



FALL 2025

COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, December 13, 2025
11:00 a.m.
Pershing Arena

FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND PROVOST

September 2025

Dear Graduate,

Congratulations! Your hard work and dedication to excellence has culminated in your graduation from Truman State University!

Commencement is a joyful and meaningful time to reflect on your many experiences at Truman. The faculty, staff and administration are privileged to have been part of your life, and we are pleased to celebrate your accomplishments on December 13th at the Fall Semester Commencement Ceremony in Pershing Arena.

We hope you achieve all your personal and professional goals and look forward to your active and ongoing support as a Truman alumnus and a lifelong bulldog!

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy D. Walston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Timothy Walston
Interim Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

FALL 2025 COMMENCEMENT

INSTRUCTIONS FOR

DEGREE CANDIDATES

General Instructions

Please read these Commencement Instructions carefully as there will be no rehearsal for Commencement.

During Commencement, all degree candidates (undergraduate and graduate) will be recognized individually while walking across the stage to receive a diploma cover. Candidates will be seated by degree, not in alphabetical order. Diplomas will be mailed about six weeks following the commencement ceremony to your permanent address. Please ensure your address is accurate and on file with the Registrar's Office.

Each degree candidate needs to enter Pershing Building through the main entrance on the east side of the building and report to the small gym (PB130). Candidates need to be dressed in their academic regalia. Please bring the reader card given to you at the graduation fair filled out, including your legibly printed name to Commencement. If your name is pronounced differently than it appears, also include the phonetic spelling on the reader card. You will hand this card to the commencement reader before crossing the stage to receive your diploma cover.

Additionally, once you receive an email from NameCoach, please use the provided link to record the pronunciation of your name. This helps our commencement reader practice and ensure it is pronounced correctly during the ceremony

PROCESSION

Degree Candidates

The east doors will open at 9:30am for degree candidates (not guests) on Saturday, December 13, for the Fall 2025 Commencement Ceremony. Degree candidates need to assemble in academic dress inside the east entrance of Pershing Building by 10:00 a.m. Candidates will be directed to the gathering area in the small gym (PB130).

Candidates will be seated by degree, not alphabetically. Since you will be in the waiting area for only a short time before the procession begins, please be on time. While waiting, candidates have the opportunity to get additional photos taken by GradImages. At the appropriate time, the Grand Marshal will declare that the “ranks are closed” and anyone not in place will be excluded from the graduation procession.

Academic Procession

Degree candidates will follow the Junior Marshals from the waiting area and proceed in the Procession to the seating area in Pershing Arena.

In the arena, when prompted by the President and Provost, each degree group will stand and proceed in a single file line to the stage, using the right side of the student seating area. Before walking onto the stage, each candidate will hand their completed reader card to the commencement reader at the podium. Candidates will then cross the stage, receive their diploma cover, and pause for a photo with the President. After exiting the stage, they will take a second photo with GradImages before returning to their original seat. Junior Marshals (donning white robes) will be present to guide candidates to and from the stage.

Procession Order

The academic procession will form at 10:50 a.m. in the following order:

1. Truman State University ROTC Color Guard:
separate from processional & located at east side of stage
2. Grand Marshal
3. Sue Thomas, President and Tim Walston, Interim Executive
Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost
4. Commencement Speaker
5. Members of the Board of Governors
6. Vocalist
7. Commencement Reader
8. Two Junior Marshals
9. Administration
10. Faculty
11. Marshal
12. Two Junior Marshals
13. Candidates for Master of Accountancy Degree
14. Candidates for Master of Arts Degree
15. Candidates for Master of Arts in Education Degree
16. Candidates for Master of Athletic Training Degree
17. Candidates for Master of Science Degree
18. Two Junior Marshals
19. Candidates for Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree
20. Candidates for Bachelor of Music Degree
21. Candidates for Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree
22. Candidates for Bachelor of Arts Degree
23. Two Junior Marshals
24. Candidates for Bachelor of Science Degree

Granting of Degrees

Degrees will be awarded in the following order:

All undergraduate candidates will be asked to stand at the request of Interim Provost Walston. While standing, their degrees will be conferred en masse by President Thomas.

Undergraduate candidates will be recognized in two groups:

- **Group 1:** Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, and Bachelor of Arts
- **Group 2:** Bachelor of Science

After the conferral, **Group 1** will be invited to the stage to receive their diploma covers. **Group 2** will remain seated until all Group 1 students have crossed the stage and returned to their seats. Then, Group 2 will be called to the stage.

After all undergraduate students have received their diploma covers, **master's degree candidates** will be asked to stand at the request of Interim Provost Walston. Their degrees will also be conferred en masse by President Thomas. Following this, all master's candidates will proceed to the stage to receive their diploma covers.

Before approaching the stage, each candidate will hand their reader card (with their name) to the commencement reader. Candidates will then walk across the stage, receive their diploma cover, pause for a photo with the President, and proceed off-stage for a second posed photo. Afterward, they will return to their original seats.

Junior Marshals will be present to guide all candidates to and from the stage.

Students Receiving Two Degrees

Students earning degrees in both Group 1 (e.g., BA, BFA, BM, BSM) and Group 2 (e.g., BS) may choose to walk with both groups and receive a diploma cover for each degree. To do so, please follow these steps:

1. **Complete two reader cards**—one for each degree.
2. **Sit with Group 1** at the beginning of the ceremony.
3. After receiving your first diploma cover with Group 1, **do not return to your original seat**. Instead, go to the **end of the BS (Group 2) seating section** and sit there.
4. **Leave your first diploma cover on your BS chair** before proceeding to the stage with Group 2.
5. After receiving your second diploma cover and taking the photos, **return to your BS chair**, retrieve your first diploma cover, and remain seated there for the remainder of the ceremony.

Recession

Participants will depart in the following order during the playing of the recessional:

Platform Party

Administration and Faculty

Master's degree recipients

Undergraduate degree recipients

Please continue out of the arena area and proceed upstairs to the east entrance following the ceremony. Due to limited space to congregate on the main floor, you are welcome to utilize the third floor if needed or continue outside. Please *do not* block the east entrance and stairs area.

Academic Dress

- Bachelor's and Master's degree robes, hats and tassels are available for purchase at the Truman Bookstore. Master's degree hoods can also be purchased at the Truman Bookstore.
- MA, MS, MAE, MAc, MAT and BA candidates wear white tassels; BS candidates wear yellow tassels; BM candidates wear pink tassels; BFA candidates wear brown tassels; and BSN candidates wear apricot tassels.
- If you are receiving two degrees, choose the color of the one tassel you prefer to wear.
- Caps should be worn straight, not tilted or tipped back.
- Tassels should be worn on the right side. Do not change your tassel from the right side until after receiving instructions from the President during the ceremony.
- If you received a medallion for a GPA of 3.50 or higher, please wear it.
- Based on Truman tradition, we encourage you to wear dark shoes, dark skirts or pants, and long-sleeved white blouses or shirts. Wear comfortable shoes for walking up and down stairs and stepping on and off the stage ramps.
- Flowers should not be worn with academic dress.

Honor Regalia

(Undergraduates Only)

Graduating students are recognized with honors based on their cumulative GPA, calculated on a 4.0 scale:

- **Cum Laude (Bronze Medallion on White Ribbon):** GPA of 3.50 – 3.74
- **Magna Cum Laude (Silver Medallion on Purple Ribbon):** GPA of 3.75 – 3.89
- **Summa Cum Laude (Gold Medallion on Purple and White Ribbon):** GPA of 3.90 – 4.00

Commencement honors are determined using your cumulative GPA at the end of the **Summer 2025** semester. Final honors will be based on your complete academic record once your degree has been officially conferred.

If you do not attend the commencement ceremony or pick up your medallion, it will be mailed with your diploma in **January**. For questions about your GPA, please contact the Registrar's Office at (660) 785-4143.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

Seating

There is NO reserved seating for guests. Special disability seating is available by requesting it in advance per instructions in the following paragraph. The doors to Pershing Arena open at 10:00 a.m. for family seating on a first-come, first-seated basis. Family and guests should enter Pershing through the Arena Entrance on the southwest side of the Pershing Building.

For Degree Candidates and Family Members with Disabilities

Candidates unable to march in the procession because of physical reasons should notify Julie Sneddon in the Disability Services Office at jsneddon@truman.edu as soon as possible and no later than 5:00pm on December 9th.

If disability accommodations (e.g., signing, wheelchair access) are required for graduates or guests, please contact the Disability Services Office by completing the Disability Seating Accommodation request at <https://disabilityservices.truman.edu/>. The notification site will open in November. There will be no wheelchairs available to use in Pershing Arena. Guests requiring wheelchairs should bring them. The handicapped parking and entrance is located on the east side of Pershing Building. An elevator is accessible through the east entrance.

Graduation Pictures

GradImages will be taking photographs of each graduate at the moment the diploma cover is awarded and immediately after leaving the stage. Arrangements have been made to take an optional posed photo in the waiting area in Pershing before the ceremony beginning at 9:30 a.m. Proofs and ordering information will be emailed by GradImages to graduates within two weeks after graduation.

Posting of the Graduates for Media Purposes

Once degrees are certified by the Registrar's Office, names of the graduates will be posted on the University website at www.truman.edu/honors/fall-2025-graduation-list/. Emails will be sent to Missouri media to let them know the names have been posted, and the media can announce the names. For those out-of-state graduates who would like to have their newspaper alerted, send an email to pr@truman.edu with the name of the newspaper and email address, and we will send that newspaper a link to the page. Keep in mind that major metropolitan newspapers will normally only consider running announcements for those students graduating with honors. For more information email pr@truman.edu or call (660) 785-4016.

Broadcast of Commencement

Truman State University's Public Relations Department will live stream the Commencement Ceremony on Truman's YouTube Channel and Facebook page. A link to the live stream will also appear on the [Truman website](#).

Inclement Weather & COVID Plans

The weather in Northeast Missouri changes quickly during the winter months. The December ceremony will be held indoors but in the event of inclement weather, an announcement regarding parking and walking on campus will be posted on the Truman State University webpage.

There is a chance that social distancing measures may need to be implemented due to COVID concerns. This may result in two ceremonies being held instead of one, with social distancing and mask protocols put into place. More details will be provided later if needed.

Mailing of Diplomas

Diplomas will be mailed via USPS to each graduate's permanent address in approximately mid-January following the verification of degrees. Diplomas mailed to international addresses may take several weeks to months to be received.

Questions

Please contact the Registrar's Office, McClain Hall 104, registrar@truman.edu, or (660) 785-4143, with any questions concerning Commencement.