

On behalf of the SDSM&T Commencement Committee, congratulations on your graduation! We commend you for all the work you put into earning your degree, and wish you success as you move on to your next adventure! We certainly hope that you will join us for the 178<sup>th</sup> Commencement of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology on May 4, 2019.

Commencement is both a celebration of student success as well as a formal academic occasion, and should be viewed as such in dress and demeanor. While the ceremony has no official dress code, the Commencement Committee encourages graduates to dress and act in a manner appropriate to it.

- Graduates are encouraged to dress business or business casual.
- Due to uneven surfaces, backstage wiring, and stage steps at the venue, graduates should avoid loose-fitting shoes (such as flip-flops) or shoes with stiletto heels.
- Academic robes and regalia have a long and distinguished history, and graduates are discouraged from altering them. Only University-sanctioned academic stoles and honor cords are allowed. A graduate whose regalia has been modified so as to be deemed distracting, offensive, or obscene by the Commencement Committee *will not be permitted to march at Commencement*.
- During the ceremony, graduates use their left hand to receive their diploma so that they are able to properly shake hands with and be congratulated by University representatives. As a result, graduates should not carry items (such as phones or cameras) with them when they walk to receive their diploma, and *may have these items confiscated* to ensure their safety.
- Neither alcohol nor any illegal substance is permitted in the student staging area at Commencement. A graduate who brings such substances, or is suspected of being under the influence of them, *will not be permitted to march at Commencement*.
- Guests attending the ceremony are encouraged to applaud, but should refrain from using air horns and other noisemakers out of respect for all graduates and their families, and to preserve decorum. Guests will be invited to the front of the auditorium/arena to take pictures of their graduates as they receive their diploma. However, *no person is allowed to join a graduate on the stage* during the Commencement ceremony, other than individuals providing approved ADA accommodation.

If you have any questions regarding Commencement, the ceremony, or its regalia, please contact the Dean of Students (Dr. Mahon, [patricia.mahon@sdsmt.edu](mailto:patricia.mahon@sdsmt.edu)).

Once again, congratulations!