Commencement Ceremony Etiquettes

The commencement ceremony is a prestigious event intended to formally honor graduates and mark a new stage in their lives. Please help us to make this a special day for all of our graduates by following these etiquettes:

**Graduates**
- Graduates should plan to arrive at the venue **no later than 4:30pm** to line up.
- Graduates without proper cap & gown attire will not be permitted to walk.
- Graduates should remain seated throughout the ceremony and stand only when directed to do so.
- Cell phones and other electronics should be **TURNED OFF** throughout the ceremony.
- Show respect to speakers and fellow graduates by remaining silent.

**Guests**
- Cell phones and other electronics should be **TURNED OFF** throughout the ceremony.
- Please sit only in seats provided for guests; to avoid delays in our program, **do not** sit in seats designated for graduates, faculty, staff, or VIPs.
- Show respect to speakers, graduates, and other guests by remaining silent.
- Food will not be permitted in the auditorium.
- Only authorized personnel are permitted in the stage area. We ask that you remain seated for the safety of our guests and graduates and so that all guests are able to see their graduates.
- Persons exhibiting disruptive behavior will be removed from the auditorium.
- A separate viewing room with a live-feed of the ceremony has been provided for guests with sick or restless children. Ask any VIU staff for directions.
- Guests should remain silent during the calling of names and awarding of diplomas; this is a courtesy to other graduates and their guests so that everyone may hear their graduate’s name called.
- All guests **must remain seated** as students process into and recess out of the auditorium.
- As much as is possible, please remain seated during the ceremony. Do not block any aisles or walkways by greeting or celebrating with your graduate. Do not block the view of other guests.
- Photos may only be taken if they are taken from the guest’s seat and do not obstruct the view of other guests. VIU will make professional photos available to all graduates 2 weeks after the ceremony.