



WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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Dear Faculty Colleagues –

Commencement is an extraordinarily meaningful event for students that they want to celebrate not only with their friends and families, but also their faculty. Furthermore, for many of our WP Online students, this event is the first time that they have occasion to gather in community with their professors and fellow students. All full time faculty should attend one ceremony, although can attend more. Departments should ensure that both the graduate and the undergraduate ceremonies are covered, our suggestion being in rough proportion to the student distribution in your department (note that our student body distribution is roughly 2/3 undergrad and 1/3 grad).

The undergraduate ceremony is at the Prudential Center in Newark on May 22 and the two graduate ceremonies, organized by colleges, on May 20 in the University Sports and Recreation Center.

Click on the Faculty/Staff RSVP link on the [Commencement website](#) to sign up **by April 12**, crucial for large event planning purposes. Information on ordering faculty regalia if you need it (ordering deadline of March 29) and bus transportation to the Prudential Center if desired can also be found through the link. A lunch is provided after the Undergraduate event at the Prudential Center. At any ceremony, faculty sign in there to confirm attendance and be directed accordingly.

In the event of a last-minute issue precluding attendance (e.g., health issue, family emergency), please also alert your Dean. Otherwise, once you sign up, you are expected to go. Confirmation of attendance comes when you check in at the Commencement Ceremony.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and the meaning it provides our students, and the positive signal it also send to their families and other guests.

Sincerely,

Joshua Powers

Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs