborated at rehearsal.

Wearing the regalia

After rehearsal, you will put on your cap and gown. Individual and group photographs will follow. The tassel should hang on the left side of your head. To be consistent, everyone should keep their cap on at all times during the ceremony, except during prayer when all the men should remove their caps.

Pictures of the event

Individual and group photographs will be taken immediately after rehearsal. Guests will not be permitted in to the sanctuary while photographs are being taken. Individual photographs will also be taken of each graduate with President Arnold. All photographs will be made available to you at no additional cost.

Guests

Doors will open at 10:30am. The official commencement ceremony will begin at 11:00am. You can invite as many guests as you like.

Dress code

The dress code is business casual. A collared shirt with dark slacks and dress shoes are appropriate for men; a dress or dress pants and dress shoes are appropriate for women. Please

note that the gown is rather warm. Also, whatever you wear will show from below the hem of the regalia.

What happens after the actual ceremony?

After the recessional, quickly exit the Worship Center and move to the lobby to allow all of the guests to exit. After you've spent some time celebrating with friends and family, please return your gown to the graduate check-in table (which will be identified during rehearsal). Staff will be on hand to check in your robe. The hood, cap, and tassel are yours to keep.

If you have more questions, please contact Merry Stenson at mstenson@ps.edu - 602.429.4946.