

**Southern Wesleyan University 2008 Winter Graduation Exercises  
Information for Graduates and Guests (Updated 11/11/2008)**

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**I. Ceremonies:**

The **2008 Winter Graduation Exercises** of Southern Wesleyan University will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 and Saturday, December 13, 2008 in the Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center on the Southern Wesleyan University Campus in Central, SC. There will be three ceremonies. Graduating students will be allowed to participate only in their assigned ceremony. Students are assigned to each ceremony based on their program and location.

Students will participate in the ceremonies as follows:

**Thursday, December 11, 2008..... 3 PM**  
Students from the Traditional Program receiving Bachelor’s Degrees

**Saturday, December 13, 2008 .....10 AM**  
Students in the Adult and Graduate Studies programs from the Central and Greenville\* Locations receiving the following degrees:  
Associate’s  
Bachelor’s  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Education  
Master of Ministry  
Master of Science

\* Greenwood and Spartanburg are officially considered a part of the Greenville location.

**Saturday, December 13, 2008 .....3 PM**  
Students in the Adult and Graduate Studies programs from the Charleston, Columbia, & N. Augusta locations receiving the following degrees:  
Associate’s  
Bachelor’s  
Master of Business Administration  
Master of Education  
Master of Science

**II. Graduation Timeline:**

March 17, 2008	Initial Traditional Program Application Deadline
September 10, 2008	Applications mailed to potential AGS graduates
October 15, 2008	AGS Application Deadline
October 22, 2008	List of Candidates to Faculty and BOT for approval
October 23, 2008	List of students who applied by deadline sent to Herff-Jones for invitations/announcements mailing
November 10, 2008	Regalia Order to Herff-Jones
November 14, 2008	Diploma Order to Herff-Jones
November 14, 2008	Letter to all students who applied for graduation
November 17, 2008	Traditional Program - financial obligations must be cleared
November 17, 2008	Traditional Program - all graduation requirements, excluding current courses, must be complete (specifically credit by exam, CLEP.)
November 17, 2008	Graduation Day Work assignments emailed to Employees
November 17, 2008	AGS - financial obligations must be cleared
November 17, 2008	AGS - All transfer course transcripts and CLEP or DANTES test results must be received by Academic Records
November XX, 2008	AGS - Letter to AGS students who applied but are ineligible to graduate
December 1, 2008	Letter to all students participating in ceremony

December XX, 2008	AGS – Honors letter
December 1, 2008	Regalia mailed to AGS students
December 4, 2008	Traditional Program students pick up regalia and tickets from Academic Records
December 5, 2008	Requested Program Delivery Date
December 11, 2008	10:00 AM: Baccalaureate Service
December 11, 2008	3:00 PM Graduation Ceremony for students in the Traditional Program
December 13, 2008	AGS – Final SWU course must begin prior to this date in order to participate (Assuming all other deadlines and requirements are met)
December 13, 2008	Graduation Ceremonies at 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM
December 13, 2008	Official Conferral Date
December 15, 2008	4:00 PM Final grades due for all students in Traditional Program Fall Semester
February 21, 2008	Official Conferral Date for students who finish coursework after initial conferral date
TBA	Diplomas will be mailed once all requirements have been certified as met

### III. Graduation Day Schedule:

Students assemble in Lower Level of the University Dining Commons for rehearsal. Guests with tickets should go directly to Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center. Guests without tickets will be directed to the overflow areas (Newton Hobson Chapel and Fine Arts Center Classrooms) to view the ceremony on closed circuit television. Graduates should make arrangements with their family members ahead of time to keep their valuables. There is not a secure location in the rehearsal area to leave items during the ceremony. Southern Wesleyan University is not responsible for items left in the rehearsal area during the ceremony.

#### Thursday December 11, 2008, 3:00 PM Ceremony

1:00 PM Graduates **must** check-in by 1:45 PM (University Dining Commons)  
2:00 PM Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)  
2:30 PM Devotions  
2:55 PM Processional

#### Saturday December 13, 2008, 10:00 AM Ceremony

8:00 AM Graduates **must** check-in by 8:45 AM (University Dining Commons)  
9:00 AM Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)  
9:30 AM Devotions  
9:55 AM Processional

#### Saturday December 13, 2008, 3:00 PM Ceremony

1:00 PM Graduates **must** check-in by 1:45 PM (University Dining Commons)  
2:00 PM Rehearsal (instructions, group picture, name pronunciation check)  
2:30 PM Devotions  
2:55 PM Processional

### IV. Academic Regalia:

The style of each academic gown indicates the highest degree earned by the wearer: bachelors—long, pointed sleeves; masters—long, closed sleeves with the arm going through a slit, giving the appearance of short-sleeves; doctors—full, round, and open, with three bars of velvet on each sleeve. The bars may be black or the color designating the major discipline.

Some universities have adopted an official doctoral gown incorporating the school colors. These are examples worn by several Southern Wesleyan University Faculty:

Clemson University	Purple and Orange
University of Colorado	Gold and Silver
University of South Carolina	Garnet and Black

The academic hood is an ornamental fold that goes around the neck and hangs down the back of the gown. The hood is lined in the official colors of the university that awarded the degree; the color of the facing indicates the degree.

Holders of all degrees wear caps with a long tassel conforming to the degree earned, except that doctors may wear tassels of gold thread.

The following colors have been established by the Intercollegiate Commission:

Apricot	- Nursing
Brown	- Fine Arts, including Architecture
Citron	- Social Work
Copper	- Economics
Crimson	- Journalism

Dark Blue	-	Philosophy
Drab	-	Commerce, Accountancy, Business
Gray	-	Veterinary Science
Green	-	Medicine
Lemon	-	Library Science
Light Blue	-	Education
Lilac	-	Dentistry
Maize	-	Agriculture
Olive Green	-	Pharmacy
Orange	-	Engineering
Peacock Blue	-	Public Administration, including Foreign Service
Pink	-	Music
Pink	-	Public Health Salmon
Purple	-	Law
Russet	-	Forestry
Sage Green	-	Physical Education
Scarlet	-	Theology
Silver Gray	-	Oratory (Speech)
White	-	Arts, Letters, Humanities
Yellow	-	Science Golden

#### **V. Alumni Receptions**

The Alumni Center will be hosting receptions at each regional learning center during the three weeks leading up the ceremonies.

#### **VI. Applause:**

When your name is called and you walk across the platform, your family is invited to stand in recognition of your achievement. Whistling and boisterous behavior is considered inappropriate. Applause is reserved for those earning honor; after all diplomas have been awarded, all graduates will be applauded.

#### **VII. Applications:**

You must **apply** to graduate, regardless of whether you plan to participate in the ceremony or not. The deadline to apply is indicated in section II. If you plan to graduate in December 2008, but have not applied, please contact Academic Records immediately. We need your application so that we may check to see if you have met all requirements and so we can order your diploma and regalia. Students who do not meet all the appropriate deadlines will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony, and will have to wait until May 2009 to earn their degree.

#### **VIII. Appropriate Attire for Graduates:**

This is a time of final honoring of members of the class. When in academic regalia, individuals should not try to draw attention to themselves by wearing flashy clothing or extraneous decorations. Dark trousers and shoes along with shirt and tie are appropriate dress for men; dresses are advised for women. Please press your robe!

#### **IX. Cameras, Photographs, and Videos:**

A professional photographer will photograph you receiving your diploma from the president. You will receive an opportunity to purchase copies of these photos directly from the photographer approximately one week after the ceremony.

Cameras are allowed at Commencement, but those using video cameras are requested to sit in the back rows or balcony, in order not to block the view of other guests. Due to limited seating, tripods may not be used.

Video recordings of the ceremony may be purchased from SWU. This is not a professional video, but taping is done from the auditorium sound booth, which allows for better audio and video quality than can be achieved from the audience. To order, please email [techsupport@swu.edu](mailto:techsupport@swu.edu).

#### **X. Cell Phones and pagers:**

Please make sure your cell phone and pager are turned off. Also ask your guests to turn off their cell phones and pagers during the service.

#### **XI. Diplomas**

During the graduation ceremonies, students will be given a decorative diploma cover. Diplomas will be mailed to graduates once all graduation requirements have been certified as met.

The diploma is a ceremonial document which specifies the degree only. Major course of study is indicated only on the official academic transcript. One copy of the diploma is issued at graduation. Additional diplomas may be ordered for a fee from Academic Records.

Pocket diplomas are no longer available to Southern Wesleyan University graduates.

#### **XII. Food Service:**

The on-campus Snack Shop, Java City (Coffee shop), and Campus Dining Services will be open on Graduation Saturday.

#### **XIII. Honors:**

For Latin Honors, calculation of the cumulative grade point average is based on all work attempted in college, at least sixty hours of which must be from Southern Wesleyan University. This includes all work attempted at the collegiate level, regardless of whether the credit transferred or not. Based on that gpa, Latin Honors are awarded as follows:

*Summa cum laude* ("with highest praise"), indicated by an honor medallion and a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative gpa of 3.80 or above.

*Magna cum laude* ("with high praise"), indicated by a double honor cord, denotes a cumulative gpa of 3.60 to 3.79.

*Cum laude* ("with praise"), indicated by a single honor cord, denotes a cumulative gpa of 3.40 to 3.59.

Αχ recognizes membership in Alpha Chi Honor Society, open to the top ten percent of the senior class (traditional program). The name is derived from the initial letters of αλήθεια (truth) and χαρακτήρ (character). Membership is indicated by the blue and green honor cord.

The Faculty Marshal is the senior faculty member; the Marshal is the junior with highest GPA.

Junior academic leaders serve as ushers.

Latin Honors are not awarded to students earning Masters Degrees. At the graduate level, academic hoods are worn as a part of the regalia, and symbolize the graduate level achievement.

#### **XIV. Invitations:**

Graduation **invitations** may be ordered online from [Herff-Jones](http://www.herff-jones.com/college/graduation) at <http://www.herff-jones.com/college/graduation>. (The Herff Jones web page is typically available one to two months prior to ceremony.) Class Rings are also ordered directly from Herff-Jones via their web site [www.herff-jones.com](http://www.herff-jones.com). Contact SWU's Herff-Jones representative, Harold Waters, at 864-244-0110 for more information on class rings or announcements.

**XV. Memorabilia:**

Southern Wesleyan **memorabilia** may be purchased from the [SWU bookstore](http://bookstore.swu.edu) at <http://bookstore.swu.edu>. For the convenience of those attending the graduation ceremonies, the bookstore will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Graduation Saturday.

**XVI. Multiple Degrees:**

After December 2003, students may not earn an Associate's and Bachelor's degree at the same ceremony. The Associate's Degree must be awarded prior to the awarding of the Bachelor's degree.

Students earning both the Bachelor of Arts Degree and the Bachelor of Science Degree have completed an additional thirty hours of coursework, over and above the hours required for the first degree.

**XVII. Nursery/childcare:**

Childcare will not be provided. Children are welcome but please note the graduation program is not designed to keep the attention of young children. If necessary, please make child-care arrangements, or use the video-equipped over-flow room. Children who wish to attend the ceremony must have a ticket unless they are small enough to be held throughout the ceremony.

**XVIII. Parking and Travel time to campus**

Graduates are expected to arrive on campus two hours prior to their assigned ceremony. Please allow sufficient travel time in order to arrive in time to participate in the ceremony. With no delays, it takes four and one-half hours to travel to Central from the Charleston location. Graduates unfamiliar with the Central campus should allow extra time for finding the campus, parking, and making their way to the check-in station. Shuttle service will be provided from the outlying parking lots. Guests requiring special parking must have a valid Handicapped Parking permit.

**XIX. Processional:**

There will be a Formal Processional across campus leading to each ceremony.

**XX. Rehearsal:**

Assemble ninety minutes prior to your assigned ceremony in The University Dining Commons for rehearsal, devotions, and a group picture. To be dressed and ready to go, you should plan to arrive on campus **at least two hours prior to your assigned ceremony**. (Mirrors are in scarce supply; there may be a line of graduates waiting to adjust caps and collars.)

**XXI. Tickets:**

Graduating students will be issued at least **4 tickets** to the ceremony. All guests must have a ticket for admittance to the ceremony. Guests without tickets will be directed to the overflow areas to view the ceremony on closed circuit television. Tickets and regalia will be mailed to AGS students a few days prior to the ceremony. Traditional students will pick up tickets and regalia from the Academic Records office. There will not be extra tickets available. Children who wish to attend the ceremony must have a ticket unless they are small enough to be held throughout the ceremony.