

Friday, May 1, 2015

OU to honor graduates at spring commencement ceremonies

Oakland University will recognize its spring 2015 graduates at several commencement ceremonies, which will all take place in the OU Athletic O'rena.

Graduate students

The commencement ceremony for all doctoral and master's degree candidates will take place at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 1.

Undergraduate Students

Commencement ceremonies for undergraduates will be held Saturday, May 2. The schedule is as follows:

*9 a.m. – School of Business Administration
School of Education and Human Services
School of Engineering and Computer Science*

*1 p.m. – School of Health Sciences
School of Nursing
Bachelor of Integrative Studies*

5 p.m. – College of Arts and Sciences



Guest Speakers

Undergraduate ceremonies:

- 9 a.m. – The Honorable Gary Peters, United States Senator representing Michigan
- 1 p.m. – Dr. Frank McGeorge, WDIV Channel 4 Good Health Correspondent
- 5 p.m. – Jane Lauren Dixon, OU student speaker

Master's and doctoral ceremony:

- 7 p.m. – Major General Gwendolyn Bingham, Commanding General U.S. Army TACOM Life Cycle Management Command

Before and during the ceremonies

The O'rena doors will open one hour before each ceremony. All guests must have tickets and should be seated 10 minutes prior to the processional. Each ceremony lasts approximately one and a half to two hours. Graduates are asked to stay for the entire ceremony and will be directed by a marshal to exit the O'rena.

Family and friends who are unable to attend the commencement will be able to view the ceremonies on the commencement website as they occur. A link will be posted to the page on graduation day. Videos of the ceremonies will also be available to view on the commencement website after the ceremony.

Don't have tickets?

Guests who don't have tickets to commencement will be able to view the ceremony live on campus via closed circuit television in the Oakland Center Gold Rooms. Light refreshments will be provided.

Parking

All students and guests attending the undergraduate ceremonies should review the spring [commencement parking map](#). Those attending the graduate ceremony have no specific parking requirements and can view [oakland.edu/map](#) for more information. Parking is free and open to the public, except where indicated. Police officers and parking attendants will be on hand to direct traffic. All event parking is located within a 5-minute walk to the O'rena, and buses, motor coaches and vans will be making stops in all lots to shuttle those who prefer to ride.

In case of inclement weather, information on cancellation of ceremonies is available by calling the university at (248) 370-2000, tuning in to WJR or WWJ radio, or watching FOX2, WDIV-TV or WXYZ-TV.

Live traffic and event updates will be posted to the [Oakland University Police Department Twitter @OUPD](#).

An American Sign Language interpreter will be present at each ceremony to aid the hearing impaired. Wheelchair accessible seating is available for guests and a handicap accessible parking lot is located next to the O'rena in P16.

For additional commencement information, call (248) 370-2190 or view the commencement website at [oakland.edu/commencement](#). Watch a live stream during the ceremonies at [oakland.edu/outv/live-streams/commencement](#).

In Memoriam

At the 9 a.m. ceremony, Cody D. Petzold will receive a posthumous degree in the School of Education and Human Services (undergraduate).

Honorary Degree Recipients

At the 9 a.m. ceremony, Joseph "Joey" Travolta will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Arts. Travolta is the founder and creative director of Inclusion Films, and leads the annual OUCARES Film Camp at Oakland University. The camp offers children and young adults with autism the opportunity to produce, direct and star in their own film. Travolta also partnered with OUCARES to host a 15-week practical film workshop to help adults with autism prepare for employment in the film, media and entertainment industries.

At the 5 p.m. ceremony, Ann V. Nicholson will receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities. Nicholson served on the Oakland University Board of Trustees from 1994-2010. She held leadership roles on various committees, including the Finance and Personnel Advisory Committee, Investment Advisory Committee, University Affairs Advisory Committee and the Finance, Audit and Investment Committee. In 2001, Nicholson helped with the development of the University Student Apartments, which are named in her honor.