

REUNION & COMMENCEMENT, May 24-27, 2012

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When and where do graduating seniors pick up their diplomas?

A. Graduating seniors may pick up their diplomas on Friday, May 25 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. in the lobby of North College.

Q. When and where do students get their caps and gowns?

A. Seniors order caps and gowns from Broad Street Books. In the spring, seniors will receive a letter with instructions for ordering. Call Broad Street Books with any questions at (860) 685-7323.

Q. Do students receive Commencement tickets? When will they get them?

A. There are no tickets, as everyone is invited to attend the Commencement ceremony. The 5000 chairs on Andrus Field (some are outside, some under the large tent with full view of the podium) are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is additional room for seating on Foss Hill (bring a blanket or folding chairs).

Q. Do students receive Commencement announcements? Can we order from outside vendors?

A. Each senior receives 10 announcements from the Deans' Office. They are delivered to student mailboxes in early March and can be mailed to family and friends simply as keepsakes; they are not Commencement tickets. You may also receive offers for announcements from outside vendors.

Q. Where will Commencement take place? How long is the ceremony?

A. The ceremony will take place in the center of campus on Andrus Field, rain or shine, and will last approximately 2-1/2 hours.

Q. What happens if an alternate plan is necessary for Commencement due to seriously foul weather?

A. An abbreviated ceremony will take place in the tent behind the seats on Andrus Field. It will accommodate many spectators, but since space is limited, we respectfully ask that you reduce the number of guests to three who will be sitting under the tent. A simulcast of the Commencement Ceremony will be available online, in the Memorial Chapel, Patricelli '92 Theater, Crowell Concert Hall, Tishler Lecture Hall (150 Exley Science Center), Taylor Meeting Room (Usdan), and the Andersen Meeting Room (Usdan); rain or shine. The best advice is to come prepared with raincoats and umbrellas.

Q. Is there a video recording of Commencement? Are still photos taken during the ceremony and available for purchase?

A. See enclosed brochure for information about availability of Commencement DVDs. Still photos will be taken of each graduate upon receiving their diploma. Proofs and order forms will be sent to students after Commencement.

Q. When do students need to move out of their campus housing?

A. All students (other than seniors) must be out of their housing by Saturday, May 19, at noon. Seniors must vacate their housing on Monday, May 28 by 4:30 p.m. Students should be sure to take all their belongings with them, leave their residence clean, and turn in their key to avoid charges. Contact Residential Life at (860) 685-3550 or reslife@wesleyan.edu with questions.

Q. Where can we go out to eat in the Middletown area? Where should we stay overnight in the area?

A. There are many great options. For information, visit the restaurant section of the Wesleyan online visitor's guide at <http://www.wesleyan.edu/about/restaurants.html> or visit the Reunion & Commencement 2012 web site at www.wesleyan.edu/rc. Be sure to make reservations in advance, if possible.

Q. How can we obtain Wesleyan sweatshirts or other logo items?

A. Wesleyan logo items are available at Broad Street Books, located at 45 Broad Street, Middletown and the University Store in the Usdan University Center.

Q. I use a wheelchair (or have mobility problems) and am uncertain about attending the weekend. Is any provision being made for people with special needs?

A. Wesleyan is committed to full access for all people. Please visit <http://www.wesleyan.edu/studentaffairs/disabilities/index.html> for more information or contact the Office of Alumni and Parent Relations at (860) 685-2116 with questions.

Q. Do parents and families need to register in advance of the weekend?

A. Parents and families (including graduating seniors) are encouraged to pre-register for the weekend, especially if they would like a nametag and welcome packet ready for them when they arrive, and if they plan to purchase tickets for any on-campus meal(s) or Camp Cardinal, the Reunion & Commencement children's program. Please refer to the Reunion & Commencement web site, www.wesleyan.edu/rc, in March 2012 for more information about which meals have specific fees.

Q. Where do we go, upon arrival, to check in and obtain up to date information about the weekend?

A. Whether or not you pre-registered, you should check in at Registration (Usdan University Center) upon arrival, where you'll receive a final program (with updates and event locations), meal tickets, and other information.

Q. Other than the actual Commencement ceremony (11 a.m. on Sunday), what are the weekend activities for families?

A. Reunion & Commencement Weekend is a three-day event for reunion alumni and families of graduating seniors. Activities include WESeminars, the Champagne Reception for graduating seniors and families on Friday, the All-College Dinner on Friday, academic open houses, a Grandparents gathering for grandparents and their graduating seniors, Phi Beta Kappa, Baccalaureate on Saturday, and other activities, events, and entertainment; plus the opportunity to attend the All-College Brunch before the ceremony on Sunday. Many families arrive on Friday afternoon, in time for the Champagne Reception and stay through the reception immediately following Commencement on Sunday. Families are welcome to attend activities in which they have interest. Some meals require ticket purchase. Beginning in March, please refer to the Reunion & Commencement 2012 web site, www.wesleyan.edu/rc, for more information.

Q. What are WESeminars? Do I need to purchase tickets for WESeminars?

A. WESeminars are stimulating educational presentations by Wesleyan faculty members, parents, alumni, and students which enable participants to rekindle their connections to Wesleyan, and gain insight into the teaching and scholarship that takes place at the University today. Tickets are not required, however, WESeminar seating is offered on a first-come, first-served basis. Fire code prohibits the University from offering festival seating in any of its spaces, therefore we cannot accommodate standing room patrons on the floors or in the aisles. Most WESeminars are 60-90 minute programs. Some WESeminars and other events will be available as webcasts during the weekend and will be posted online during the summer. Details about the webcasts will be available in May 2012 on www.wesleyan.edu/rc.

Q. Does Wesleyan have a program for kids during the Weekend?

A. Yes, Wesleyan offers Camp Cardinal, an organized program created to entertain your child(ren) during the weekend. Programs for children between the ages of 4 months and 12 years are available. Children must be registered for the program. Wesleyan's Camp Cardinal Program is divided into two groups based on age. Children 4-months to 5-years old will be cared for at the Neighborhood Preschool, a facility with licensed instructors located on the Wesleyan campus. The children's program (ages 6 through 12) is held on campus and is supervised by carefully selected Wesleyan students. If you have questions or need more specific information, please contact the Alumni & Parent Relations Office at rc@wesleyan.edu or (860) 685-2116.

Q. How much does it cost to take a cab to Middletown from Bradley Airport? From the train station?

A. Prices vary. You can hire a cab from the airport for a flat rate of approximately \$75 (without tip). A cab from the Meriden train station is approximately \$30-35 and from the New Haven train station approximately \$55-60.

Q. How do I get from my hotel to campus?

A. Although some hotels provide limited shuttle service (please check with your hotel's front desk), we encourage you to rent a car, or share a ride with another Wesleyan guest.

Q. Will there be a shuttle service available on campus? How late do the campus shuttles run?

A. Yes! There will be limited shuttle service between the primary parking areas and all sites on campus during the weekend. They will be clearly marked and you can flag one down at any given point.

Q. If we bring a car to campus, where can we park? What are the fees for parking?

A. Ample parking is available at the Middlesex Mutual Parking Garage (two blocks from campus at the junction of Court Street and Main Streets), the Vine Street parking lot (adjacent to the tennis courts), and the Freeman Athletic Center parking lots (Cross Street and Pine Street). Shuttle vans will run between these lots and all sites on campus during the weekend.

Q. What hours are the Middlesex Parking Garage open? How do we get to campus from the Middlesex Parking Garage?

A. Although the garage is within walking distance from campus (walk directly west up the hill to campus), shuttle vans will run regularly between the Middlesex Garage, all major campus parking lots, and all sites on campus during the weekend. The garage is open Friday 5 p.m.-midnight, Saturday 8 a.m.-midnight, and Sunday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Q. What is the Baccalaureate "Senior Voices"?

A. Taking place in Memorial Chapel on Saturday at 6 p.m., three graduating seniors reflect, share and recap some of their unique and transformative moments from their years at Wesleyan. In addition, a Professor nominated by the Class of 2012 will address the Senior class. The event is 50 minutes long and is not ticketed. All are welcome.

Q. Will religious/spiritual services and events be offered on campus?

A. Yes. Muslim, Jewish and Catholic services are scheduled. At this time Jumah services are planned for Friday at Noon, Shabbat Services on Friday at 6 p.m., Shabbat dinner on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Catholic Mass on Sunday at 9 a.m. Planning is still underway and information will be posted on the Reunion & Commencement website.