

## 2011 Commencement and Tropaia FAQs

### Commencement:

#### ***When is commencement?***

The SCS 2011 commencement ceremony will be Friday, May 20 at 3:30 p.m. on [Healy Lawn](#) (in case of rain – McDonough Arena). The commencement ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes.

The ceremony will be outdoors, so please keep in mind that May in Washington, DC can be very warm.

A map of main campus can be found here: [maps.georgetown.edu](http://maps.georgetown.edu)

#### ***Where do I go on the day of commencement?***

Information concerning where students/faculty should line up will be distributed when available.

#### ***Who is eligible to walk in the May 2011 commencement ceremony?***

August 2010 graduates, December 2010 graduates, and May 2011 graduates.

Additionally BALS and MPS students who are within 6 credits of completing their coursework in the upcoming summer semester may choose to walk in the Commencement Ceremony.

Due to intensive thesis review and approval requirements, MALS and DLS students must have completed all required credits *and* have received formal thesis approval to walk in the Ceremony.

Only the names of students expected to complete their degrees by the end of the current spring semester (and who earned their degrees in the prior year's fall and summer semesters) will appear in the annual Commencement Book. For example, the names of students graduating in summer 2011 will appear in the following year's 2011-2012 Commencement Book.

Please ensure students have reviewed the eligibility policies and requirements on the SCS website: <http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/commencement>.

#### ***Do I need to RSVP to walk in the ceremony?***

YES. You must respond to the Commencement/Tropaia survey sent to you from the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs by May 1.

Only people who respond may walk in the ceremony.

***How will I be notified of commencement information?***

All students eligible to participate in the 2011 commencement ceremony will receive an email from the Office of Student and Alumni Affairs in mid-March with commencement information and asking them to RSVP to the ceremony – for themselves and for their guests.

The Office of Students and Alumni Affairs will send commencement updates to the students and degree program staff during the next few months with updates as they are available.

***How many tickets do I get for commencement?***

Great news! Both our sun and rain venues are large enough to accommodate all guests wishing to celebrate with us. You will be asked to RSVP for your guests, but you may bring all interested family and friends.

***When should my family/friends arrive to Healy Lawn?***

Commencement seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, and will begin between 2-2:30 p.m., after the conclusion of the 12:30 p.m. ceremony immediately before ours. There are plenty of seats on the Lawn to accommodate everyone's guests. Please do ensure that your family is in their seats prior to the procession at 3:15 p.m.

***Do I get commencement announcements?***

Each student will receive 10 generic commencement announcements. They will be asked to pick these up from their program director later in the semester. If students would like personalized commencement announcements, they must order these themselves through the Jostens website: [http://www.jostens.com/grad/grad\\_announce\\_lp\\_main.html](http://www.jostens.com/grad/grad_announce_lp_main.html)

***I'm a student -how do I get my commencement robe?***

To participate in the commencement ceremony, students must be dressed in the correct academic attire.

Students are responsible for ordering and purchasing their own commencement regalia from the Georgetown Bookstore (800-548-5452). During the phone order, students may either request in-store pick up, or they can request the robes be sent via FedEx (ground or priority).

In person pickup dates are:

Monday - Friday, May 16-20, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturday, May 21, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

You may also purchase your regalia from the bookstore in-person during the week of Commencement, Monday, May 16 - Thursday, May 19, from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Cap and gown rental is not offered for students. The hood for the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree is white. The hood for the Master of Professional Studies degree is peacock blue.

***I'm a faculty member – how do I get my commencement regalia?***

Dean Manuel will be reaching out to all faculty in mid-March with rental directions for commencement regalia. The Dean's office has agreed to pay for faculty rental regalia this year. Please note, however, if members of your faculty do not return their regalia, your department will be billed.

If you or your faculty would like to *purchase* custom-made regalia, you are welcome to do that at your own cost (\$420.95 for Doctoral gown, hood, tam, tassel and \$295.95 for Masters). To select this option, you must call Jostens directly at 800-854-7464. Details and photos can be found at [www.jostens.com/college/special](http://www.jostens.com/college/special).

***I have a difficult last name – how can I ensure it is pronounced correctly?***

When students arrive for commencement, they will be given a note card on which to write their name phonetically. They will hand this to the name announcer as they cross the stage.

***When do I get my diploma?***

Diplomas will be distributed in-person immediately following the commencement ceremony in [McShain Large](#) (in the building directly across from our reception site in Leo O'Donovan Dining Hall).

If students do not pick-up their diplomas on commencement day, they will be mailed to them.

***As an APC student, what do I need to do in order to receive my certificate?***

APC students will be given their certificates on the evening of Tropaia – May 18, 2011.

***Who is our commencement speaker?***

Georgetown University announces all commencement speakers through the Office of Communications. This announcement is made in early May.

***Where is the reception post-commencement?***

The SCS Dean's Reception will be held In Leo O'Donovan dining hall starting at 5 p.m. Your guests are invited to the reception as well.

***Where should people park on commencement weekend?***

Parking during commencement weekend is challenging. Please view the "tips for parking and getting to campus" section of the commencement website before commencement day:

<http://commencement.georgetown.edu/tips.html>

There is limited handicapped parking in the [Southwest Garage](#). When possible, guests should drop off the handicapped family member close to the commencement site and then park the car. There will also be a handicapped shuttle bus running continuously from the main gate to various sections of campus all day on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

***Do you provide wheelchairs/handicapped seating during the commencement ceremony?***

Yes. Wheelchairs are provided free of charge during commencement. Students will need to RSVP via the online commencement RSVP site if a family member requires wheelchair rental during the ceremony. There is a reserved seating section for wheelchairs (Healy Lawn: on the audience right side of the stage closest to Healy Circle. McDonough Arena: on the audience left side by the bleachers and the band). Each guest requiring a wheelchair can bring *one* attendee with them to this section.

***How will I know if there is a rain call?***

If you have questions about the status of the ceremony, you may check the University's main web page ([Georgetown.edu](http://Georgetown.edu)), the inclement weather page (<http://www.georgetown.edu/operating-status/index.html>) or call the inclement weather line: (202) 687.7669 for updates.

***Can I get pictures or a video of me walking across stage?***

Yes. Ordering information will be available on the SCS commencement website when available.

***What do most guests wear for commencement activities?***

Traditionally, guests wear business or business casual attire.

***Where can I find out more information online?***

The Georgetown University commencement website has the most up-to-date commencement information. Please share this link with your students, faculty, and staff:  
<http://commencement.georgetown.edu/>

The SCS commencement website has specific information for SCS students, faculty and staff:  
<http://scs.georgetown.edu/academic-affairs/commencement>.

## **Tropaia:**

### ***When is Tropaia?***

Wednesday, May 18 at 6:00 pm in Gaston Hall. The Tropaia Ceremony lasts approximately 70 minutes.

### ***What is Tropaia?***

Tropaia is an ancient Greek word meaning “trophy,” and referred to a monument constructed to celebrate a military victory. The Tropaia Ceremony is the event at which individual schools distribute awards. Award recipients will be notified that they are receiving awards prior to the ceremony.

### ***Who can come to Tropaia?***

All students, faculty, staff, and family members are encouraged come to Tropaia. We will ask that you RSVP for yourself and your family members for this event. The Office of Student and Alumni Affairs will send an email invitation to SCS students, faculty, and staff inviting them to the honors event.

### ***What other activities can I participate in during commencement week?***

The annual Baccalaureate Mass will be held Sunday morning at 9 a.m. on Healy Lawn and includes an academic procession of students (both undergrad and grad) and faculty.

Following Mass, the Commencement Brunch to which all graduates and their guests are invited will be served at the Georgetown University Conference Center in the Leavey Center Ballroom.