



2024 GRADUATION AVE MARIA UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC REGALIA

Deadline to order academic regalia through Herff Jones (collegegrad.herffjones.com) is March 15.

Academic regalia will be distributed during the week of April 22.

Ave Maria University Bookstore

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS

Each graduate will be allotted **FIVE** tickets which will be available for pick up the week of April 29 at *Ave Maria University Bookstore*. A waitlist will be made available for additional tickets and students interested in being placed on the waitlist should contact Christy Dorer. Relatives and friends may also stream the ceremony online (www.avemaria.edu).

PHOTOS

GradImages™, featuring the GradTrak® system, will be on hand to photograph each AMU commencement participant. Digital proofs will be sent within 24 hours and free color proofs will be mailed to each graduate four days after the ceremony. Graduates are under no obligation to purchase pictures.

The graduation photo process is completely outsourced to this vendor, and AMU staff will be unable to assist those with specific questions related to photography services. For more information, visit www.gradimages.com.

COMMENCEMENT REHEARSAL (REQUIRED)

Thursday, May 2 — 10:00 a.m.

Tom Golisano Field House

This is the time when graduates can ask questions about the commencement ceremonies and related activities and when you will be given important instructions to make the weekend as enjoyable as possible for you and your guests. If for some reason you cannot attend, you must contact the Office of the Dean of Faculty at (239) 280-2550.

BACCALAUREATE MASS

Friday, May 3 — 5:00 p.m.

Ave Maria Catholic Church

It is our hope that seating capacity in the church will accommodate families and guests. However, the University will be required to follow the protocols for Mass attendance that the Diocese of Venice has in place at the time of the ceremony. Academic regalia is required for this event. **Tickets are not required.**

Graduates are to meet in the Paul M. Henkels Academic Building Demetree Lecture Hall at **4:15 p.m.** for robing and to form the procession line. **No particular order will be observed for the procession and seating.** Ushers and staff will be on hand to assist with any last-minute cap and gown issues. It is recommended that you do not bring valuables with you.

PRESIDENT'S DINNER

Friday, May 3 — 6:30 p.m.

Bob Thomas Student Union, First Floor

This event requires advanced reservation and tickets. The President's Dinner is open to all graduating seniors, their families, and to all faculty and staff members. Tickets are available first come, first served and must be purchased no later than **April 21, 2024**. No tickets will be sold after this date.

Adults - \$35.00 | Children 6-15 - \$16.00 | Children 5 and under - Free
Graduating Students - Free

Dinner is served buffet style, and includes soft drinks and dessert; cash bar for beer and wine. To purchase your tickets, please visit: www.avemaria.edu/presidents-dinner-tickets.



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COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, May 4 — 10:00 a.m.

Tom Golisano Field House

Tickets are required. Each graduate will be allotted a set number of tickets. Space is limited and available on first-come basis. Relatives and friends may also stream the ceremony online (www.avemaria.edu).

Graduates, faculty, and stage party are to arrive no later than **9:00 a.m.** Academic regalia is required.

Graduates will line up alphabetically, undergraduates first, followed by M.A.s, M.B.A.s, and Ph.D.s. Ushers and staff will be on hand to assist with any last-minute cap and gown issues. It is recommended that you do not bring valuables with you.

Procession will enter the gymnasium from the hallway through the north doors and exit the same way. Please pay attention to the Student Marshals leading the procession and assisting at the steps to the stage when your name is called.

Access to the field house will be as follows:

Graduation candidates, administration, and faculty will enter through the far NW doors and process to the staging area.

Family and guests will enter through the main front door, proceed to the gymnasium and take their seats. **Seating is "first come, first served."**

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER AND HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Fr. Mike Schmitz

Commencement Speaker and Honorary Degree Recipient

Father Mike Schmitz is the director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Duluth as well as the Chaplain for the Newman Center at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

The Duluth Newman Center focuses on being fed through the sacraments as well as study and knowledge of the Church, and has thrived under his humble and Spirit-filled guidance. He has preached to thousands locally and nationally. He is the host of the widely popular podcasts *Bible in a Year* and *The Catechism in a Year* produced by Ascension. Father Mike also offers weekly homilies on iTunes, Hallow, and bulldogCatholic.org. He has appeared in programs for youth and young adults through Ascension Press, as well as through regular short video messages on Ascension Presents.



Nicholas Healy | *Honorary Degree Recipient*

Mr. Nicholas Healy has dedicated much of his life in the service of Catholic higher education. Beginning in 1999, he served as president of what was then Ave Maria College. He went on to serve as President of Ave Maria University until 2011. Mr. Healy and his wife Jane have been married for 60 years, and they have four children, thirteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. and Mrs. Healy divide their time between their farm in Munsonville, New Hampshire and Ave Maria, Florida.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Ave Maria University awards baccalaureate degrees with honors for distinguished achievement according to the following system:

Cum laude is earned with a cumulative GPA between 3.6 and 3.749.

Magna cum laude is earned with a cumulative GPA between 3.75 and 3.899.

Summa cum laude is earned with a cumulative GPA of 3.9 and above.

To graduate with such honors recognition, a minimum of 64 credits, or 16 courses, must be taken while the student is enrolled at Ave Maria University.

Eligible graduates will be notified via e-mail by the registrar, and may pick up their honor cords from the registrar's office.