COMMENCEMENT ETIQUETTE

By tradition, the Commencement ceremony is a formal, dignified event to honor the academic achievement of scholars. To help preserve the decorum of the event, it is requested that graduates and their families exercise etiquette appropriate to the occasion. We ask that you please observe the following:

Prior to the ceremony:

- **Be on time:** Please make sure you are on time for the rehearsal which begins 1 hour and 15 minutes prior to the ceremony. This is important as it is at that time you will be told what to expect during the commencement ceremony. If you arrive after the procession has begun you will not be allowed to march.

- **Rehearse stage behavior:** During the rehearsal, the appropriate way to receive your diploma will be demonstrated. Although we realize you may feel like dancing, we ask that you be respectful of the solemnity of the ceremony and refrain from doing so. You will not be allowed to take another person, such as a child, across the stage with you.

- **Give personal items to family members:** Once you enter the auditorium for rehearsal, you will not be allowed to see your family until after the commencement ceremony. Please make the necessary arrangements to give valuables such as purses or cameras to a family member prior to rehearsal.

- **Remain in the cafeteria after rehearsal:** Immediately following rehearsal, you will be escorted to the cafeteria where you will be placed in line, regalia will be checked, and the pronunciation of your name will be confirmed. It is critical that you remain in the cafeteria during this time as we prepare you for the procession.

- **Do not alter appearance of robe or cap:** Do not alter the appearance of your robe or cap. The cut and color of robes are determined by the specific degree received by each individual, similar to religious vestment, and should not be altered or modified to reflect personal taste, style, or interests. We also ask that you dress appropriately; no blue jeans, flip-flops, or tennis shoes.

Seating:

- **Family arrive early:** Please be sure your family and guests arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony.

- **Family with special seating arrangements:** Family members with special seating arrangements should arrive at least 45 minutes prior to the door’s opening for the ceremony. Tusculum does not provide wheelchairs.

- **Young children:** As a courtesy to other attendees, please consider making alternative arrangements for very young children. Due to fire marshal regulations, no baby carriers or strollers will be allowed in the auditorium.

During the ceremony:

- **No cell phones:** Cell phones are to be turned off or switched to the silent operating mode. Do not speak on a cell phone or carry on a conversation during the ceremony as this prevents others from hearing and enjoying the ceremony.

- **Be respectful:** Commencement is both a joyous and solemn event. Please express your excitement in ways that will not prevent others from hearing the speaker and enjoying the ceremony. Use of air horns, yelling, or stomping are disruptive.

- **Photo opportunities after receiving diploma please:** Please refrain from taking pictures until after your graduate receives his or her diploma. This will allow the ceremony to flow smoothly and reduce the distractions and disturbances to other audience members as they try to see and hear ongoing presentations.

- **Remain in the auditorium through the full ceremony:** As a courtesy to and out of respect for your fellow graduates, you and your family are requested to remain in the auditorium until the conclusion of the ceremony.

At the Conclusion of the Ceremony:

- **Family and friends remain in auditorium for gauntlet:** Faculty traditionally forms a gauntlet and applauds the graduates as they recess from the auditorium. We ask that your family and friends be respectful of this tradition and remain in the auditorium until the graduates have exited the auditorium.

We appreciate you, your family and friends observing the appropriate etiquette as stated above. This will allow everyone to share and enjoy a memorable and dignified Commencement ceremony.