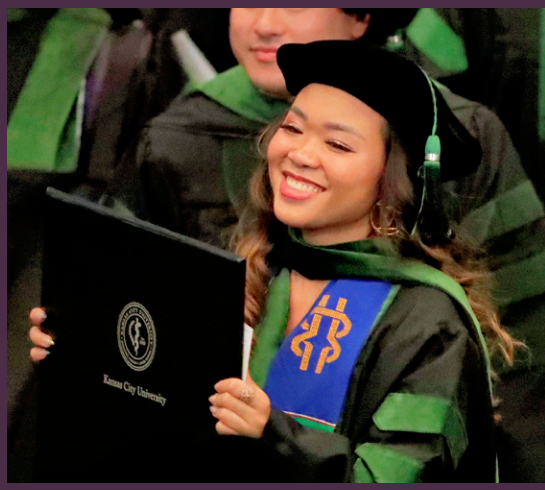
KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2027

# GRAD GUIDE







## Essential Information for KCU's 2027 Commencement Ceremony

KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY

*Commencement*

# what's included:


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# location and important dates

**The Joplin Ceremony** will take place on **Sunday, May 2, 2027** at MSSU Leggett and Platt Athletic Center, Lion Pride Ln, Joplin, MO 64801.

**The Kansas City Ceremony** will take place on **Friday, May 7, 2027** at Hy-Vee Arena, 1800 Genessee St, Kansas City, MO 64102.

COM and COB students should make plans to be back on their respective campus the day before their ceremony for **required** commencement activities and family celebrations.

**Joplin**

- COM graduates are required on campus at 8:00 a.m. on **Saturday, May 1, 2027**.
- CDM graduates' schedule to be determined by the Dean.

**Kansas City**

- COM and COB graduates are required on campus at 8:00 a.m. on **Thursday, May 6, 2027**.

Please read through this document thoroughly as there are very important deadlines you must adhere to as well as answers to some frequently asked questions.



# registering for commencement

**All graduate candidates must REGISTER FOR COMMENCEMENT 2027 by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.**

**Before completing the registration form, please have the following information available:**

1. Your student ID number (available in Workday)
2. Any requests and rationale for excused absences
3. Campus exception requests and rationale (COM students only)
4. Guest hooder information, if applicable
5. A name pronunciation recording

# excused absences

**If you are requesting an excused absence, please indicate that on the Commencement registration form by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.**

- Requests for excused absences will be reviewed and approved by the deans.
- Students will be notified of approval or denial of their excused absence by January 15, 2027.

# campus exceptions

**If you are requesting a campus exception, please indicate that on the Commencement registration form by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.**

- Campus exceptions are only available for COM students.
- Requests for campus exceptions will be reviewed and approved by the deans.
- Students will be notified of approval or denial of their campus exception by January 15, 2027.

# guest hooder registration

**All graduate candidates requesting a guest hooder must indicate that on the Commencement registration form by Tuesday, December 1, 2026.**

- Details regarding guest hooder requirements are available on page 4.
- Requesting a guest hooder **does not** guarantee approval.
- Students will be notified of the status of their guest hooder request by January 15, 2027.

# guest hooder requirements

**If you wish to request a guest hooder, you may do so through the registration form. Requests are subject to program specific guidelines detailed below and dean approval.**

## COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

Guest hooders must be:

1. A specific current KCU faculty member, preceptor, or adjunct faculty member, or
2. An immediate family member* holding a DO, MD, or equivalent medical degree

Students who do not request a guest hooder will be hooded by a COM faculty member.

## COLLEGE OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Guest hooders must be:

1. A specific current KCU faculty member, preceptor, or adjunct faculty member, or
2. An immediate family member* holding a DDS, DMD, or equivalent dental degree

Students who do not request a guest hooder will be hooded by a CDM faculty member.

## COLLEGE OF BIOSCIENCES

### PsyD Program

Graduates will be hooded by their dissertation chair.

Students may also request an immediate family member* with a doctoral degree to serve as a second guest hooder.

### BIOMED (2-Year Research Track)

Graduates will be hooded by a program faculty member or may request their research track mentor as a guest hooder.

### BIOMED (1-Year Track)

Graduates will be hooded by a program faculty member and are not eligible for a guest hooder.

**IMPORTANT:**

Students who select a family-member guest hooder are responsible for ordering the hooder's regalia. Regalia typically costs approximately $100. Ordering information will be provided once the guest hooder request has been approved.

***Immediate family members include:**

- Grandparent
- Parent/Parent-in-law
- Sibling
- Aunt/Uncle
- Spouse/Significant Other

# name pronunciation

Hearing your name as you walk across the stage during Commencement is important. To ensure that every student's name is pronounced correctly, please help us by including an audio recording with a clear pronunciation of your full name in your registration. You may also email it to commencement@kansascity.edu.

### Please use these guidelines:

- Using a phone recording app, record yourself saying your name in a quiet area with limited background noise
- Speak slowly and clearly
- Save the file as follows: **"LastName_FirstName_Campus_College"**

  **Examples:**

  **Smith_John_JOP_COM**

  **Smith_Jane_KC_PSYD**



# arrival at the venue

**Graduates must be at the venue at least two hours before your ceremony start time.** We are on a very tight schedule – please be on time.

**STUDENT ARRIVAL:** 8:00 a.m. **GUEST ARRIVAL:** 9:00 a.m. **CEREMONY STARTS:** 10:00 a.m.

- Class pictures will be taken at **8:20 a.m.** If you arrive after this time, you will not be in the photo.
- We strongly recommend that you arrive without your guests. There will be plenty of seating for guests when doors open at 9:00 a.m. **Guests access is not permitted prior to 9:00 a.m.**
- Leave purses, bags and other belongings with your family as we do not have any way to secure these items during the ceremony.
- Seating for graduates is pre-assigned by last name and by degree. All students with guest hooders will also sit together. **Make sure your family and guests know your degree category!**

## JOPLIN GRADUATE ORDER

1. **Doctor of Dental Medicine** with guest hooder or specific faculty hooder
2. **Doctor of Dental Medicine** with faculty hooder
3. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/MPH**
4. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/MBA**
5. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/MA**
6. Triple degree recipients (if applicable)
7. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine** with guest hooder or specific faculty hooder
8. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine** with faculty hooder

## KANSAS CITY GRADUATE ORDER

1. **Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences**
2. **Doctor of Clinical Psychology**
3. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/MPH**
4. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/MBA**
5. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine/MA**
6. Triple degree recipients (if applicable)
7. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine** with guest hooder or specific faculty hooder
8. **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine** with faculty hooder

# joplin venue & parking

*Sunday, May 2, 2027*
*10:00 a.m.**

**MSSU Leggett & Platt Athletic Center**
Lion Pride Ln, Joplin, MO 64801




## Parking in the lots outside the MSSU Leggett and Platt Athletic Center is free.

This venue has an ADA drop-off and pick-up location directly in front of the main entrance. **Please follow the signs when you arrive.**




**Please note that ceremony start times are subject to change*

# kansas city venue & parking

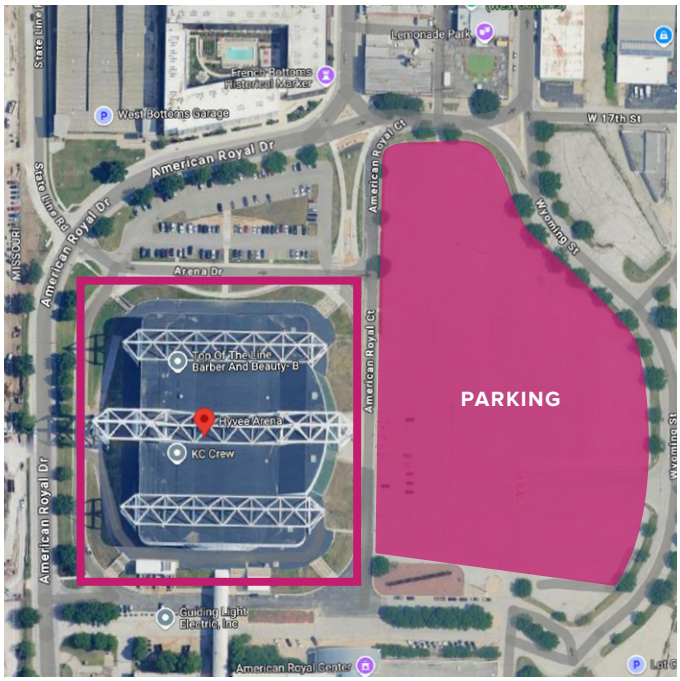
*Friday, May 7, 2027*
*10:00 a.m.**

**Hy-Vee Arena**
1800 Genessee Street, Kansas City, MO 64102




## Parking in the lots outside Hy-Vee Arena is free.

There will be an ADA drop-off and pick-up location. Additional details will be provided to students prior to the Ceremony.




**Please note that ceremony start times are subject to change*

# academic regalia

## Full academic regalia is required for Commencement.

KCU will order and pay for your Commencement attire for you. **Regalia is yours to keep.** You will provide your sizing and the items that you need (including honors cords) during the registration process. It's important that you complete the commencement registration form within the deadline to ensure you receive the correct items. **You will pick up your attire in the morning, the day before commencement on your respective campus.**

- All graduation candidates must wear precise academic regalia for their degree, including gown, tam/mortarboard, tassel and hood.
- **Please come dressed in full regalia.**
- Avoid carrying or wearing flowers and corsages.
- Consider your choice of shoes. Flip flops, clogs, loose fitting shoes or very high heels are not recommended.
- It is recommended to wear business attire under your regalia. Dress slacks, a suit or a dress is appropriate.

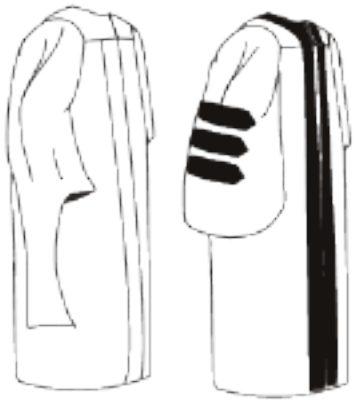
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**GOWN:** Iron (low heat or synthetic setting) or steam your gown before the graduation ceremony to be photo ready. The zipper indicates the front of the gown.

**TAM/MORTAR BOARD:** The brim of the tam or mortar board should be about one inch about your eyebrow. Ensure that the tam or mortar board is level with the ground. They should be worn during the entire ceremony.

**TASSEL:** The tassel is worn on the **left** throughout the entire commencement. Do not move it from one side to the other once hooded.

**HOOD:** Your hood will be located on your chair when you arrive. It will be placed on you during the commencement ceremony.



MASTERS GOWN | DOCTORAL GOWN

*The lining of the hoods for advanced degree candidates, and the velvet edging on the gownss for doctoral candidates are in colors that signify the wearer's discipline.*

The hood trim for the **Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences** degree is gold.

The hood and gown trim for the **Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine** degree is green.

The hood and gown trim for the **Doctor of Dental Medicine** degree is lilac.

The hood and gown trim for the **Doctor of Psychology** degree is gold.

The hood trim for the dual **DO/MA** degree is white.

The hood trim for the dual **DO/MBA** degree is brown.

The hood trim for the dual **DO/MPH** degree is salmon pink.

# hooding

Wearing the hood holds great significance. It is a symbol of pride and academic success. Here are the basic steps to make sure you wear your academic hood properly throughout the commencement ceremony.

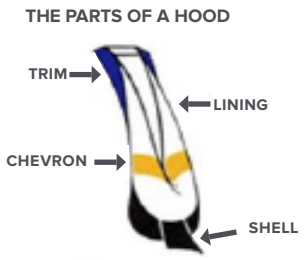
## Hood preparation and position (degree conferral)

When approaching the stage, degree candidates should have their hood neatly folded over their right arm with the velvet edge to the front. Follow the steps below for the proper way to fold and carry your hood. ***Make sure the tie-cord is unhooked.***

**STEP 1:** Hoods will be placed folded on the back of your chair. **When you stand to queue**, pick the hood up off the chair and place it over your right arm, being careful not to unfold it.

**STEP 2:** The trim should be closest to your body, while the shell should be farthest away.

**STEP 3:** The trim (velvet edge) should be in front, closest to your wrist.






STEP 1



STEP 2



STEP 3

## Student recognition and hooding

A cue director will let your row know when it is time to rise and go towards the stage. Be sure to bring your hood and your diploma cover(s). Please drape the hood over your right arm and have your diploma cover in your left hand. A KCU staff member will be located just off stage to ensure that you are carrying your hood properly.

A KCU staff member will let you know when it is time to cross the stage. You will cross the stage and stop on the "X" to be hooded. Please present your arm and hood to your hooder. They will take the hood off your arms and it will be placed over your head (if you are taller than your hooder you may need to squat down to make the hooding process easier on them) so that it lays against the front of your neck and drapes over the back of your shoulders.

A member of the photography team will be immediately off-stage to ensure that your hood has been placed properly for your photograph. You will not have time to completely secure your hood on stage.

# recessional

## Congratulations, you've graduated! Not so fast though...

When the ceremony concludes, the platform party, faculty, and graduates will recess out of the venue. A cue director will let you know when it is your row's turn to recess.

**The order of recession is as follows:**

- Platform party
- Gonfaloniers and Student Marshalls
- Military Graduates
- Graduates
- Faculty
- Guest hooders



# house rules

1. **No gum, food, or drinks are permitted inside the auditorium.**

2. **Students may not use cameras or stop for pictures during the ceremony.**
   *- Please view the **Event Photography** section for camera rules for guests.*

3. **Students may not carry any bags/purses or wear sunglasses.**

4. **All cell phones must be turned off during the entire ceremony.**

5. **Venues are smoke- and tobacco-free environments, *including vapes.***

## Guest Arrival

Doors open to the public one hour before the ceremony begins. Please remind your family and guests to be in their seats at least 10 minutes before the ceremony is scheduled to begin.

**GUEST ARRIVAL:** 9:00 a.m.

**GUESTS IN SEATS BY:** 9:50 a.m.

## Accessible Seating

If you have requested special needs seating, please let your guests know that we have accessible seating in designated areas. KCU volunteers will be available to assist your guests in finding seating.



# event photography

**We have an event photographer who will be taking candid photos.**

These photos of the audience, arrivals, ceremony, etc. will be available on KCU's website and social media platforms a few weeks after the ceremonies.

**There is also a professional photographer who will capture you being hooded on stage and a portrait photo as you exit the stage.**

Photos will be available for purchase a few weeks after the ceremonies.



## Guest Photography Policy

Guests are permitted to take photos provided it does not interfere with the ceremony, therefore:

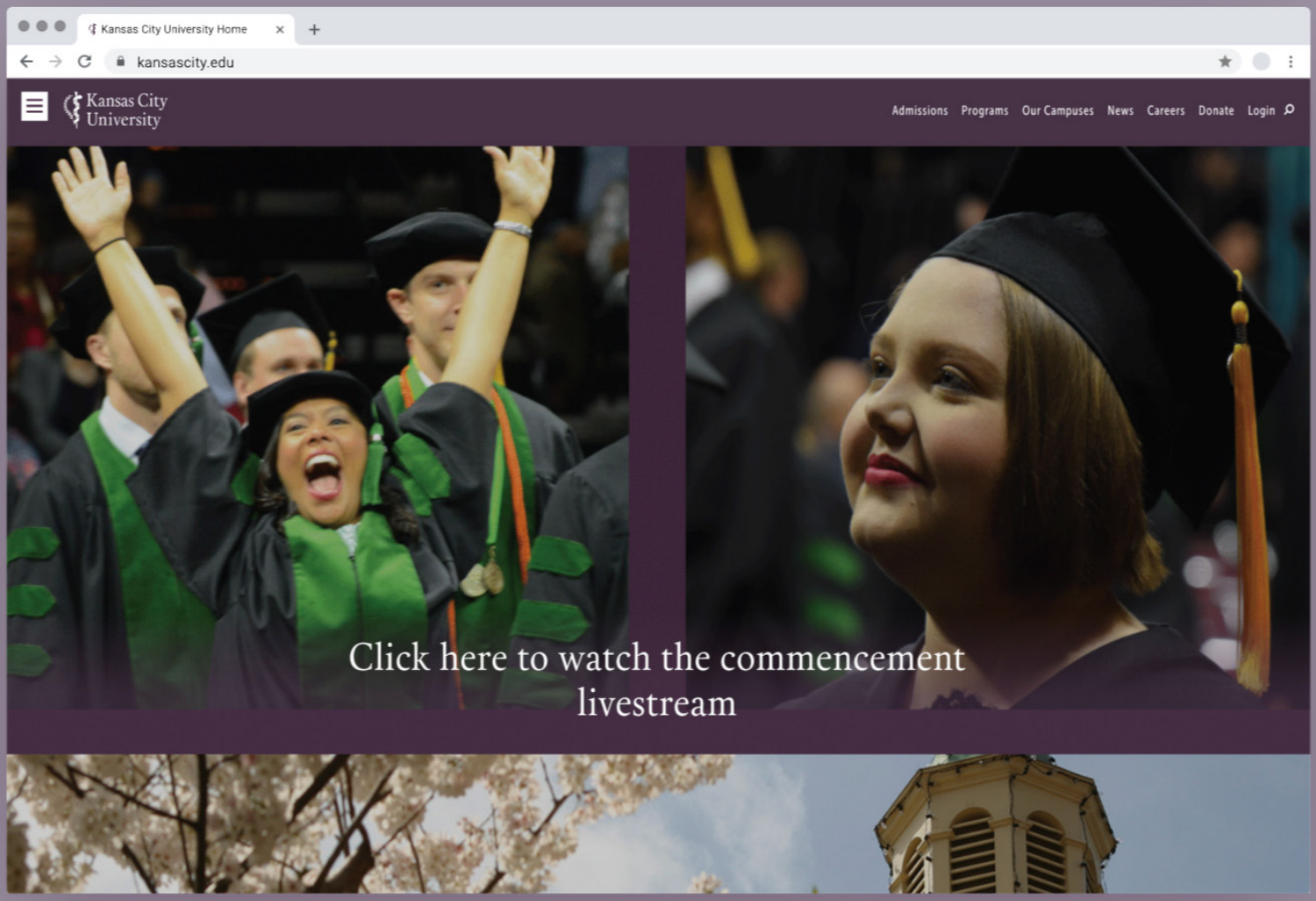
- Guests wishing to take photos during the event must **remain in their seats and keep aisles clear.** *Any guests approaching the stage or entering the aisles to take photos will be asked to return to their seats.*
- **Camera flash is not allowed** during the ceremony as it will negatively impact your professional photos.

Use **#KCUgrad2027** when you post photos to social media!

# livestream

**Family and friends who are not able to attend the ceremony in person will be able to enjoy the ceremony via our livestream!**

**The livestream will be available on KCU's main webpage.**
*Please note that the livestream will not begin until approximately **10 minutes** prior to the ceremony start time.



# frequently asked questions (FAQs)

### Who do I contact if I have questions?
Please reach out to the Commencement planning team via email: commencement@kansascity.edu

### Where will the ceremonies be held?
**Kansas City Venue:** Hy-Vee Arena (1800 Genessee Street, Kansas City, MO 6410)

**Joplin Venue:** MSSU Leggett and Platt Athletic Center (3 Lion Pride Lane Joplin, MO)

### Will there be a virtual option to view the ceremony?
Yes. The entire ceremony will be available to view via livestream and recorded for viewing post-ceremony. The link to the livestream will be available on KCU's homepage. **Please note, the stream will not go live until 9:45 a.m. on the day of the ceremony. The link is NOT available until that time.*

### What time will the ceremonies be held?
The ceremonies will take place in the morning. The tentative start time is 10 a.m. for both Joplin and Kansas City. **Please note that ceremony start times are subject to change.*

### How long does the ceremony last?
It is recommended to plan for the ceremony to take up to three hours.

### Can my family bring flowers into the venue?
Yes! Family members are welcome to bring flowers into the venue.

### How many guests can I invite?
At this time, both venues will permit an unlimited number of guests. However, all graduates are required to register for Commencement and let us know how many people they plan on bringing. If the total number of ticket requests exceeds the fire department-approved venue capacity, then KCU retains the right to limit the number of tickets per student.

### Do children/babies need a ticket to graduation?
Any child that will sit on the lap of an adult for the entire ceremony does not need a ticket.

### Who should I contact if I or a family member need special accommodations?
This information should be included in your registration.
If you need additional details, please email: commencement@kansascity.edu

### Will there be a campus picnic?
Information about campus celebrations will be communicated via email at a later date.

# FAQs continued

### Is attendance at graduation required?

All graduates are required to be present for an in-person commencement ceremony. If you need to request an excused absence, please do so on the registration form. Decisions will be communicated by email no later than **January 15, 2027.**

### When do I need to arrive on campus for Commencement Activities?

Students should plan to be back on their respective campus the day before their ceremony for a mixture of required activities and family-oriented celebrations. These activities will start at 8:00 in the morning and go into the afternoon.

**Joplin DO Degree Candidates:** Please plan to be on campus at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 1, 2027.

**Joplin DMD Degree Candidates:** Schedule to be determined by the Dean — check email for updates.

**Kansas City All Degree Candidates:** Please plan to be on campus at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, May 6, 2027.

### Can I have a guest hooder?

Yes, KCU does incorporate guest hooders into Commencement, but there are some restrictions. Please review the guest hooder requirements section of this guide for your program's guidelines. Requests for a guest hooder should be made on the **registration form**.

### Do I have to pay for my guest hooder's attire?

Yes. Students who choose a guest hooder who is not a KCU faculty member are responsible for ordering their commencement regalia. A link to order guest hooder regalia will be provided upon approval by the dean. *Please note that full academic regalia is required for participation in the ceremony.*

### Will guest hooders be required to attend a rehearsal?

No, there will not be a rehearsal for guest hooders. They will receive a very detailed instructional email with video links approximately two weeks before the ceremony.

### How do I order my attire?

KCU will order and pay for your commencement regalia for you. You will provide your sizing and the items that you need (including honors cords) on the registration page:

### How do I get my attire?

KCU orders your commencement attire for you. You will provide your sizing and the items that you need (including honors cords) during the registration process. It's important you complete the commencement registration form within the deadline to ensure you receive the correct items. You will pick up your attire the week of commencement on your respective campus. Details will be shared via email.

### Do I get to keep my attire?

Yes! Your attire is yours to keep.

# commencement preparation checklist

- [ ] **REGISTER FOR COMMENCEMENT** | Deadline: December 1, 2026

  - [ ] **REQUEST AN EXCUSED ABSENCE (if applicable)**
    *If you have questions or concerns regarding your attendance at Commencement please contact the Commencement team at commencement@kansascity.edu*

  - [ ] **REQUEST A GUEST HOODER (if desired)**
    *Please reference the guest hooder page of this guide for guest hooder guidelines.*

  - [ ] **SUBMIT AN AUDIO FILE OF YOUR NAME PRONUNCIATION**
    *Please reference the name pronunciation page of this guide for submission instructions.*

- [ ] **ORDER GUEST HOODER ATTIRE (if applicable)**
  *You will find a link to order your guest hooder's attire in the guest hooder approval e-mail. If your guest hooder is a KCU faculty member, you will not need to order their regalia.*

- [ ] **SUBMIT AN AUDIO FILE OF YOUR GUEST HOODER'S NAME PRONUNCIATION**
  *Please follow the same instructions that were given for submitting your own name pronunciation and email to commencement@kansascity.edu*







# questions?

**COMMENCEMENT@KANSASCITY.EDU**

KANSAS CITY UNIVERSITY

*Commencement*