

March 27, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

May Commencement, with its associated events, is an important occasion in the life of our community – a time when we celebrate our students and their academic success. Your presence at this significant rite of passage is important both to those whom you have taught and to the entire University community, and this message highlights key events and ways for you to participate.

On Friday afternoon, May 10, the Baccalaureate Service will be held at 5:00 p.m. in McFarlin Auditorium. Baccalaureate is limited to undergraduate students only. Because the seating in McFarlin is limited, you may view the simulcast of the Baccalaureate Service in the Oren Family Auditorium on the lower level of the Hughes-Trigg Auditorium Student Center or online at [smu.edu/live](https://smu.edu/live).

On Saturday morning, May 11, the All-University May Commencement ceremony will be held at 8:30 a.m. in Moody Coliseum. This year's Commencement speakers are Megha and Nirav Tolia. Megha is the President and COO of Shondaland, and Nirav Tolia is the CEO of Nextdoor. They are also co-founding directors of the William S. Spears Institute for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Cox School of Business.

Please access the [May Commencement RSVP](#) webpage to let us know if you will attend the ceremony and participate in the academic procession. It is important that we know how many faculty will attend the morning ceremony so we can reserve enough seats for everyone who participates. The deadline to RSVP for attending the ceremony is **Friday, April 12** by 4:00 p.m.

Prior to the ceremony, all faculty should plan to enjoy breakfast at any time between 7:30 a.m. until line-up at 8:15 a.m. in the Miller Champions Club of the Miller Event Center, located directly inside the entrance to the Coliseum on Binkley Avenue. Faculty who RSVP to commencement will receive a reminder one week prior to the ceremony.

Confirmations with additional important information regarding entry, security screening, prohibited items and more will be sent to you closer to the ceremony date. All participating faculty should assemble in academic dress no later than 8:00 a.m. in the Miller Event Center and prepare to march together to the reserved faculty seating area.

If you need academic regalia, please contact your department administrator to determine the ordering process. Orders must be placed by **Monday, April 15**, to ensure that regalia arrives in time. After this date, the bookstore will supply faculty with in-stock SMU regalia.

As we gather together to celebrate our students and their academic achievements, please know how important your participation is to our graduating students, their families, and guests. I hope you will join with your colleagues in support of these events and the values they represent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth G. Loba".

Elizabeth G. Loba, PhD  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Southern Methodist University  
<https://www.smu.edu/provost>

The logo for Southern Methodist University, consisting of the letters "SMU" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.