



NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY CANDIDATES FOR GRADUATION SPRING 2026



Congratulations as you near completion of your degree from Northwestern State University. Northwestern has scheduled three ceremonies for spring on Wednesday – Thursday, May 13 – 14, 2026. Please carefully read the following information to determine important dates and times for all activities. All ceremonies will be livestreamed at www.nsula.edu and will be recorded.

SPRING 2026 CANDIDATES IMPORTANT DATES

Graduation Application Deadline: The deadline for undergraduate and graduate students to apply for spring 2026 graduation is **March 1, 2026**.

How to Apply to Graduate: Log into your student account through myNSU at <https://my.nsula.edu/>. Navigate to NSUConnect from the QuickLinks Menu. From the student menu of NSUConnect, select “Apply to Graduate” and follow the instructions. Visit “How to Apply to Graduate” at <http://registrar.nsula.edu/assets/Uploads/HOW-TO-APPLY-TO-GRADUATE.pdf> for detailed instructions on accessing the graduation application.

Grad Fest/Senior Send Off Event

The NSU Alumni Association will be hosting Grad Fest at the times and locations below. During this special event you will be able to order your cap and gown, announcements, and class ring, as well as take advantage of other events.

Natchitoches

Monday, February 9, 2026
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Student Union Ballroom – Main Campus

Shreveport

Monday, **February 23, 2026**
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
2nd Floor Atrium- Shreveport Campus

Alexandria

Monday, **March 2, 2026**
9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
The Gathering Spot – Cenla Campus

Natchitoches

Wednesday, **April 22, 2026**
Ring Ceremony/Senior Send Off
Time and Location TBA

For more information concerning these events, contact the Office of Alumni Affairs, 318-357-6348.

Graduate School Candidates

The deadline for thesis defense for Graduate School candidates graduating in the spring 2026 is **Friday, April 24, 2026**.

The deadline for Graduate School candidates to submit theses, paper in lieu of thesis, comps reports, and transfer credits is **12:00 noon on Friday, May 1, 2026**.

Attendance: Participation in commencement is mandatory for spring graduates. If a problem arises and you are unable to attend, notify the University Registrar's Office in writing no later than **May 1, 2026**. Please list your full name, campus wide ID number or social security number, the address to which you want your diploma mailed, and sign your statement. Mail or fax the notice to the University Registrar's Office. Contact information is listed below. A [form letter](#) is included with this information for your convenience.

Northwestern State University of Louisiana
University Registrar's Office
Natchitoches, LA 71497
Telephone (318) 357-6171 or 1-800-807-8849
FAX (318) 357-5823

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Spring 2026 commencement exercises will be held **Wednesday – Thursday, May 13 – 14, 2026**, in Prather Coliseum at the times listed below. Please **report at least thirty minutes before** your scheduled ceremony. *There is no practice for commencement.*

PLEASE NOTE: The appearance of a name in the commencement program is presumptive evidence of graduation, but it is **not** regarded as conclusive. It is impossible to have an official commencement program since the program must be printed before candidates' applications for a degree can be officially verified. Therefore, a name listed in the commencement program and the participation in the commencement ceremony do not guarantee the awarding of a degree. The official Northwestern State University transcript, sealed and signed by the University Registrar, is documented evidence of the student's permanent academic record and the student's possession of degree(s) awarded by NSU.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

10:00 A.M. Ceremony

College of Business and Technology

MS – Computer Information Systems

BS – Accounting, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Hospitality Management & Tourism

Gallaspy Family College of Education & Human Development

EDD – Adult Learning and Development

EDS – Educational Leadership and Instruction

MA – Adult Learning & Development, Counseling, Student Affairs in Higher Education

MAT – Early Childhood Education-Grades PK-3, Elementary Education- Grades 1-5, Elementary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate- Grades 1-5, Middle School Education-Grades 4-8, Middle School Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate-Grades 4-8, Secondary Education-Grades 6-12, Secondary Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate-Grades 6-12

MED – Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Education, Educational Leadership, Educational Technology Leadership, Special Education

MS – Health and Human Performance, Psychology-Clinical

MSW – Social Work

BME – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal- Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal/Instrumental -Grades K-12

BS – Addiction Studies, Child and Family Studies, Early Childhood Education- Grades Pre-K-3, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Health and Exercise Science, Health and Physical Education-Grades K-12, Psychology, Secondary Education and Teaching, Sport and Recreation Management

BSW – Social Work

2:00 P.M. Ceremony

College of Nursing and School of Allied Health

DNP – Doctor of Nursing Practice
MS – Allied, Health, Radiologic Sciences
MSN – Master of Science in Nursing
BAS – Allied Health
BS – Radiologic Sciences
BSN – Bachelor of Science in Nursing
ASN – Associate of Science in Nursing

Thursday, May 14, 2026

10:00 A.M. Ceremony

College of Arts and Sciences

MA – Art, English
MM – Music
MS – Homeland Security
BA – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts
BFA – Dance, Fine and Graphic Arts, Musical Theatre, Production and Design
BGS – General Studies
BM – Music
BS – Applied Microbiology, Biology, Electronics Engineering Technology, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Science, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration
AD – Veterinary Technology
AGS – Associate of General Studies
AS – Engineering Technology

Louisiana Scholars' College

BA – Communication, Criminal Justice, English, History, Liberal Arts
BFA – Dance, Fine & Graphic Arts, Production and Design
BM – Music
BME – Music Education-Instrumental-Grades K-12, Music Education-Vocal- Grades K-12
BS – Accounting, Addiction Studies, Applied Microbiology, Biology, Business Administration, Computer Information Systems, Electronic Engineering Technology, Elementary Education-Grades 1-5, Health and Exercise Science, Hospitality Management and Tourism, Industrial Engineering Technology, Mathematics, Physical Science, Psychology, Secondary Education and Teaching, Theatre, Unified Public Safety Administration
BSW – Social Work

COLLEGE RECOGNITION CEREMONIES

Some colleges may hold individual recognition ceremonies and/or receptions on the day of commencement. Each college will send you information about their activities. You should contact your major college for additional information.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

All candidates participating in the commencement exercises must be in appropriate academic attire. You can order your cap and gown online directly from Jostens at www.jostens.com. The bookstore will be open the day of commencement.

Graduates receiving associate and bachelor degrees will also purchase college honor cords. These will be given to you when you receive your cap and gown.

The hoods of the candidates for advanced Northwestern State University degrees (Masters, Specialists, and Doctoral) are lined with the colors of the University, purple and white. The colors of the edging of hoods and tassels of the mortarboards are representative of the degree as follows:

Allied Health/Radiologic Sciences	Hunter Green
Art	Brown
Business	Drab
English	White
Education	Light Blue
Health and Human Performance	Gold
Homeland Security	Peacock
Music	Pink
Nursing	Apricot
Psychology	Gold
Social Work	Gold

DRESS FOR COMMENCEMENT

Women should wear black dresses or pants and black shoes (**heels higher than 3 inches are not allowed on the coliseum floor**). Men should wear black suits or black trousers, black shoes, dark ties, and white shirts.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Heels higher than 3 inches are not allowed on the coliseum floor.
- The Phi Kappa Phi medallion, Blue Key and Purple Jackets honor cords, honor medallions, honor stoles, and academic honor cords are the only items that you are authorized to wear on your gown.

COMMENCEMENT INVITATIONS

Commencement invitations may be purchased through the bookstore at (318-238-3630) or directly from Jostens online at <http://college.jostens.com>. **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU SPECIFY THE CORRECT COLLEGE YOU ARE IN WHEN ORDERING INVITATIONS.** If you are unsure of your college, please check the list on the previous two pages under [Commencement Exercises](#), or you may contact the University Registrar's Office.

SPECIAL HONORS

All undergraduate bachelor degree candidates who meet the criteria for special honors will be given a medallion when they report to the coliseum for their ceremony.

PHI KAPPA PHI

All members of the fraternity may wear the Phi Kappa Phi medallion presented to them at initiation. Please bring your medallion with you to the ceremony. (Note: Phi Kappa Phi is a national honor society. Members will be listed in the commencement program. Membership in Phi Kappa Phi does not signify graduation with special honors.)

COMMENCEMENT VIDEO

NSU TV at Northwestern State University will professionally record the ceremony and produce a DVD. Do not miss a single minute of this ceremony that recognizes your academic achievements. Go to <https://commerce.cashnet.com/PRESSWEB> to complete the order form and submit your online payment. NSU accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover. Please call (318) 357-4417 or (318) 357-6588 with any questions.

Note: If you are unable to click on the link to access the website, copy and paste the address into your browser address bar.

FIRST DESTINATION SURVEY

Please take a few minutes to fill out your graduation survey to share your post-graduation plans with the Northwestern State University community. Go to https://nsula.joinhandshake.com/edu/first_destination_surveys/8676 to complete the survey. We look forward to sharing the wonderful accomplishments of the Class of 2026 with the Northwestern State University Community.

GOWNS FOR GRADS

Graduation is an exciting event for NSU students. Many students would like to participate in celebrating this milestone but are unable to for a variety of reasons. This program provides students with a free rental of graduation caps, gowns, and additional items (tassels, cords, stoles, etc.).

The program is donation-based and continues to grow and be successful through numerous donations from NSU students, alumni, and the community. NSU is very thankful to have this program, however, because there are limited items, the program operates on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit <https://northwesternstatealumni.com/gowns/> for complete program information and to request and/or donate a gown.

All donations from NSU alum and monetary donations are appreciated. With your help, we can guarantee all of our students have the opportunity to celebrate their accomplishments on graduation day.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INSTRUCTIONS

There is no practice for commencement.

Please **carefully read and follow these instructions** and keep these instructions for future reference and review before the ceremony.

- 1. CAPS AND GOWNS:** When you purchase your cap and gown, be sure to specify the type of degree you are receiving, your major, and college. Undergraduate students must purchase color cords representing their college. Graduate students must purchase a hood to wear with the gown. **Candidates must be fully dressed in cap and gown to enter the coliseum.** Be sure to secure your cap with hairpins.
- 2. COMMENCEMENT CARDS:** **A commencement card with your name and address on it will be given to you when you report to the coliseum.** Please complete the information on the reverse side of the card for photographer identification purposes. (Pens will be provided in the lineup area.) Write the phonetic spelling of your name on the front as indicated if your name has ever been mispronounced. If you are receiving special honors (*summa cum laude, magna cum laude, or cum laude*), this information will be printed on your card. **You must have the card to go across the stage.** This is used to read your name as you cross the stage.
- 3. LINING UP:** Standards will be placed in the concourse areas of the coliseum. You will be lined up by rows within your college. Each new row starts at a standard when lining up. The first person on each row will line up first behind a standard; the last person, of a row will line up last. There will be staff members to assist each college. **At all times, please follow the directions of the staff assisting your college.**
- 4. HIGHEST GPA'S (Bachelor Degree Candidates only):** The student with the highest GPA from each undergraduate college will lead their respective college into the coliseum and will sit on stage during the ceremony.
- 5. SPECIAL HONORS (Bachelor Degree Candidates only):** **Students who are graduating with special honors (summa cum laude, magna cum laude, and cum laude) will be given a medallion when reporting to the coliseum** and will be recognized by the academic dean as they cross the stage.
- 6. PROCESSIONAL INTO COLISEUM:** Purple Jacket and Blue Key members will lead the students into the coliseum following the faculty. When you reach your row of chairs inside the coliseum, be sure to move down your row to allow room for everyone to fill the row. The first person behind a standard would go all the way to the outside seat of the row; the last person will take the last inside seat of the row. Do not skip chairs. **At all times, please follow the directions of the ushers helping you.**
- 7. UNOFFICIAL COMMENCEMENT PROGRAM:**
It is impossible to have an official commencement program since the program must be published before candidates' application for a degree can be officially verified. Therefore, a name listed in the commencement program and the participation in the commencement ceremony do not guarantee the awarding of a degree. The official Northwestern State University transcript, sealed and signed by the University Registrar, is documented evidence of the student's permanent academic record and the student's possession of degree(s) awarded by NSU.
- 8. GRADUATE STUDENTS:** Doctoral degree candidates will be the first ones to go across the stage. Specialist and master degree candidates must pause at the ramp until the academic dean has finished calling all Doctoral degree candidates. **Be sure to take your commencement card to the stage with you.**
- 9. UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS:** **You will be escorted to the stage by an usher. Be sure to take your commencement card with you** when you go to the stage. You must present the card to the person assisting your academic dean as you come up to the podium. The card will be used to call out your name and any special honors you have received. When you are escorted to the stage, **the first person in line for the college must stop at the bottom of the ramp to the stage.** When the emcee announces the dean to be presenting, go immediately up the ramp to the stage. A photographer will take a picture of each graduate as they receive their diploma cover on stage. Please watch for their directions as this moves very quickly. Upon exiting the stage, return to your seat and be seated.

- 10. DIPLOMA COVER:** When you cross the stage, you will be handed a diploma cover.
- 11. DIPLOMA:** Diplomas will be issued on the arena floor as you exit the stage.
- 12. RECESSIONAL:** The stage party will exit the coliseum first, followed by the faculty. Following the faculty, Purple Jacket and Blue Key members will lead the graduates from the auditorium beginning at the front of the candidate seating. **Please follow usher instructions and follow the leader to exit the coliseum.**
- 13. COMMENCEMENT PICTURES:** There will be no picture taking from the arena floor. During the ceremonies, a photographer will be taking pictures as you receive your diploma cover on stage. These pictures may be purchased from the photographer. The photographer will contact you with proof, prices, and information about ordering pictures. You are under no obligation to purchase these pictures.

GRADUATION WITH SPECIAL HONORS (Bachelor Degree Candidates Only)

Scholastic honors represent the highest form of recognition that can be bestowed upon a student by a university. As a means of acknowledging the efforts and accomplishments of students whose scholastic performance is most worthy, Northwestern State University is pleased to grant special distinction to graduating seniors who meet or surpass the standards described below.

Students who have an **overall** grade point average of at least 3.50 and through 3.699 will be recognized as graduating *cum laude*. Those with a grade point average of at least 3.70 and through 3.899 will graduate *magna cum laude*. Those with a grade point average of 3.90 or higher will graduate *summa cum laude*.

1. All grades earned, including all grades earned in repeated courses, are used in computing eligibility for Special Honors. That is, grades for repeated courses have to be added back into totals and recalculated into the grade point average.
2. Students will be eligible for academic honors as justified by the **entire** academic record, which includes courses taken prior to the declaration of Academic Bankruptcy.
3. Special exams and CLEP hours **cannot** be used in computing eligibility for special honors.

Students graduating with Special Honors (e.g. *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, and *summa cum laude*) are recognized at commencement in the following ways: wear a medallion that will be provided at the ceremony, and the academic dean will recognize the special honor from the commencement card.

When you go across the stage to receive your diploma cover, your academic dean will read the following from your commencement card: name, special honor, and GPA (for 4.0 only). These items will be read according to the following guidelines:

1. Students graduating with the highest GPA within each college and a perfect 4.0 GPA: Academic dean will read name, special honor, GPA, and indicate that these students are graduating with the highest GPA within that college.
2. Students graduating with the highest GPA within each college and have less than a 4.0 GPA: Academic dean will read name, special honor, and indicate that these students are graduating with the highest GPA within that college.
3. Students graduating with Special Honors: Deans will read name of the student and special honor.



NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2026 GRADUATE
COMMENCEMENT NON-ATTENDANCE FORM

**To: University Registrar's Office
Northwestern State University**

_____ **I am a SPRING 2026 graduate. I will not attend the commencement ceremonies on May 13 -14, 2026. Please mail my diploma to the following address.**

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP

**RETURN THIS NOTICE TO THE UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR'S OFFICE
BY May 1, 2026.**

The form may be faxed to: (318) 357-5823

Or

**Mailed to: Northwestern State University
University Registrar's Office
Natchitoches, LA 71497**

Signature

Date

Student ID Number

Email Address (We will send an email confirmation to this address.)

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FAX (318) 357-5823**