

Convocation May 14, 2024

Congratulations to all graduates! The Convocation Ceremony is a colourful occasion filled with music and pageantry to celebrate your achievement. Please familiarize yourself with the instructions below so you will know what to expect and what to do during the ceremony.

Graduate Assembly Area

Please arrive at the Grant Harvey Centre at **1:15 pm** to assemble for convocation. You will need your gown and hood so please make sure you have picked it up at the Black Box Theatre in JDH before arriving. Gown pick-up times can be found here <https://www.stu.ca/news/all-news/2024/2024-spring-convocation-schedule.php>. You will also need your name-card which will be given to you when you pick up your gown/hood. You will present your name-card to the Dean, who will read your name before you cross the stage. If you have a name that you think is difficult to pronounce, please write your name phonetically on the card. Lining up graduates in the correct order takes time, so please be there at 1:15 pm. Enter the front doors of the Grant Harvey Centre and proceed to the arena to your left when entering. Your family can proceed directly to the Convocation Hall (arena to the right) to be seated. Please give any personal items to your family to hold for you until after the ceremony.

At approximately 1:50pm, graduates will begin the procession into the Convocation Centre, led by the Registrar. Please remain standing until the Convener of Convocation, Dr. Kim Fenwick asks you to be seated.

Conferral of Degrees

When it is time for the conferral of degrees, Dr. Kim Fenwick will ask each group to stand in order of the program. For example, she will say, "Would the candidates for the Bachelor of Applied Arts please stand?" The candidates for the Bachelor of Applied Arts will then stand and remain standing until the Chancellor admits you to the Bachelor of Applied Arts. At this point you will be ushered to the stage area.

Directions for Crossing the Stage:

- Move towards the stage and give your name-card to the Dean who will be standing at the podium.
- Stand by the podium while the Dean reads your entire name card. When they are finished, walk towards the center of the stage.
- The Lieutenant Governor, Her Honour Brenda Murphy, will be sitting in the middle of the stage so please pause (there will be an "X" on the floor) and turn towards her and acknowledge her with a head bow. Then proceed to the end of the stage where University President, Dr. Farooqi, will be there to shake your hand and present you with

your diploma tube. Please shake with your right hand and hold the diploma tube with your left hand.

- Proceed off the stage area where an Alumni representative will be there to present a small gift to you.
- There will be a photo area set up to your left as you exit the stage area. Family can go there to take a picture as you exit. To avoid congestion in the photo area, please ask your family to wait until they see you in line proceeding to the stage before they go to the photo area.
- An usher will show you back to your seat.

Out of consideration and respect for your fellow graduates, please do not leave the ceremony until it is officially over.

Note: the diploma tubes contain a letter of congratulations from the President. To ensure your diploma does not get damaged in the tube, your actual diploma is waiting back on campus for you, and you will pick it up when you return your gown after the ceremony has ended.

Leaving the Convocation Area

At the end of the Convocation Ceremony, the platform party will process out first followed by the graduates. The Registrar will lead the graduates out of the Convocation Hall and back to the area where you had assembled earlier. Please move directly out of the foyer and back to that area to allow the convocation hall to vacate. Stopping in the foyer of the Grant Harvey Centre will result in a bottle neck and all graduates will not be able to process out. It is a good idea to arrange a meeting place with your family so that they will be easy to find after the ceremony as it gets quite congested in the main areas.

Reception

All graduates and their guests are invited back to a reception on campus in the GMH Café immediately following the ceremony.

In November, you will receive an email from the Institutional Research Office (ir@stu.ca) inviting you to complete the 2024 St. Thomas University Graduate Follow-up Survey. This brief optional online survey of the Class of 2024 will help us learn more about the educational experience and post-graduation activities of our graduates. The results will be used to evaluate and improve university services. As a further incentive, by completing the survey you will be eligible for a draw for a \$350 cash prize. Watch for the invitation in November, and please take a few minutes to tell us about your experience.