

LENOIR-RHYNE SPRING 2023

COMMENCEMENT HANDBOOK



LENOIR~RHYNE
UNIVERSITY

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A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



TO THE GRADUATES OF THE CLASS OF 2023,

With great pleasure, I invite you to participate in Lenoir-Rhyne University's commencement ceremonies. This is a special time and significant milestone in your life, and we want your commencement ceremony to be a capstone to your time with us at Lenoir-Rhyne.

This handbook has been developed with you and your family and guests in mind. In the following pages, you will find a wealth of information about the commencement ceremonies at all three campuses of Lenoir-Rhyne. I encourage you to take a moment to look carefully at the detailed information you will need leading up to the ceremony, as well as information including location and times you will need to assemble for each ceremony.

I offer my sincere congratulations to you, our graduates, on your accomplishment and wish you good luck in pursuing your dreams. We thank those who have supported you throughout your journey and know the immense sense of pride they feel in your accomplishment.

We celebrate with you this significant accomplishment and look forward to greeting you as you cross the stage during our ceremony. Upon receiving your degree, you will become one of more than 20,000 Lenoir-Rhyne alums who are Bears for Life.

Congratulations on this tremendous achievement.

Go Bears!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Whitt".

Dr. Fred Whitt
President
Lenoir-Rhyne University



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DATES TO REMEMBER

March 27	Graduation application deadline
March 28	Bears Give Back Giving Day
March 29-30	Graduation Fair
May 3	Baccalaureate
May 10	Columbia Baccalaureate
May 11	Columbia Center Graduate Commencement
May 12	Hickory Campus Undergraduate and Graduate Commencement
May 13	Asheville Center Graduate Commencement

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS



WEDNESDAY, MAY 3

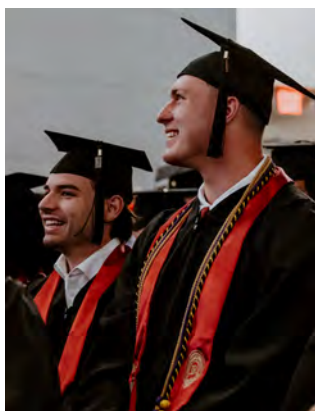
BACCALAUREATE WORSHIP SERVICE

10AM – Grace Chapel, Hickory, NC

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

COLUMBIA BACCALAUREATE

7:30PM – Christ Chapel, 4201 North Main Street, Columbia, SC



THURSDAY, MAY 11

COLUMBIA CENTER GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

10AM – Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, SC

FRIDAY, MAY 12

HICKORY CAMPUS UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

6PM – Moretz Stadium, Hickory, NC



SATURDAY, MAY 13

ASHEVILLE CENTER GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT

10AM – Renaissance Asheville, 31 Woodfin St., Asheville, NC



GRADUATION FAIR



Attendance at the Grad Fair is strongly encouraged for ALL Hickory Campus graduates.

Cromer Center

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Wednesday March 29

11AM - 2PM

Thursday March 30

1PM - 4PM

Order your cap, gown, and stoles

Receive honor cords

Order your announcement cards and invitations

Sign up for the Alumni Network, Bears for Life

Learn more about career services support

Get free stuff

ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS AND INVITATIONS

Order your personalized invitations and announcement cards at the Grad Fair. You can also order them online at **orderhj.com/lr**. The bookstore will carry a limited number of general announcements for purchase.

CAPS AND GOWNS

You can order your caps, gowns, hoods and stoles ONLINE! Visit the site at **orderhj.com/lr**. If you need assistance, there will be help at the Grad Fair or you can contact Dondi Joyner at **828.328.7142** or **dondi.joyner@lr.edu**.

THE DEADLINE FOR ORDERING YOUR CAP AND GOWN IS **FEBRUARY 20**. If you have questions after April 4, please contact **dondi.joyner@lr.edu**. There is NO GUARANTEE YOU WILL HAVE A CAP AND GOWN AFTER THE DEADLINE. Order early!

HICKORY CAMPUS GENERAL INFORMATION

ATTENDANCE

All candidates are expected to attend the commencement exercise unless they have received permission in writing from the University Registrar, Mr. Stacey Brackett. Please email your request with appropriate justification to **registrar@lr.edu** to receive permission to graduate in absentia.

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

All graduates and undergraduates seeking a degree must submit an application to the registrar's office no later than **March 27, 2023**. Applications can be found on the university's website or through the registrar's office. Failure to submit an application on time may result in your name being omitted from the commencement program. Those who had degrees conferred in December 2022, or will be conferred in May 2023 or August 2023, have permission to walk. To discuss your situation, please contact the registrar.

DIPLOMAS

All graduate and undergraduate diplomas will be mailed to the student from the registrar's office. **Please be sure a correct mailing address is on file in the registrar's office.** Diploma covers will be handed out during the ceremony.

LIVESTREAMING

For those unable to attend commencement, the ceremony will be broadcast live on the university's YouTube channel. A link to the live stream can be found at **lr.edu/lrlive**.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Interpreters/Translators and Assistive Listening Devices for the deaf and hard-of-hearing guests are available upon request. Please contact Sherry Proctor at **828.328.7296** or **sherry.proctor@lr.edu** at least two weeks in advance to make your request.

Additionally, if you or a family member have a disability requiring any accommodations for special seating, etc., please contact Ms. Proctor at least two weeks in advance to make your request.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos and videos may be taken from the audience or from a designated area by the stage. The university has contracted with a professional company, Photo Specialties, who will photograph each graduate receiving their diploma and post the photos online for you to view or order at **photospecialties.com**. An individual password for each graduate will be emailed from Photo Specialties to the graduate's LR email address when photos are posted. In addition, a paper proof will be mailed to each graduate's permanent address. There is no obligation to buy.

PERSONAL DRESS

Candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Improper dress may cause a candidate to be withdrawn from participation. Cords, pins or medallions will be allowed only if they are symbolic of campus-wide and programmatic academic honors.

CONFIRM YOUR INFORMATION

It is imperative that LR has your correct phone number, email address and permanent address on file. At Grad Fair, you will be able to double-check the information we have for you. If this information is not correct, you risk having your name incorrect in the program and your diploma mailed to the wrong address.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sign up to become a Bear for Life. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to your class gift, designating it in memory or in honor of someone special. To learn more about the resources available to LR Alumni, visit **lr.edu/alumni**.

COMMENCEMENT ATTIRE

All candidates should wear their cap, gown and stole, which should be ordered no later than February 24. Underneath the gown, candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Improper dress may cause a candidate to be withdrawn from participation. Cords, pins, or medallions will be allowed only if they are symbolic of campus wide and programmatic academic honors.

CAP GUIDELINES

Students choosing to decorate their cap must follow the strict guidelines below developed by the Office of the President. The guidelines will be enforced the day of the ceremony and the university reserves the right to request that graduates change inappropriate attire before they are allowed to participate in the commencement ceremony.

Only the flat, top area of the mortar board may be decorated, and adornments must lay flat on the surface of the cap. Decorations cannot extend beyond the border of the cap or fall below the perimeter. 3-D creations are prohibited.

Graduation cap decorations:

- Cannot contain any advertisement, symbols, abbreviations, initial, words, slogans, patches, or pictures that: refer to drugs or controlled substances, tobacco, alcohol, or weapons or be of a sexual nature.
- Denote an affiliation with gangs or which advocate drug use, violence, illegal activity, or disruptive behavior which is detrimental to the safety and welfare of other students.
- Be obscene, profane, vulgar or lewd.

It is appropriate to put the following on your cap:

- Thank a parent, grandparent, teacher, friend
- The graduation year
- The branch of the military you will be joining
- Recognize the career you will be beginning
- Their home country's flag



HICKORY UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

MAY 12, 6PM

Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory will have one ceremony for both our graduates and undergraduates. Please review the ceremony day procedures below and contact Cameron Womack, Commencement Director, if you have any questions at cameron.womack@lr.edu.

TIME AND LOCATION

The Hickory Commencement Ceremony will be held **Friday, May 12, at 6PM**. The ceremony will take place outdoors at Moretz Stadium in Hickory.

CHECK-IN AND LINE-UP

All bachelor's and master's degree candidates who have met all degree requirements and received approval from the registrar must check in **promptly at Shuford Arena at 5PM**.

Candidates will be directed by the Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fisher, and other staff members regarding line-up. Candidates will be able to sit in any order within the college from where their degree is conferred. Undergraduates will process in first, followed by graduates. For example, if you are graduating with a BS in Biology, then you will line up with the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

GRAD INFO CARD

Graduates will complete a grad info card at Grad Fair which will contain your name, plus Latin Honors, if applicable. You will pick up your card at check-in. Please keep this card with you until you walk across the stage. This is how the reader will know your name as you cross to receive your diploma.

DRESS AND REGALIA

Herff-Jones has provided YouTube videos on proper wear of your regalia. They can be viewed at <https://academicregalia.herffjones.com/go/howtowear>.

UNDERGRADUATES

Tassels: You will start wearing your tassel on the right side of your cap. During the ceremony, you will be prompted to move it to the left, signifying that you have earned your bachelor's degree.

Honor Cords: Gold, Silver, and Bronze honor cords will be given for summa, magna, and cum laude candidates (respectively) at Grad Fair and during the line-up for the processional. Other cords, pins, or medallions will be allowed only if they are symbolic of campus-wide and programmatic academic honors.

Caps: Caps may be decorated. Please follow the guidelines located on page 7.

GRADUATES

Tassels: You will wear your tassel on the left side of your cap, signifying that you have previously earned your bachelor's degree.

Hoods: Wear your hood in the processional. Candidates will be directed by the Dean of Students, Dr. Katie Fisher, regarding line-up and proper hooding procedures.

FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

Only the stage party and faculty will recess from the field. Students can plan to meet their family and friends on the field for photo opportunities. Your diploma will be mailed to you. Allow 2-4 weeks for delivery and make certain the registrar has a current mailing address for you when you apply for graduation.

INCLEMENT WEATHER AND TICKET INFORMATION

Lenoir-Rhyne University makes every effort to hold our commencement ceremony in Hickory outside in our Moretz Football Stadium. Being in North Carolina in the spring, weather is unpredictable so we do our best to plan for inclement weather.

A decision to move to our rain plan will be provided as soon as possible.

If we are expecting a passing storm, we will have the option to delay the outside ceremony if the conditions warrant.

If inclement weather causes us to move the ceremony inside, **tickets are required for guests**. Each LR Graduate is guaranteed **FOUR** guest tickets. These tickets can be picked up at Grad Fair on March 29 and 30. Following Grad Fair, graduates will need to pick up their tickets from Cameron Womack in the President's office NO LATER THAN MAY 3. If additional tickets are available, a procedure for picking up those tickets will be provided the week of commencement.

In addition, because of our space limitations, the Rain Plan for Commencement will occur in two ceremonies as follows:

2:00PM COMMENCEMENT:

Undergraduate students earning a Bachelor of Art and Bachelor of Music degrees and all graduate students except nursing and occupational therapy.

Student check-in for the 2:00PM ceremony is 1:00PM in Mauney Music Building

7:00PM COMMENCEMENT:

Undergraduate students completing Bachelor of Science degrees and graduate students in Nursing and Occupational Therapy.

Student check-in for the 7:00PM ceremony is 6:00PM in Mauney Music Building

DIRECTIONS TO CAMPUS

FROM INTERSTATE 40:

- Take exit 125 Lenoir-Rhyne University exit.
- Turn north onto Lenoir-Rhyne Boulevard.
- Pass Kickback Jacks and Mellow Mushroom restaurants (on your right just off the interstate) and go through four lights.
- At fifth light, turn left onto 7th Avenue N.E. (light will be right after you cross under a railroad bridge).
- Go through one light and proceed a quarter of a mile to the intersection with Stasavich Place (5th Street N.E.). Past the light, you enter campus.
- Turn right after a quarter of a mile onto Stasavich Place – the road has three speed bumps. McCrorie Center and Shuford Gymnasium are on your left.

FROM CHARLOTTE AIRPORT/ GASTONIA:

- Leaving the airport, take Billy Graham Parkway North (left lane) to I-85 South.
- Take I-85 South to Gastonia, about 15 minutes away.
- Take the exit for US 321 North (exit 17) and turn left at the light.
- Take US 321 North until the highway intersects I-40 (exit 43).
- Take I-40 East to exit 125 and follow directions for From Interstate 40 above.

FROM BOONE:

- Follow US 321 South to Hickory. As you come into Hickory, you will cross Lake Hickory. Turn left at Arby's at the first stoplight after going over the bridge.
- Follow that road up the hill and around the curve to the fourth street on the left, which will be 12th Avenue N.W.
- Turn left and follow to the stoplight (this will be a T-intersection).
- Turn right onto 6th Street N.W. Take the second left onto 9th Avenue N.E.
- Go through three stoplights.
- After the third stoplight, take the first right onto 3rd Street N.E.
- Take an immediate left onto 7th Avenue N.E.
- Proceed up the hill to the stop sign.
- Take left onto Stasavich Place (Shuford Gymnasium is on the left).

LODGING IN HICKORY

The following is a list of hotels which give discounts for LR-related events. Call them directly to confirm discounts and rates.

Best Western	828.323.1150
Comfort Suites	828.323.1211
Courtyard by Marriott	828.267.2100
Crowne Plaza	828.323.1000
Fairfield Inn	828.431.3000
Hampton Inn	828.624.2000
Holiday Inn Express	828.328.2081
Jameson Inn	828.304.0410
LaQuinta Inn & Suites	828.465.1100
Sleep Inn	828.323.1140

CAMPUS MAP

For a larger, interactive campus map, visit lr.edu/campusmap.



Questions? Contact Cameron Womack, Executive Assistant to the President and Commencement Director, at **828.328.7334** or cameron.womack@lr.edu.

COLUMBIA CENTER GENERAL INFORMATION

APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

All graduates seeking a degree must submit an application to the registrar's office no later than **March 27, 2023**.

You can download the form at **lr.edu/registrar**. Select **Application for Graduation**. Completed forms can be scanned and emailed to **registrar@lr.edu** or mailed to:

Lenoir-Rhyne University
Office of Registrar
625 7th Ave. NE, LRU 7227
Hickory, NC 28601

Failure to submit an application on time may result in your name being omitted from the commencement program.

CAPS, GOWNS & HOODS

You can order your caps, gowns, hoods and stoles ONLINE! Visit the site at **orderhj.com/lr**. If you need assistance, contact Dondi Joyner at **828.328.7142** or **dondi.joyner@lr.edu**. Be sure you arrange to have your purchase shipped to your home. Cost is approximately \$100.

The deadline to order regalia is FEBRUARY 20. There is no guarantee you will have a cap and gown after the deadline.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

Please make sure all your Business Office and Lineberger accounts are paid and library books returned.

ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS AND INVITATIONS

You may order personalized invitations and announcement cards online at **orderhj.com/lr**. The LR Bookstore will carry a limited number of general announcements for purchase.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sign up to become a Bear for Life. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to your class gift, designating it in memory or in honor of someone special. To learn more about the resources available to LR Alumni, visit **lr.edu/alumni**.

COMMENCEMENT SITE ADDRESS

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln Street
Columbia, SC 29201

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

The Columbia Campus Baccalaureate Service will be held at **7:30PM, Wednesday, May 10** at Christ Chapel. All LTSS/Graduate Studies graduates, friends and family members, students, staff and faculty are invited.

GRADUATE CEREMONY

TIME AND LOCATION

The Graduate Commencement will be held at **10AM, Thursday, May 11**, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street, Columbia, South Carolina. Attendance is open seating and does not require tickets.

PARKING

The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center offers on-site parking at no charge.

CHECK-IN AND LINE-UP

All master's degree candidates who have met all degree requirements must assemble **promptly at 9AM** at the convention center. Additional details TBA.

PROCESSIONAL

Master degree candidates will form a single line and be placed in alphabetical order by degree program. You will wear your tassel on the left side of your cap, signifying that you have previously earned your bachelor's degree, and wear your hood in the processional.

The commencement marshal will lead the procession into the ballroom. You should remain standing once you reach your reserved seats until instructed to sit.

If you are unable to participate in the commencement, please email your request to the registrar at **registrar@lr.edu**.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Master degree candidates will be directed to the stage row by row. When your name is read, your program advisor will direct you to move to your left across the stage to receive your diploma. Continue across to shake hands with the president of the university and other dignitaries.

PERSONAL DRESS

Candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Bring your cap, gown, hood, cords (if applicable) etc. with you to check-in.

Questions? Contact Cameron Womack, Commencement Director, at **828.328.7334** or **cameron.womack@lr.edu**.

COLUMBIA CENTER MAP

LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY

Columbia Campus

4201 NORTH MAIN STREET
COLUMBIA, SC 29203-5898



ASHEVILLE CENTER GENERAL INFORMATION



APPLICATION FOR DEGREE

All graduates seeking a degree must submit an application to the registrar's office no later than **March 27, 2023**.

You can download the form at lr.edu/registrar. Select **Application for Graduation**. Completed forms can be scanned and emailed to registrar@lr.edu or mailed to:

Lenoir-Rhyne University
Office of Registrar
625 7th Ave. NE, LRU 7227
Hickory, NC 28601

Failure to submit an application on time may result in your name being omitted from the commencement program.

CAPS, GOWNS & HOODS

Beginning on Monday, February 14, you can order your caps, gowns, hoods and stoles ONLINE! Visit the site at orderhj.com/lr. If you need assistance, contact Dondi Joyner at **828.328.7142** or dondi.joyner@lr.edu. Be sure you arrange to have your purchase shipped to your home. Cost is approximately \$100.

The deadline to order regalia is FEBRUARY 20. There is no guarantee you will have a cap and gown after the deadline.

ANNOUNCEMENT CARDS AND INVITATIONS

You may order personalized invitations and announcement cards online at orderhj.com/lr. The LR Bookstore will carry a limited number of general announcements for purchase.

CAREER SERVICES

You can meet with your career advisor to refine your job search, interact with employers at recruiting events, connect with alumni at networking receptions, or receive coaching to negotiate your salary. Contact Katie Wohlman, Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Alex Lee Career and Professional Development Center, at katie.wohlman@lr.edu.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Sign up to become a Bear for Life. You will also have an opportunity to contribute to your class gift, designating it in memory or in honor of someone special. To learn more about the resources available to LR Alumni, visit lr.edu/alumni.

TIME AND LOCATION

The Graduate Commencement will be held at **10AM, Saturday, May 13**, at The Renaissance Asheville, 31 Woodfin St. Asheville, North Carolina. The doors will open at 9:30AM. Attendance is open seating and does not require tickets. However, seating is limited, and we ask our candidates to be mindful when inviting friends and family.

CHECK-IN AND LINE-UP

All master's degree candidates who have met all degree requirements must assemble **promptly at 8AM** in the second floor boardroom on the LR Asheville Campus (two hours before the ceremony). At this time, candidates will check-in and will be given instructions about the procession and ceremony. Candidates will be shuttled to Vance Monument to line up for the processional. Be sure to make arrangements to get back to the Asheville campus.

PROCESSIONAL

For our master degree candidates, the ceremony will start at Vance Monument with a procession down Biltmore Avenue to The Renaissance Asheville. Candidates will form a single line and be placed in alphabetical order by degree program. You will wear your tassel on the left side of your cap, signifying that you have previously earned your bachelor's degree, and wear your hood in the processional. The faculty marshal will lead the procession from the Vance Monument to The Renaissance Asheville. You should remain standing once you reach your reserved seats until instructed to sit.

If you are unable to participate in the procession, please email your request to **susy.chandler@lr.edu** and plan to meet at The Renaissance Asheville no later than **9:50AM**.

CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Master degree candidates will be directed to the stage row by row. When your name is read, your program advisor will direct you to move to your left across the stage to receive your diploma. Continue across to shake hands with the president of the university and other dignitaries. Exit via the back of the stage (look for someone motioning you toward the door) and return to your seat.

PERSONAL DRESS

Candidates should wear clothing appropriate for this significant occasion. Bring your cap, gown, hood, cords (if applicable) etc. with you to check-in.



PARKING

On the south end of downtown Asheville, where The Orange Peel is located, there is on-street metered parking on Biltmore Avenue and Lexington Avenue, on either side of the building. There are two parking decks located on Biltmore Avenue:

- Aloft Hotel Parking Deck, located under the Aloft Hotel, 51 Biltmore Avenue (*one block from The Orange Peel*)
- Biltmore Avenue Parking Deck, 16 Biltmore Avenue (two blocks from The Orange Peel)

RECEPTION

Immediately following the ceremony, all guests will be asked to transition to the patio for photos and celebration while we prepare the room for the reception. The reception, also held at The Orange Peel, will honor the graduates and their families. All guests are invited to enjoy Luella’s BBQ.

LODGING IN ASHEVILLE

Aloft Hotel	828.232.2838
Courtyard Asheville	828.281.0041
Double Tree by Hilton Asheville	828.274.1800
Four Points by Sheraton	828.253.1851
Hotel Indigo	828.239.0239
Hyatt Place Asheville	828.505.8500
Renaissance Asheville Hotel	828.252.8211

Questions? Contact Susy Chandler, Associate Director of Community Engagement, at **828.407.4263** or **susy.chandler@lr.edu**.