

UWA Plans In-Person Spring Commencement

Contact: Shelby Ray Gandy

LIVINGSTON, ALABAMA— *The University of West Alabama's Spring 2021 commencement marks the first time in over a year that guests will be allowed to attend a commencement ceremony in-person on the UWA Campus.*

UWA will honor over 700 graduates during its Spring 2021 commencement on May 8. The ceremony will begin at 10:30 a.m. at Tiger Stadium and will be a joint ceremony between graduate and undergraduate.

"There are currently 309 students who will be participating in the ceremony," said Dr. Tina Jones, UWA commencement chairperson.

For the Spring 2021 commencement, students who wish to participate in the ceremony and two guests per graduate are allowed on campus. The previous two ceremonies (Fall 2020, Spring 2020) were hybrid ceremonies due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning only students were allowed to attend and guests could remotely watch the livestreamed event.

Since guest attendance is limited, the ceremony will also stream live at uwa.edu/live.

"Livestreaming is not new. We have always livestreamed our ceremonies, even before the pandemic," said Jones.

Facial coverings and social distancing will be required during the event in accordance with the university's Spring 2021 Operational Plan.

"We are still in the middle of a global pandemic," Jones said. "Our job as commencement committee is to make sure it's an enjoyable and safe day for everyone."

Guest tickets, reserved through Eventbrite, allow for a touchless entry and guests will be socially distanced.

When guests are registered through Eventbrite, they will begin to receive email communications for event updates and requirements. In the event of inclement weather, tickets will be voided, and the ceremony will be moved to the UWA Auditorium in the Math and Science building on campus.

“We can’t have that many people in a closed environment because it does not allow for social distancing, so guests would not be allowed to attend the ceremony if it is moved to the UWA Auditorium because of weather,” said Jones.

For more information on UWA Commencement Exercises, visit uwa.edu/commencement or contact Dr. Tina Jones, commencement chairperson, at 205-652-3833.

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About The University of West Alabama

The University of West Alabama is a state-supported, coeducational institution of higher learning governed by a Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor. As a regional institution, the University’s foremost commitment is to meeting the educational needs of the State and particularly of the West Alabama area. Valuing a diverse student enrollment, though, it also welcomes students from throughout the United States and from other countries.