

## **Believe It or Not--2017 Commencement Is Approaching**

The 2017 OPSU Commencement fast approaches. Rehearsal for commencement will occur on Friday, May 19 at 5:00 p.m. in the Oscar Williams Field House gymnasium. Here, students will learn about the senior line-up, processional and recessional; complete OPSU exit documents; and walk through the receiving line. Rehearsals can last from 60 to 90 minutes depending on the cooperation of the graduates.

Commencement begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 20 in the Oscar Williams Field House. Seniors should be in the line-up which forms in the street east of the field house no later than 9:30 a.m. The OPSU commencement ceremony may last 90 minutes. Academic regalia is worn at all commencement exercises. Because its roots are shrouded in deep medieval, European, scholarly traditions, out of respect, it should not be altered in any way.

Honor students will receive a gold honor cord from their school deans during the ceremony. Chi Alpha Sigma members may wear their red honor cords; members of Alpha Zeta may wear their gold and silver honor cords. School of Education graduates may wear the light blue cords received during their school's convocation. HALO students may wear a stole indicative of their membership.

Seating for handicapped guests will be plainly marked on the gym floor. No student may reserve any seats for any guests. Family and friends who need local lodging accommodations can secure rooms at motels/hotels in Texhoma, Guymon, and Liberal.

Commencement is a time of celebration which must be tempered with dignity, an important element of the ceremony. Commencement is the outward recognition of a graduate's academic accomplishment and is to be shared with family members and friends of the seniors and of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Students should understand that this very public event has a two-fold purpose: first to honor graduates and second to honor OPSU. Nothing should occur during this solemn commencement to detract from the ceremony itself.

To graduate, students must have a graduation check on file in the Office of the Registrar, have paid their graduation fee, have completed the graduation application in the registrar's office, and have a "zero" balance at the OPSU business office. Students unable to attend commencement should inform the Office of Academic Affairs **in writing** before Monday, May 1.

Order forms for academic regalia and announcements are available for download on the OPSU website ([www.opsu.edu](http://www.opsu.edu)) in early March. Photographs will be taken by the OPSU Office of Campus Communications and then may be ordered online after commencement weekend.

Questions should be directed to the Office of the Registrar at OPSU (580.349.1376), Sara Jane Richter ([saraj@opsu.edu](mailto:saraj@opsu.edu), 580.349.1472, 580.651.7357, Hughes-Strong Hall 109), or Tito Aznar ([taznar@opsu.edu](mailto:taznar@opsu.edu), 580.349.1418, Hughes-Strong Hall 113).