

**From:** [Office of the MSU Provost](#)  
**Subject:** MSU Faculty Commencement Details for Nov. 22, 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020 9:19:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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**MONTANA**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Dear MSU Faculty,

It continues to be an astonishing year. You and our students have gone through trials and changes few of us ever imagined. But through it all you have kept the university's paramount mission moving forward: to educate students so they can lead better lives and improve the lives of their families and communities. We are planning a winter commencement ceremony to honor the completion of that work by our students.

Commencement is a ceremony with great meaning in our society and we are going to provide this experience for our students with an aim toward keeping the risk of virus transmission as low as possible. Fall commencement this year will be unlike any ceremony the university has ever held and is contingent upon the circumstances of the pandemic at the time.

**MSU will be hosting two commencement ceremonies on Sunday, Nov. 22**, each with many unique adaptations. Faculty are asked to attend only the ceremony in which their college participates:

**11 am:** College of Agriculture, College of Arts & Architecture; Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering; College of Nursing; and Gallatin College MSU.

**2 pm:** Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship; College of Education, College of Health and Human Development; College of Letters & Science.

The hooding of PhD candidates will occur on Saturday, Nov. 21, at small individualized ceremonies for degree candidates and their faculty advisor. PhD candidates are still invited –and encouraged– to walk during the Sunday, Nov. 22 ceremony.

Faculty who wish to attend one of the Sunday, Nov. 22 ceremonies should RSVP [at this link](#) to receive an electronic ticket that will need to be shown at the door for entry. No ticket, no entry, no exceptions. The deadline to RSVP is November 13, 2020.

All degree candidates, their guests, and attending faculty will be required to wear face masks, socially distance and sit in pre-assigned seats identified on their electronic ticket. These rules will have no exceptions. This means it is most likely you will not be sitting with your departmental colleagues during the ceremony. After you have RSVP'd you will receive additional information for the day, such as arrival times, parking information, gate entrance and seating section.

You will not be able to lineup for handshakes or fist bumps with the graduates when

they approach the stage, as part of our efforts to keep the chances of virus spread as low as possible. Additionally, after the ceremony, you will not be able to approach the field. We strongly urge you not to seek out students for a group photo or to chat. We have all worked so hard to keep the campus safe this semester and we must continue those efforts.

The ceremonies will each be an hour or less in length and while the music won't be live and we are foregoing the honorary degrees, the most important moment has been preserved – degree candidates walking and having their names announced to the cheers of their friends, families, loved ones and you, their faculty.

While there are many changes, I do urge you to attend – dress warm under your gown! – as the students receiving their degrees are doing so at an unparalleled moment in modern history. We have the opportunity to be witnesses and well-wishers as they embark on their lives and do, what we all hope they aspire to do – make the world a better place.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

**Dr. Robert L. Mokwa | Executive Vice President and Provost**

Montana State University

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