Dear Baccalaureate Degree Candidate:

As a candidate for the baccalaureate degree, you are invited to participate in the fall commencement ceremony. This ceremony includes conferral of degrees and individual recognition. Names are read and photos taken. Your family, friends, and other guests are invited.

**Each ceremony includes a Graduating Senior**, selected by Senior Class Council, **to deliver the student address. Deadline to submit your speech is Friday, October 30.** Please consider representing your class. Details are below.

You **must wear academic apparel to participate** in your commencement ceremony, and, please, remain for the entire ceremony. Only graduating seniors are allowed in the assembly and seating areas.

Graduation is a time of celebration. **Each and every graduating senior deserves full recognition.** We ask you and your families and other guests to be considerate and respectful as each graduating senior’s name is read.

We understand that this is a very special occasion for each graduating student, the families, and other guests. Since we do have students, family members, and other guests who are participating or attending even in the face of health and mobility challenges, we request and thank you for your patience and cooperation.

For the safety and security of **ALL** of our commencement participants and guests, please follow these instructions:

- **ALL** bags are subject to search. To avoid delays, we strongly recommend that bags are **NOT** brought to the Breslin Center.

- **NO** food or beverages or other liquids are to be brought into the Breslin Center. Please leave these items in your vehicle or discard before entering the Breslin Center.

  Concession stands will open for your family and friends one hour before the ceremony begins and remain open at least through the first hour of the ceremony. A limited menu will include hot and cold beverages and some snack items.

  Please use trash and recycle containers to assist us in remaining on schedule and preventing delays.

On behalf of the Commencement Committee, I congratulate you on your academic achievement and wish you continued success!

Sincerely,

John D. Gaboury Ed.D.  
Chairperson, Commencement Committee  
Associate Provost for Academic Services and Enrollment Management
BACCALAUREATE DEGREE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES
FALL SEMESTER 2015
Jack Breslin Student Events Center
534 Birch Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48824

College Participation on Saturday, December 19
DOORS OPEN 1 hour 15 minutes before ceremony begins.
Each ceremony is about TWO HOURS.
NO ADMISSION TICKETS are required.

10:00 a.m.–12:00 noon Ceremony
Assembly of Degree Candidates: 9:15 a.m.
Processional: 9:50 a.m.
Arts and Humanities (Residential)
   Arts and Letters
   Broad Business
   Education
   James Madison
   Music
   Social Science

2:00–4:00 p.m. Ceremony
Assembly of Degree Candidates: 1:15 p.m.
Processional: 1:50 p.m.
Agriculture and Natural Resources
Communication Arts and Sciences
   Engineering
   Lyman Briggs
   Natural Science
   Nursing

We ask for your cooperation in observing graduation etiquette. Any items visible and worn with your academic gown should be appropriate to the occasion and not detract from the recognition of your fellow graduating seniors. Do not wear flowers or decorative jewelry on your academic gown. Low-heeled shoes are recommended. Please silence cell phones, pagers, or other devices. Please be respectful as names are read, so that each and every graduating senior receives the proper recognition.

INSTRUCTIONS TO GRADUATING SENIORS
Colleges will distribute NAME CARDS in late-November/early-December. Please bring your name card to the ceremony.

Your name will be read as you cross the platform (the ramp in front of the stage). PHOTO CARDS are distributed at assembly (complete the photo card at assembly).

ASSEMBLY
Please bring your NAME CARD. Arrive for assembly 45 minutes before your ceremony begins (at 9:15 a.m. for the 10:00 a.m. ceremony and at 1:15 p.m. for the 2:00 p.m. ceremony). Enter Breslin Center through the Service Tunnel/Drive on the south side and walk all the way down to the Arena level; or you may enter through any entrance, and at Gate B (southeast entrance) take the stairs all the way down to the Arena level. See Breslin Center diagram below.

Commencement staff in the Service Entrance area will provide you with PHOTO CARDS. Pick up your photo card. Look for signs directing you left or right. You will line up by college in either the Service Entrance area at the Arena level or in the corridors at the Arena level. Look for your college standard (sign). Line up behind your college sign.

The University is not responsible for unattended coats or other belongings. Please have your guests hold coats and other belongings. Coats and any other belongings are not to be left in the assembly area.

TASSELS: Wear tassels on the RIGHT side of your cap. Following the conferral of degrees, the President will ask graduates—en masse—to shift tassels to the left.

Carry your name card and photo card to the stage.
**PROCESSIONAL**
The processional begins at 9:50 a.m. (morning ceremony) and at 1:50 p.m. (afternoon ceremony).

The order of the processional:
1. University Mace
2. College Commencement Banner Carriers (graduating seniors selected by their colleges)
3. **BACCALAURATE DEGREE CANDIDATES** are lined up by college. Escorts lead candidates into the main arena and to seating in the bleachers
4. Faculty are escorted to seats on the Arena floor
5. Members of the Platform Party are escorted to the stage

**ORDER OF CEREMONIES**
1. Processional
2. President’s Welcome
3. The Star-Spangled Banner
4. Moment of Silence
5. Conferral of Honorary Degrees
6. Commencement Keynote Address
7. Special Music
8. Board of Trustees’ Greetings and Remarks
9. **GRADUATING SENIOR ADDRESS**
10. Senior Class Gift Presentation
11. Acknowledgment of Members of the Platform Party
12. Conferral of Baccalaureate Degrees
13. Student Recognition
   a) Board of Trustees Awards
   b) Honors College
   c) University High Honor or Honor
   d) Study Abroad
14. Presentation of Diplomas
15. Congratulate Graduates
16. President’s Concluding Remarks and Acknowledgment of Faculty and Families and Friends of Graduates
17. Alma Mater
18. Recessional

**STUDENT SPEAKER**
Senior Class Council will select two graduating seniors to deliver the student speech at the baccalaureate degree commencement ceremonies (one at the morning ceremony and one at the afternoon ceremony). Speeches are to be no longer than 4-5 minutes. If you are interested in representing the Class of 2015, please see the [commencement website](www.commencement.msu.edu) for application and details. The deadline to submit your speech is Friday, October 30. If you have questions, please contact Betsy White at whitebe@msu.edu.

**COLLEGE DEANS PRESENT THEIR DEGREE CANDIDATES.**  
**PRESIDENT CONFER DEGREES**
The Dean presents the college’s degree candidates and invites them to rise. Degree candidates remain standing. After all Deans present their degree candidates, the President, joined by members of the MSU Board of Trustees, confers the degrees en masse and instructs degree recipients to shift tassels to the left. Following conferral of degrees and shifting of the tassels, the degree recipients are seated.
PRESENTATION OF DIPLOMAS
The Provost invites graduates to the platform. Escorts lead and then direct graduates to the platform. Carry both your name card and photo card to the stage. Each graduate’s name is read—please be respectful as names are read. Each of you deserves proper recognition for your accomplishments. The President will present the token diploma to you after your name is read.

Professional photographers will take TWO PHOTOGRAPHS: 1) as the President presents you the token diploma; and 2) a posed photo before you return to your seat.

Escorts will lead and direct graduates back to your seats.

RECESSIONAL
After the singing of the Alma Mater, the recessional proceeds as follows:
1. Platform Party
2. Faculty
3. Graduates

STUDENTS EXITING THE ARENA/THE FACILITY
Weather permitting, graduates leaving the Arena through the bleacher opening across from the stage will exit the arena by the Service Drive (south side of Breslin Center). Weather not permitting, they will arrive at Gate B, Concourse level. Those exiting the Arena behind the stage will arrive between Gates C and D, Concourse level.

We find that it is helpful to arrange to meet your family and other guests at alternate Gates A, C, or D, at the shuttle bus stop, away from the facility for lunch or for dinner, or other locations.

For family and friends, please avoid Gate B before the ceremony and after the ceremony, as it will be the most congested.

Graduates and your guests may leave the Breslin Center by any exit.

ACADEMIC APPAREL/ANNOUNCEMENTS
The bachelor’s cap and gown package is $48.00 plus sales tax. Visit Commencement Connection (shop.union.msu.edu/grad-html.html) to order online. The last day to order online is Sunday, November 29. Or purchase at the Spartan Spirit Shop, MSU Union Building (www.msuunion.com), 49 Abbot Road East. Questions about cap and gown, contact them at capgown@msu.edu or 517-355-5116. Hours: Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, 12:00 noon–5:00 p.m.

Order ANNOUNCEMENTS and other graduation-related items online at www.michiganstategrad.com.

You may purchase other graduation-related items such as personalized announcements, invitations, and diploma frames at the Spartan Spirit Shop. Website: https://shop.union.msu.edu/.

Visit the Commencement Connection (shop.union.msu.edu/grad-html.html) for details about the fall semester’s GRAD FEST on Tuesday, October 20 and Wednesday, October 21. There are discounts on cap/gown packages, announcements and other commencement-related items.

In support of our commitment to sustainability, the baccalaureate degree cap and gown is manufactured using recycled materials. After participating in your commencement ceremony and taking photos at your favorite locations—the Sparty statue, Beaumont Tower, MSU entrance markers, and other MSU landmarks—please recycle your gown. You can return your gown to the Spartan Spirit Shop, MSU Union Building, 49 Abbot Road East. Store hours are above.
**HONOR CORDS**
Seniors graduating with honor (3.69) or high honor (3.89) will be notified by their colleges in late-November/early-December to pick up a gold honor cord. Wear your honor cord in the ceremony.

Graduation with honor is based on the entire academic performance at Michigan State. However, recognition of graduation with honor in the commencement program booklet is based on grade-point average of all work at MSU completed prior to the opening of the semester of graduation. Transfer students must earn a minimum of 50 semester credits at MSU to be eligible for graduation with honor or with high honor for recognition in the commencement program booklet.

[www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/GradHonor/GraduationHonors.asp](http://www.reg.msu.edu/ROInfo/GradHonor/GraduationHonors.asp)

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

**Graduates with Disabilities**
Please contact Betsy White at whitebe@msu.edu or 517-353-9900 by **Monday, November 23** with requests for accommodations. Requests made after that date will be met when possible.

**Guests with Disabilities**
The Breslin Center, 534 Birch Road, is a barrier-free facility.

**Wheelchair accessible areas** are at the Concourse level (the level at which you enter the facility). Persons unable to climb stairs but not in wheelchairs may be seated in these areas. In order to accommodate the number of persons requiring wheelchair accessible seating, we ask that one member in your party is seated with the person requiring wheelchair accessible seating, and that the remaining members of your party are seated in the general seating areas. Ushers will direct you to the wheelchair accessible seating areas.

A **limited number of wheelchairs are available** on a first-come, first-served basis at Guest Services, Gate B (southeast), Concourse level. You must leave a valid driver’s license to use the wheelchair. **Wheelchairs are used for transportation only**—from the parking lot and into the facility to seating areas and must be returned to Guest Services so that others may use them as well. Following the ceremony, you may use the wheelchair again, leaving your driver’s license, and please return the wheelchair immediately to Guest Services.

**Assistive Listening Devices.** Phonic Ear headsets and receivers are available at Guest Services, Gate B, Concourse level. You must leave a valid driver’s license to borrow the headsets. The Loop System is available in permanent seating areas.

**Real-time Captioning.** Will be available on the Breslin Center jumbotron (video board).

**Sign Language Interpreters.** Arrangements require notice. Please contact Betsy White at whitebe@msu.edu or 517-353-9900 no later than Monday, November 23. Reserved seating tickets for this area will be mailed. Please provide the number you need, name, mailing address, and contact information. In order to accommodate all guests we may need to limit the number of tickets.

Early arrival is strongly suggested. The **DOORS OPEN 1 hour 15 minutes early** (at 8:45 a.m. for the morning ceremony and at 12:45 p.m. for the afternoon ceremony).

Other services available at Guest Services: first-aid, lost and found, and information and referrals.

**Disability/Barrier-free Parking** is in Breslin Center lot 63 on the east side of the Service Drive/Tunnel. Please enter from Shaw Lane. Parking in this area requires a valid Michigan (or other State’s) Secretary of State-issued disability plate/placard. For easier identification and prompter admittance, we recommend the use of a hanging disability placard. See Breslin Center diagram below.
If you do not have a State of Michigan (or other State)-issued disability parking placard or plate, you may drop off individuals with mobility challenges on the north side of the Breslin Center (Kalamazoo Street). We ask that you do this as quickly as possible. Please see Breslin Center diagram below.

**Commencement Shuttle Service is strongly recommended.** Buses are accessible. You will be dropped off on Birch Road (east side) near the Breslin Center Gate B (southeast) entrance. Please see below: the Breslin Center diagram and the Campus Map indicating shuttle bus service and parking.

**SHUTTLE SERVICE AND PARKING**
We STRONGLY RECOMMEND commencement shuttle service for students, their families, and other guests.

There is **NO CHARGE.** Shuttle Buses are accessible. Buses run 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., every 10-15 minutes from:
- Ramp 5 (off Trowbridge Road at the Communication Arts Building) bus stops in front of the ramp;
- or Lot 79 (south side of Spartan Stadium) bus stops on Shaw Lane

Please see below: Breslin Center diagram and Campus Map with Shuttle Bus Service/Parking.

**Disability/Barrier-free Parking** is in **Breslin Center lot 63 (EAST SIDE OF SERVICE DRIVE/TUNNEL).** A valid Secretary of State (Michigan or other State’s)-issued disability license plate/placard is required. Please ENTER FROM SHAW LANE. When available, please use a hanging parking placard for easier identification and prompter admittance. Please see Breslin Center diagram below.

If you **DO NOT have a Secretary of State-issued disability license plate/placard,** you may drop off individuals with mobility challenges on the north side of Breslin Center (on the Kalamazoo Street side). Please do this as quickly as possible. Please see Breslin Center diagram below.

Additional Parking. Lots 75 and 66A at the southwest corner of South Harrison Road and Kalamazoo Street and lot 62 at the Intramural Building-West. Parking at Breslin Center lot (lot 63) is permit only. Please see Campus Map with Shuttle Bus Service/Parking below.

**VISITOR AND TRAVEL INFORMATION**
For routes of access to MSU and Driving Directions, please see Routes of Access map below. For additional information about construction and overnight accommodations and places to eat, please see our Visitor and Travel Information link (http://commencement.msu.edu/visitors).

**COMMENCEMENT OFFICE**
Email: commencement@msu.edu
Phone: 1-517-353-3993
Breslin Student Events Center
534 Birch Road
Michigan State University

Baccalaureate Degrees

STUDENT ENTRANCE / EXIT

DISABILITY PARKING
Enter from Shaw Ln (disability placards issued by other States will permit access)

LOT 63 REQUIRES PARKING PERMIT

Service Drive

EAST BAY

Faculty Entrance (Ticket Lobby)

C
D

Guest Services

B

A

Kalamazoo St

Shuttle Bus Stop

If you do not have a disability parking permit, please drop off individuals not able to walk long distances on the north side of Breslin (Kalamazoo St). Please do so as promptly as possible.

Students may take stairs at Gate B all the way down to the Arena level.

Service Entrance (Arena Level)
Pick up your photo card. Check the sign for your college. Arrows indicate which way to turn to line up by college for the processional. Some colleges will line up in the Service Entrance area.

Stage

Arena Floor
Campus Map with Shuttle Bus Service/Parking

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE AND PARKING
Baccalaureate Degrees

To Lansing

Michigan Ave
Kellogg Ramp
Breslin Stadium
Spartan Stadium
Shaw Lane
Breslin Center
lot 63
Permit parking only, including disability parking in 63E. For disability parking, please enter from Shaw Lane.

Harrison Road
Trowbridge Road
Mt. Hope Rd.

KEY
- General Parking
- Parking Ramp
- Breslin Shuttle Stop
- Breslin Shuttle
- Main Access Route
- Sparty Statue

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
DRIVING DIRECTIONS TO MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

From Traverse City or Points North via I-75

From Detroit or Points East via I-96

From Grand Rapids or Points West via I-96

From Flint or Points East via I-69

From Kalamazoo or Points South via I-69

From Jackson or Points South via US-127
Proceed north on US-127 to East Lansing. Take the Trowbridge Road exit and continue east to Michigan State University.