



COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

December 19, 2026

BOOKSTORE

The USF Barnes and Noble Bookstore, first floor, Tower Hall North, will be open on Commencement Day, December 19th from 8:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The bookstore offers USF merchandise.

CAP & GOWN AND TICKET PICK-UP

Graduates may pick up their caps, gowns, and commencement tickets at the USF Bookstore, located in Tower Hall, on the following dates.

Cap and Gown Distribution:

December 7 - 10th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

December 11th from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

December 14 - 18th from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

December 19th from 8:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Special arrangements for after-hour pick up may be made by calling the Bookstore at **815-740-3394**.

Number of guest tickets will be determined following the RSVP deadline.

Watch for communication from the commencement email. GraduationInvite@stfrancis.edu

COMMENCEMENT LINE-UP

Graduates must report to their designated classroom in Tower Hall no later than 45 minutes before their ceremony.

A list of assigned rooms will be posted in the Tower Hall first floor.

- Room moderators will offer detailed instructions.
- Please leave personal belongings with family or friends. Rooms will not be accessible to students after commencement.

PROCESSION

The procession will be led by the San Damiano Cross, followed in order by the Grand Marshal, graduates, faculty, administrators, Board of Trustees and platform party.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Visual Image Photography (VIP) will take photos of graduates as they receive their diplomas. VIP will send an email with a direct link to the images approximately 2 weeks after the graduation date! If you do not receive an email you can contact their support team at support@vipis.com or call 262-375-4457.

UNDERGRADUATE HONORS

Honors designation does not apply for graduate-level students. Final honors will be indicated on the student's diploma and final transcript. For commencement purposes, graduation honors will be based on qualification at the time of the previous completed term at USF.

DIPLOMAS

Graduates will receive their diplomas by mail four to six weeks after the commencement ceremony.

SIMULCAST & STREAMING

The Commencement ceremony will be simulcast in the Sexton Auditorium (Moser Performing Arts Center) Tower Hall for those on campus without tickets to the ceremony. The ceremony will also be live-streamed for those off campus, visit stfrancis.edu/commencement for details and links.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITIES

Students and their families are welcome to take pictures anywhere on campus. Suggested photo opportunities include Tower Hall's main entrance, the University Seal on Tower Hall's second floor, Benoit Commons, or the Grotto in the Quad (weather permitting).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

COMMENCEMENT DAY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2026

Saturday, December 19, 2026 9 a.m.

COMMENCEMENT MASS

All are invited, but please reserve your seat via the Commencement RSVP form.

8:45 a.m. Graduates gather in Room C316, 3rd floor, Motherhouse for lineup.

Graduating students are asked to wear their cap and gown.

St. Joseph Chapel, Motherhouse, 3rd Floor

DOCTORAL, MASTER'S DEGREE, AND BACHELOR'S DEGREE CEREMONY

10:15 a.m. Graduates Line-Up

10:45 a.m. Procession

11 a.m. Ceremony

Sullivan Recreation Center

Tickets required for admission. Guests must be seated 15 minutes prior to the ceremony.



Persons with disabilities who require assistance, should email GraduationInvite@stfrancis.edu at least four weeks prior to commencement. Handicapped seating will be located on the main floor.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2026

Friday, December 18, 2026 4:30 p.m.

LEACH COLLEGE OF NURSING PINNING CEREMONY

Families are invited.

Sullivan Recreation Center

We encourage everyone to download the digital commencement program using the QR code below. It will also be available at graduation. The program will not be available until a few days prior to the ceremony. We will limit the number of print programs to one per family to support the university's commitment to sustainability.

