



Fall Commencement 2009

Dear Graduating Senior:

Fall Commencement will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 20, 2009. The ceremony is scheduled in the Robert P. Knowles Center and will last approximately two hours. **Complete details about the Commencement ceremony are available at www.uwrf.edu/commencement.**

Adequate seating is usually available for Fall Commencement; therefore, no reserved seating is provided nor are tickets required for guests. **If you, or any member of your family, need special seating arrangements or accommodations, please notify the Registrar’s Office prior to December 4, 2009 at (715) 425-3342.** We will be finalizing the floor plans after that date. If you have a change of plans and do not intend to participate in commencement, please notify the Registrar’s Office by December 4, 2009. A sign language interpreter will be available in a designated area. If your family is in need of this service, ushers will be available to assist you on commencement day.

Each candidate participating in commencement must wear appropriate academic attire. **Flowers and decorative jewelry may not be worn on the academic gown.** Caps and gowns may be picked up beginning November 16, 2009, in the Falcon Shop of the University Center. Falcon Shop hours are: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 6:00 pm; Friday, 8:00 am – 4:00 pm; and Saturday, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm., and Commencement Day, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. If you are unable to get to the Falcon Shop during their regular hours, they are willing to ship your cap and gown to you via UPS. For further information on shipping or any questions regarding the caps and gowns, please contact the Falcon Shop at (715) 425-3962. The cost of the undergraduate cap, gown, and tassel is \$33.00 plus tax. If you are not purchasing a cap and gown from the Falcon Shop, please be advised that the cap and gown must be black and the tassel must be purchased from the Falcon Shop. If you purchase only the tassel, the cost is \$5.00 plus tax; if you purchase only the cap, the cost is \$7.00 plus tax; the cost for gown only is \$25.00 plus tax. The colors of tassels for each college are as follows:

- College of Agriculture, Food & Environmental SciencesMaize
- College of Arts and Sciences White
- College of Business and EconomicsBronze
- Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) White
- College of Education and Professional StudiesBlue
- Graduate Studies Gold

There will be instructions concerning the graduation exercises given in the Hunt Arena at 1:00 p.m. with the line forming at 1:15 p.m. Please write your name phonetically on the attached index card and bring it with you to the commencement ceremony. How you write your name is how the reader will pronounce your name. **The only way your name will be read at commencement is if you have an index card to hand to the reader as you walk across the stage.**

All campus parking lots will be open to the public from 7 a.m. until midnight on commencement day. Citations will be issued prior to and after those times if cars are parked in lots that are monitored. Parking during commencement is on a first come, first serve basis. Family and friends should plan ahead in order to ensure that they arrive in a timely manner. Traffic will begin to back up at 12:30 p.m. and by 1:30 p.m. the roads leading to the Knowles Center will become very congested. The parking lot at Ramer Field will be overflowing, as will all parking lots close to Ramer Field. Family and friends should arrange to share rides and drop off family members or friends who have a difficult time walking long distances. There are limited disabled parking spaces available in Ramer Field. Parking attendants will be on duty prior to and during commencement. If you have any questions regarding parking facilities, please contact the Public Safety Office at (715) 425-3133.

Graduating seniors may request a refund of their registration deposit or apply the deposit to your balance on eSIS. For complete details, here is the link: <http://www.uwrf.edu/esis/Tutorials/esisregistrationdeposit.php>

For any graduating senior who has received a Federal Perkins student loan while attending UWRF, a letter will be sent to their **permanent** address after the second week of November. The letter will provide the web address and directions as to where to go to do the on-line exit interview for the Perkins loan. Be aware that this is a separate exit interview from Stafford Loan process. If you are unsure as to what loans you received, you may access that information from the National Student Loan Data System at: http://www.nslds.ed.gov/nslds_SA/.

Prior to commencement, there will be a Graduation Brunch held in the Riverview Ballroom of the University Center. **Please inform your family and friends of this special dining opportunity.** For information about the Brunch, see the enclosed brochure or check www.uwrf.edu/commencement/1brunch.htm. **Brunch reservations must be made by Monday, December 14.**

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls will be streaming live, the Fall Commencement ceremony. The link to the streaming site will be available one week prior to the event. The streaming will begin 15 minutes before each ceremony and end at the conclusion of the event. The viewer can watch the live stream at no charge at <http://uwrf.tv.blogspot.com>. A graduation video will be available on VHS or DVD for \$30.00. Please see information on the enclosed green form. For any questions regarding the video, please call TV Services at (715) 425-3175.

The concession stand in Hunt Arena will be open for business during the commencement line-up. The Skate Room, located on the north side of Hunt Arena, is available to put coats, purses, etc. during the commencement ceremony; this space will be locked during the ceremony. The University of Wisconsin-River Falls is not responsible for lost or stolen articles.

Flower bouquets for graduates will be sold before commencement in the Knowles Building. Proceeds will benefit Habitat for Humanity. Please refer any questions to sarah.kitt@uwrf.edu or sage.johnson@uwrf.edu.

Arrangements have been made with Empire Photography to photograph all graduates as you receive your diploma covers. There will be no obligation to purchase the photographs. The photographer will send a proof to your uwrf.edu email address and a hardcopy proof to your home address indicated on eSIS. The proof (approximately 1 ½" x 2") is free and you may order 5 x 7 color pictures at a modest fee. Members of the audience are requested to remain in their seats and to refrain from getting up to take pictures during the commencement ceremony. The university's photo backdrop will be available in the Knowles Center throughout the day for family photography.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception for graduates and their families and friends will be held in the Knowles Center. Many faculty members will be at the reception and would look forward to meeting with you and your family.

We look forward to seeing you on December 20, 2009!

Enclosures