University of the Incarnate Word  
Office of the Registrar  
Graduation Information Letter

Even if you do not plan to attend the Commencement ceremonies, you must know the deadlines and policies contained in this letter.

You received this packet of information because you graduate in August 2015 or will complete your degree requirements in December 2015. If you applied to graduate in December 2015 and your plans have changed, please contact the Registrar's Office immediately so that your file may be changed to correct the conferral period.

General Information and Check List for Candidates for Graduation

The following information is provided to you to ensure that you have met the conditions to participate in the graduation ceremonies and so that you will know the policies governing the ceremony and the conferral of your degree. If you have questions about any of the items on the list, please call the Registrar’s Office (829-6006) immediately.

COMMENCEMENT PARTICIPATION POLICY:
Your participation in the Commencement ceremonies is contingent upon you meeting the following two conditions:

1. You may participate in only one Commencement ceremony per degree. If you previously participated in a Commencement ceremony for the degree you wish to receive, you may not participate in this or any subsequent Commencement ceremony.

2. You must be continuously enrolled in courses required to complete your degree.

3. Your balance in the Business Office must be clear, with no holds remaining on your account, by November 6, 2015.

Failure to meet these conditions will prevent your participation in the Commencement ceremony.

Graduation Finale
Monday, November 16, 2015
2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
McCombs Center, Rosenberg Sky Room

Commencement tickets are a highly sought after commodity and we will secure your tickets until we know that you receive them. For this reason, we will not alter our process or policies. We will not accept authorizations at the event. We must receive your authorization before the event.

We will distribute your Commencement tickets, as well as your caps and gowns, and will provide the instructions and information about the ceremonies. This is a come-and-go event with no scheduled program.

You will need to present a picture ID to pick up your tickets.

All account balances with the university must be cleared by November 6, 2015 to receive your tickets or to participate in the Commencement ceremonies.

If you cannot attend the Finale and will send someone in your place:

- You must provide written authorization for the release of your tickets and other items. We must receive your written authorization to release your items to others by November 13, 2015. You may fax to 210-829-3922.

- You must identify in your written authorization the name of the individual who will pick up your items and we will need to see that person’s picture ID before we will release your tickets.
• We cannot accept your authorization by email. Again, we will not accept authorizations at the event. We must receive your authorization before the event.

• If we do not receive your written authorization, by fax, by mail or in person by November 13, 2015, we will not release your items to others on your behalf.

If you cannot attend the Finale and cannot send someone in your place:

• You must come to the Registrar’s Office after November 16, 2015 to pick up your tickets.

• Because we cannot ensure delivery of your tickets by regular post, we cannot mail your tickets to you. You must pick up your tickets by 5:00 P.M., Friday, December 4, 2015.

• We will not have tickets available at the Freeman Coliseum.

• You must contact the UIW Bookstore to pick up your cap and gown before Commencement. You may contact the Bookstore at 210-829-6056. The UIW Bookstore will be open on Saturday, December 5, 2015.

BACCALAUREATE MASS INFORMATION
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. AUDIENCE: The Baccalaureate Mass is for all students, faculty, and administration. Tickets are not required

2. LOCATION: Alice P. McDermott Convocation Center.

3. TIME AND DATE: Saturday, December 5, 2015; 5:00 p.m.—NOTE DAY CHANGE

4. ORDER: Students first, then faculty, and followed by administration

5. ASSEMBLY: Assemble in cap and gown by 4:30 p.m. in the foyer of Our Lady’s Chapel on the first floor of the Administration Building. Do not bring personal possessions for this procession.

6. SEATING: Seating for families and guests attending the mass will begin at 4:00 p.m. in the Alice P. McDermott Convocation Center.

7. LITURGICAL MINISTER SERVICE: If you want to serve as a liturgical minister or offer a prayer of petition in your language, please indicate so on the Graduation Commencement Attendance Confirmation form (sent by separate email).

8. CONTACT INFORMATION: If you have questions about the Baccalaureate Mass, please contact Campus Ministry at ministry@uiwtx.edu or 210-829-3128.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ASSIGNMENTS AND INFORMATION
ALL CANDIDATES
PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES INFORMATION—All Candidates—Admission is by ticket only

1. LOCATION AND DATE:
   a. Commencement will be held Sunday, December 6, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. in the Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum, 3201 E. Houston, San Antonio, TX.

   b. Tickets are required for admission and will be distributed during Graduation Finale. See Graduation Finale information above.
c. The Joe and Harry Freeman Coliseum will be open to the public for guest seating at 12:30 p.m.

2. PARKING
   a. There is a $5.00 parking fee for your guests to park on the grounds of the Freeman Coliseum.
   b. Students may park in a separate reserved parking area at no charge and will need a special parking pass for this area (distributed during the Graduation Finale). Students using this parking pass must enter through the West Gate (refer to the Commencement Handbook).

3. LINE-UP AND PROCESSIONAL TIME:
   a. Refer to the Commencement Handbook (web link provided at the Finale) for lineup location and instructions.
   b. It is important that you be in the line-up at the time indicates. We will begin the Processional on time whether you are in line or not.
   c. Bring your cap and gown. Do not bring personal items to the Freeman; leave personal items in your car or with your guests. The University is not responsible for personal possessions brought to the Freeman.
   d. Once you are in line, please stay in line so that we can confirm the placement of students.

**COMMENCEMENT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

1. COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY ASSIGNMENT: Students must attend the ceremony assigned to them based upon the degree they will receive.

2. COMMENCEMENT DRESS REGULATIONS:
   - Each candidate will wear the designated cap, gown, and hood, available from the UIW Bookstore. All candidates must dress appropriately to retain the dignity of the occasion. No adornments (corsages, jewelry, etc.) will be permitted on the cap or gown.
   - Ladies, we will line-up on a sloped, concrete floor and your heels may slip on the surface causing you to fall. We suggest that you wear shoes with flat heels.
   - Candidates failing to comply with stated dress code will not be allowed to participate in the ceremonies. You must arrive dressed for the ceremonies; you will not have time to change before the Processional.
   - Students that contributed to the Senior Class Campaign may wear the Senior Class Campaign pin on their gown. This is the only adornment authorized and sanctioned by the academic leadership of the university. Wear the lapel pin on the right chest area, below the hood. If you have not contributed toward the Senior Class Campaign, you may do so at this link: [http://www.uiw.edu/giving/scc.html](http://www.uiw.edu/giving/scc.html).
   - Only sashes or honor cords awarded through institutionally recognized leadership/service organizations or membership in academic honor organizations through the schools/college are permitted as part of the academic regalia. Students who hold membership in the following honor societies or leadership organizations are permitted to wear honor cords or sashes as part of their academic regalia. Consult with your organization sponsor to determine the appropriate recognition item. The list of approved organizations may be found at the graduation link on the Registrar’s Office web page. Look for the Honor Cords/Sashes link.

3. TICKET INFORMATION:

   We determine ticket distribution numbers based upon the number of students that apply to graduate on or before the deadline posted in the Academic Calendar. Although we may accept applications for graduation after this deadline, the ticket distribution for students who do apply to graduate after the deadline may be limited. Therefore, students that apply after we determine ticket numbers may receive a reduced number of tickets compared to students that applied to graduate on or before the deadline.

   Although we recognize family situations may prompt you to request additional tickets, fire-code regulations restrict the number of occupants in our facilities. The Registrar’s Office will maintain a list of students that request additional tickets and will distribute all available tickets. Those students that do not need all assigned
tickets are asked to release their tickets back to the Registrar’s Office so that we may re-distribute them to students that need additional tickets.

Commencement tickets are a highly sought after commodity and we will secure your tickets until we know that you receive them. For this reason, we expect you to follow instructions and we will not alter our processes or policies as a result. Refer to the Graduation Finale information earlier in this letter for additional information.

### IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL TICKETS

You must request your tickets through the “ticket information” link at the Registrar’s Office web page, on the graduation page. You may access that link at http://www.uiw.edu/registrar/tickets.html.

**THE EXTRA TICKET LINK WILL BE AVAILABLE OCTOBER 20 THROUGH NOVEMBER 6. WE WILL NOT HONOR REQUESTS BY EMAIL.**

Everyone seated in the Convocation Center must have a ticket to enter the building. Children ages three years and above must sit in a seat and must have a ticket. Those children younger than three years may sit in the lap of a guest with a ticket but must do so for the entire ceremony. Guests in wheelchairs must have a ticket as well. The space immediately behind the student seating is reserved for wheelchairs.

4. **GRADUATION FEE:** All students are charged a graduation fee of $50.00.

5. **GRADUATION IN ABSENTIA:** All candidates are encouraged to attend Commencement. We will mail all diplomas to the students’ permanent address. Therefore, we ask that you check your permanent address (on Bannerweb) to ensure that it is correct.

6. **COMPLETION OF WORK:** It is the responsibility of each candidate to ascertain that all requirements for graduation are complete.
   a. Your participation in the Commencement ceremonies does not in any way indicate that you graduated. The Commencement ceremonies are ceremonial only and do not represent the official conferral of your degree. If you do not complete your requirements as planned, we will confer your degree during the conferral period applicable to when you do complete your degree requirements.
   b. Candidates must complete all work by the last day of the semester in which their courses are offered and cannot receive an “IP” in any course. If you do not or cannot complete your work by the deadline indicated, you must notify the Registrar’s Office immediately to change your date of graduation.
   c. You cannot receive a grade less than a “C” in your major, minor, teaching fields, concentration, specialization or support work.
   d. You may not receive an “IP” during your final semester and remain a candidate for your degree. If you receive a grade of “IP” during your final semester, we will change your date of graduation to the next conferral period.
   e. Grades for courses in which an “IP” grade was assigned during a previous semester are due in the Registrar’s Office by noon, December 4, 2015. If the grade is not reported to us by the deadline, we will change your date of graduation to the next conferral period.
   f. Grades or scores for CLEP tests, departmental exams, transfer courses, inter-institutional courses, and/or correspondence are due by noon, December 4, 2015. If transcripts are not available by this date, the registrar at the college/university involved must notify the registrar at UIW by December 4, 2015.
   g. **Official transcript of transfer or correspondence work must be in the Registrar’s Office at UIW by January 15, 2016 or we will change your date of graduation to May 2016.** The Registrar’s Office will not order your diploma until the official transcript is in your file in the Registrar’s Office at UIW. It is the student’s responsibility to order transcripts needed to complete the degree.

7. **DIPLOMA SERVICE AND DELIVERY:** The vendor who will print your diploma will mail the diploma directly to you to the address you indicate on the Commencement Attendance Confirmation Form (sent separate
from this email message) once all grades are reported and the degree is posted. We anticipate delivery of the diplomas around late-February.

a. Your account balance must be clear and all requirements for the degree met before we will order your diploma.

b. We order diplomas once a month and will order your diploma once you clear your hold should you not clear your balance by December 4, 2015.

c. We will not order your diploma if you do not return the Commencement Attendance Confirmation Form (sent separate from this email message).

8. TRANSCRIPT SERVICE: Official transcripts reflecting the degree will not be available until mid-January. Your account balance must be clear before a transcript will be released.

9. ACADEMIC GRADUATION HONORS: Undergraduate and PharmD students who complete degree requirements and have met the residency requirements at UIW (refer to your catalog—excluding pass/fail, developmental, ESL courses) are eligible to graduate with honors. The level of honor is determined by the GPA achieved in all college-level semester hours attempted, to include transfer courses. Graduate students who complete their programs with a 4.00 average graduate with distinction. Honors are not awarded for doctoral work.

| Honors announced during Commencement ceremonies are anticipated honors, based upon all classes completed and for which grades are posted. Grades for classes in which you are currently enrolled will not be used in the calculation of announced honors but will be used in the calculation of final, posted honors. Grades for these courses will not be posted to your academic record until after Commencement. Posted honors, which may differ from the announced anticipated honors, will be based upon the over-all grade point average, to include transfer work, calculated by the posting of the final semester grades. |

10. CEREMONY PHOTOGRAPHY:
   a. A professional photographer has been hired to take your picture as you cross the stage and as you exit the stage area. Please discourage family or friends from coming down to the stage area during the ceremonies.

   b. Family members who take pictures inside of the auditorium must be respectful of other guests and must not block their view of the stage. Family members will not be allowed near the stage once the ceremonies have begun. We suggest that you and your family gather in front of the stage after the ceremony for your family pictures.

11. ADDITIONAL CEREMONY INFORMATION:
   a. Please check your cap and gown to ensure that you have a collar and tassel. Please also check to ensure that you have the correct hood for your degree. We will not have extra collars, tassels, caps, or gowns for your use. You may also need to bring pins to secure your collar and/or cap.

   b. No facility will be available to store purses or other valuables and no one will be available to assist you with these items if you carry them into the auditorium. Please make prior arrangements should you choose to carry these items.

   c. Guest seating in the auditorium is on a first-come-first-served basis and family members may not reserve or save seats for guests who are not present.

   d. Please be advised that guest seating in the auditorium is on metal bleachers with steep steps. Therefore, the use of baby strollers is not recommended. Additionally, you should consider whether the metal bleachers would be a comfortable seating area for members of your family who may be elderly or fragile.

   e. We will cool the auditorium to a temperature of 65° to ensure that the auditorium is comfortable during the ceremony. Family members who arrive early should bring a light wrap so that they are comfortable while they wait for the ceremony to begin.

   f. UIW security will remove guests who are disrespectful of others, do not comply with a request of a school official, or who disrupt the ceremony in any way.