

**UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND  
COMMENCEMENT 2017  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ADVANCED DEGREE CANDIDATES**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

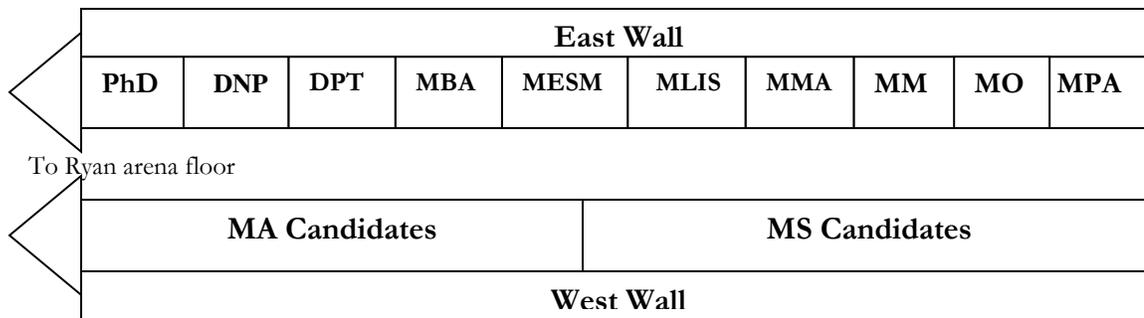
Graduate School Commencement exercises will be held on **Saturday, May 20, 2017**. Ceremonies will begin at **9:00 AM** with an academic procession of faculty and graduate degree candidates at the Ryan Center and will continue there with a formal program.

*Information about commencement is available through an automated commencement hotline at 401-874-1234  
and the University's web home page at [www.uri.edu](http://www.uri.edu)*

**II. RYAN CENTER CEREMONIES -- PRE-PROCESSIONAL LINE UP – 8:00 AM**

Candidates for graduate degrees should enter the Ryan Center preferably via the South Lobby or via the North Lobby around 8:00 AM wearing cap and gown. The GOWN should be worn closed in front. The CAP should be worn flat or cocked slightly forward. The inside of the crown of the cap usually has a mark indicating which point is the front of the cap. That point should face forward when the cap is worn. The TASSEL should be worn over the left front edge of the cap. **Masters candidates should wear the HOOD.** When putting it on, keep the velvet edge up, parallel to the ground. The cord is buttoned across the back. Turn that part of the hood, which drops down the back "inside-out" to display the lining. **Doctoral candidates should carry the HOOD** over the left arm, velvet edge forward. DPT candidates are hooded in a separate ceremony preceding the graduate ceremony.

The lines for the academic procession will be organized in the corridor between the North and the South Lobbies. Ushers and signs posted in the lobby areas will point you to the correct assembly area. Along the corridor walls, candidates **should assemble alphabetically** into two, single-file lines, **East Wall** and **West Wall**, as indicated on the diagram below. Signs posted along the walls will mark the front and the various subdivisions of each line.



The lines are sub-divided into sections according to degree so that candidates for each degree can process onto the main floor of the Ryan Center and be seated together in the proper section. Faculty marshals wearing academic dress and carrying batons will help organize the lines by degree and then alphabetically within each degree group and will take roll. Note that:

**The East Wall line** begins with Ph.D. candidates, followed by DNP; then DPT; then M.B.A. candidates, then M.E.S.M. candidates, then M.L.I.S. candidates, then M.M.A. candidates, then M.M. candidates, then M.O candidates, then M.P.A. candidates.

**The West Wall line** begins with M.A. candidates, followed by M.S. candidates.

***ALL CANDIDATES MUST BE IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER WITHIN EACH DEGREE GROUP.***

Putting the lines into alphabetical order requires some time and effort, but only those in the correct place in line can be properly recognized during the ceremonies. Please arrive early enough and cooperate with the faculty marshals to make sure that you assemble into that part of the line reserved for your degree group and that you are in the correct alphabetical order within your group. You will receive a card with your name on it from the Marshal heading up your line- you must carry this into the arena with you. Please be sure to print the correct pronunciation of your name in the designated place on the card if there is any chance that your name might otherwise be mispronounced.

**III. RYAN CENTER CEREMONIES -- PROCESSION -- 9:00 AM**

After the lines have been organized, faculty marshals will take up positions at the front of and in the lines. When the procession begins, the marshals will lead the lines onto the Ryan Center floor. **Note the person in front of you in line and follow that person during the procession until you are seated.** The two lines correspond to different sections of seats in the seating area. It is imperative that you remain in line and in order during the procession and upon arriving at the seating section so that your marshal can seat you in the correct order and in the proper place.

#### IV. RYAN CENTER CEREMONIES -- RECEIVING THE DIPLOMA OR DIPLOMA COVER

At the proper time during the ceremonies, a marshal will lead candidates for doctoral degrees to the stage. After ascending to the stage, the candidate will be hooded on the near side of the stage by the major professor assisted by the Provost, will proceed to center stage to receive the official diploma, will cross to the far ramp accompanied by the major professor, and will then return to (or near) his or her prior seat.

After doctoral candidates have been hooded, candidates for masters degrees will be conducted to the stage by a marshal. When the Dean of the Graduate School announces the candidate's name, the candidate will cross the stage and receive a diploma cover, descend from the stage by the far ramp, and return to the seating section.

**NOTE: You may not be able to return to your prior seat, so don't leave anything behind. If you carry a camera, purse, bag, etc. into the arena, you will also be carrying it across the stage. Think about leaving your personal possessions with a family member or friend.**

#### V. RYAN CENTER CEREMONIES – RECESSIONAL and RECEPTION

At the end of the ceremonies, the officials from the main platform will recess down the center aisle, followed by graduates. Follow the marshal out of your seats, form two, single-file lines and process out of Ryan Center into the Lobby Areas and thence outside--weather permitting. A reception for all graduates and their families will be held immediately after the commencement ceremony in the Hope Commons dining area. Signs will be posted to direct you along the short walk from the Ryan Center to Hope Commons.

#### VI. MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES -- SUNDAY MAY 21, 2017

Main commencement exercises will be held on the University Quadrangle on Sunday, May 21, 2017. Ceremonies will begin promptly at 12:30 PM with an academic procession of faculty, participating graduate degree recipients, and undergraduate degree candidates onto the Quadrangle and will continue there with a formal program. Graduate degree recipients are welcome to participate in this ceremony, *if they wish*. Families and friends are also welcome to attend the ceremony.

#### VII. MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES -- PRE-PROCESSIONAL LINE UP -- 12:00 Noon

Graduate degree recipients who wish to take part in the main commencement ceremony should assemble wearing cap and gown and hood on the sidewalk between Ranger Hall and Quinn Hall at about 12:00 Noon. A sign will mark the assembly area for marching faculty and faculty marshals will help organize a double line. Graduate degree recipients will be at the back of this line, behind the marching faculty and award recipients.

#### VIII. MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES -- PROCESSIONAL -- 12:30 PM

Before the procession begins, faculty marshals will take up positions at the front of the lines. They will lead the lines onto the Quadrangle and with the help of ushers, will insure that graduates are seated in the correct sections. Once seated on the Quadrangle, graduates can follow the ceremonies with a Commencement Program.

#### IX. MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES -- RECESSIONAL

At the end of the ceremonies, the President and other officials from the main platform will recess down the center aisle, followed by faculty from professional colleges, **followed by graduate degree recipients**. Follow the marshal during the recessional and remain in two orderly lines until the parade disbands near Edwards Hall.

#### X. MAIN COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES -- IN CASE OF RAIN

In case of rain the Main Commencement Exercises will take place at the Ryan Center. Admission to the Center will be by ticket only and, since space is very limited, tickets are being distributed **ONLY** to undergraduate degree recipients.