

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS SPRING COMMENCEMENT

What time should I arrive to get a good seat?

The bleacher seats at the Mountaineer Bowl all have a descent view of the festivities. However, if you have a large group that wants to sit together, you may want to arrive by 9 a.m.

The graduates will need to line up on the West Lot, near the MAA entrance to the Bowl, by 9:15am in cap and gown attire. There will be faculty and staff present to help students find the correct place in line.

Are there tickets?

No, there are no required tickets and everyone is welcome to attend. If the ceremony does need to be moved inside, we will do our best to make everyone comfortable, but it is never an ideal situation. Please be assured that we will only move it inside as a last resort.

Will there be an opportunity to take pictures?

Western State College hires a photographer to take each graduate's picture while he or she is on the stage. The photographs are provided as a courtesy to the graduates and their families, however, given wind and weather variables, we cannot guarantee each one will turn out perfectly. The photographer will also be available to take your student's picture at the reception following the ceremony.

You are welcome to come down onto the field to take your own pictures, but please respect the photo area boundaries and other guests who are trying to get their "perfect" picture, too. Please return to your seat as soon as you have finished. The stage area will be available for photographs after the ceremony.

What kind of weather should I expect?

The weather can vary widely in the Gunnison Valley in May. The best thing would be to bring a variety of clothing for different scenarios. It could be warm and sunny, or cloudy and windy. Bring a blanket for both occasions—you could sit on it for comfort, or wrap it around you for warmth.

What should I wear; how formal is it?

The commencement ceremony in the spring takes place outside, at the Mountaineer Bowl. It is only moved inside if we have a severe weather situation. Dress varies widely, but is generally not formal (in fact, no high heels are allowed on the playing field). Family and friends will be sitting in the bleachers (first come, first serve) and on the grass along the field. The most important thing to remember is to bring layers (blankets, rain coats, etc) just in case!

Is there wheelchair access?

Yes, we do make special arrangements for seating and parking (tell the security guard what your needs are when you drive in). You can also contact Celeste Helminski in the President's office at 970-943-2114 for specific questions on access and seating.

Where can we park and how far will we have to walk?

Parking is available in the Library, Student Union and Gym parking lots. Depending upon where you park, you may walk 300-400 yards to get to the Mountaineer Bowl area. Parking will be

reserved for those with physical limitations and others who need closer access to the Bowl. If you are in this situation, you will be directed to the reserved parking area by one of our security personnel when you drive in. Bathrooms and water are provided at the entrance to the Mountaineer Bowl.

GRADUATION RECEPTION INFORMATION

SENIOR RECEPTION:

Friday, May 7th from 5:30 – 6:30pm: Campus Life will host a pre-graduation reception in the College Center. Family and friends are welcome and faculty and staff will be present. A slideshow of graduates and appetizers will be available. **If you have any pictures to include contact Sara Phillips at 970-943-2176.**

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION:

Saturday, May 8th immediately following commencement: President Jay Helman will host a reception for graduates, and their families and friends, location TBA (graduates need to proceed to the College Union Bookstore to return their gowns after the ceremony).

***Many of the local restaurants cater to large groups for lunch and dinner—contact the Chamber of Commerce at 970-641-1501 for more information.**