The 2019 Commencement ceremony will take place on the Campus Green between Mellby and Tomson halls. We hope you will join us for the wide variety of events — including a concert, meals, and other gatherings — that will be held on the Hill in conjunction with graduation. This sneak peek provides preliminary information, with a more complete schedule to come.
Registration
(Non-Ceremony Events)

Registration must be completed no later than Friday, May 17, 2019. Please have one person from your family register all guests, including your graduating student, to ensure that your event tickets and name tags stay together. Find additional information and register online at stolaf.edu/commencement.

We look forward to sharing this milestone weekend with our graduates and their families.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

5–10 p.m.   Early Housing Check-In
Ellingson Hall

Families traveling from afar may wish to spend Friday night in a residence hall. An early housing check-in location will be provided at Ellingson Hall. If family members cannot arrive by 10 p.m., please have your graduate check in at Ellingson Hall.
SATURDAY, MAY 25

Noon–8:30 p.m. Registration and Check-In
Buntrock Commons, Crossroads

2–4:30 p.m. Celebration Concert with the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir, and St. Olaf Orchestra
Skoglund Center Auditorium

This combined concert provides an opportunity to celebrate the musical talents of the St. Olaf Band, St. Olaf Choir, and St. Olaf Orchestra, as well as the outgoing seniors in these ensembles. This event is free and open to the public.

6–8:30 p.m. Graduation Gala
Buntrock Commons

Students and their guests are invited to this special celebration that offers a taste of St. Olaf’s most beloved food. The graduation gala will be held throughout Buntrock Commons. Come when you can, leave when you must. Food and beverages will be served from 6 to 8:30 p.m.

This event is a strolling dinner reception with different food served throughout the building. Since seating is limited, we will have bite-sized and grab-and-go items that will be easy to nosh as you mingle and socialize. Tickets are required for all guests, including graduating and current students. Ole Cards are not valid for this meal.

9:15 p.m. Illumination Ceremony
Mellby Lawn

This ceremony honors the graduates as they transition from life as a student to becoming a member of the St. Olaf alumni community. The class lanterns will be placed on the Campus Green on Saturday and students are encouraged to locate their personalized lantern sometime during the day, leaving them in place until after the brief ceremony at 9:15 p.m. At the end of the evening, students may take their lantern home as a remembrance of their time on the Hill.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

7:30–9 a.m. Breakfast
Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall
Pay at the door.

8 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Registration and Check-In
Buntrock Commons, Crossroads
9–10 a.m. Baccalaureate
Skoglund Center Auditorium

Students and their guests are invited to gather to worship and give thanks to God for the life and the community that was shared by the Class of 2019. This worship service is led by the college pastors and will feature the St. Olaf Band and the St. Olaf Choir.

10 a.m.–1 p.m. Brunch
Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall

Enjoy brunch with family and friends. Tickets are required. There is no charge for graduating students with an active meal plan.

12–2 p.m. Academic Department Receptions

Students and their guests are invited to attend academic department receptions at various locations across campus. A complete list of reception locations will be printed in the schedule of events that you will receive upon checking in.

2 p.m. Senior Line-up
Tostrud Center, lower level

Please arrive in cap and gown in order to rehearse the commencement ceremony.

3 p.m. Commencement

Commencement is scheduled to be outdoors on the Campus Green between Mellby and Tomson halls; no tickets are required for general seating at this location. In the event of severe weather or major safety hazards, Commencement will be held in Skoglund Center Auditorium and tickets will be required. Each senior participating in the graduation ceremony is eligible for three tickets. Graduates may select their tickets online. Online ticketing is open from March 18 until April 26. Students may leave Commencement tickets at the information desk in Buntrock Commons if they will not see family members before the ceremony.

Accessible seating and sign language interpreting will be available on the Campus Green and at Skoglund Center Auditorium. Please contact the Events Management Office at 507-786-3811 or commencement@stolaf.edu to acquire tickets for this section or with any questions regarding accommodations.

If it becomes necessary to move Commencement indoors, that decision will be announced during Baccalaureate and the news will be posted in Buntrock Commons and on stolaf.edu, and available by calling 507-786-2222.

Whether Commencement is held indoors or outside, the ceremony will be broadcast at various temperature controlled locations on campus. No tickets are required for these broadcast locations. We encourage families with elderly guests or small children to take advantage of the simulcast locations.
The best is yet to come
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long does Commencement last?
The ceremony will last about two hours.

Where can my family stay overnight?
Rooms in the residence halls are available for family and friends who wish to stay on campus Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. The cost is $35 per person per night. Rooms are furnished only with single beds. Bed linens (pillow, sheets, and blanket) and towels are provided. Bathrooms are not located in the rooms. Guests may wish to bring an extra blanket, hangers, an alarm clock, a fan, and a sleeping bag for children wishing to sleep on the floor. Keys are not issued for individual residence hall rooms, so we encourage guests to leave valuables at home. Hotel options are available in Northfield as well as the nearby cities of Faribault, Lakeville, Burnsville, Bloomington, and Eagan. You are encouraged to make hotel accommodations far in advance to improve chances of availability.

Does St. Olaf have wheelchairs available?
Campus wheelchairs are limited to emergency use only. If you need a wheelchair for use throughout the weekend, you will need to make arrangements with your local medical supply store.

May my family bring pets?
We request that you do not bring any animals to the St. Olaf campus other than service animals.

Is registration required for the weekend events?
Pre-registration is required for on-campus housing and for most meals. All other events during the weekend are free and open to the public and do not require you to register. Meal tickets and housing assignments are not mailed, but will be held at the registration desk in Buntrock Commons for pick-up when you check in. Please register early.

Where can I order graduation announcements?
Announcements are available through Herff Jones and the St. Olaf Bookstore.

Can family members who are unable to attend view events online?
Yes. The Celebration Concert, Illumination Ceremony, Baccalaureate, and Commencement will be streamed live and available on-demand at stolaf.edu/multimedia.

Is there a professional photographer on site?
St. Olaf works with GradImages to photograph students as they leave the platform. Visit gradimages.com to register prior to commencement and they will contact you when your photos are ready for viewing. Digital downloads of the commencement ceremony and baccalaureate are available for purchase ($25) on the registration site.

Where can guests park?
Parking is available in all lots on campus and in a temporary lot located below Old Main on Lincoln Street (between 1st Street West and 2nd Street West).