ST. MARY’S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMENCEMENT 2022 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FROM: Office of the Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs

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This schedule is also available on-line at https://law.stmarytx.edu/commencement/
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ONLINE APPLICATION FOR GRADUATION – Gateway Portal – DEADLINE: March 1, 2022
Students who intend to graduate in May 2022 must apply for graduation through the Gateway portal (“Law” tab, “Apply for Graduation”) no later than March 1, 2022. If you completed the online application for graduation during the fall semester, no further action is needed. If you miss this deadline and intend to graduate in May, you must contact lawcommencement@stmarytx.edu NO LATER THAN MARCH 31 to receive a waiver to submit a late application. If approved, please contact Ms. Yvonne Olfers, Director of Student Records, yolfers@stmarytx.edu, as she will need to manually add you to the graduation portal. If you miss this final application deadline, you will not be permitted to participate in the Spring 2022 Law Commencement Ceremony. If all hours for graduation will not be completed by May, but you wish to Early Walk, please review the Student Handbook § II.C for policies and complete the form on Gateway for review and approval by Dean Haynes.

MANDATORY GRADUATION MEETINGS
ALL graduates MUST ATTEND ONE session; No exceptions or waivers
Wednesday, April 13: 12:00 p.m. – LC 103; 5:00 p.m. – LC 103; 8:00 p.m. – LC 103

ORDER ANNOUNCEMENTS – 2 – 3 WEEK DELIVERY
Order online at http://www.cbgrad.com/school/SMULTX (Opens March 7, 2022)
Orders are sent directly to the student’s address approximately 2 – 3 weeks after order is placed. These are announcements, not invitations, so they will not include ceremony details.

ORDER ACADEMIC REGALIA – 2 – 3 WEEK DELIVERY – DEADLINE: April 10, 2022
Order online at https://buildagrad.com/stmarytxlaw (Opens March 7, 2022)
Orders for tams, gowns, and hoods are made online and shipped directly to you; use your local address, please. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST WEAR THE REGALIA PROVIDED BY BALFOUR. The regalia is a KEEPSAKE and is not returned after the ceremony. Balfour will open a late order window from April 11 – 17; however, be advised that there will be a $40 late fee that you must personally cover. April 17 is the absolute deadline for a regalia order, no exceptions, to ensure delivery of regalia in time for the ceremony. Failure to meet this absolute deadline will prohibit participation in the ceremony.

ORDER INTERNATIONAL SASHES – INNSBRUCK, BEIJING, OR GUADALAJARA PROGRAMS
Center for International Programs – St. Louis Hall, Room 105 – DEADLINE: April 10, 2022
Students who received full academic credit in either the Austria (Innsbruck), China (Beijing), or Mexico (Guadalajara) Programs are eligible to wear a sash at the Spring Law Commencement Ceremony. Visit https://bit.ly/SashForm2022. The cost is $45 for a single country or $55 for two countries. Visit your Gateway account and make a payment to the Business Office in the appropriate amount to purchase the sash(es) for which you are eligible. Fax or e-mail the completed “International Sash Order Form – Law School Students 2022” (see bit.ly link above) to Ms. Debra Amador (her contact information is on the form) with a copy / scan of your receipt from the Business Office. Please include your shipping address in your communication to Ms. Amador.

HONOR CORDS: Members of the Law Journal, The Scholar, Order of the Barristers, Phi Delta Phi, and Laude Graduates are the only student groups eligible to wear honor cords. Only law school approved cords and sashes can be worn at Law Commencement. Any unauthorized cords not listed here will be removed by law administration and could prevent participation in the ceremony. The cords can be obtained from the personnel in the Office of the Dean beginning Monday, April 18, 2022. Last day to pick up cords is 12:00 NOON on Friday, May 20, 2022. Cords are NOT available for pick up on the day of Law Commencement, May 21. Final determination of students in the Top 10% (Harlan Society) and the Top 20% (Honors Graduates) will be made after all grades are in and processed in June. Current students and December 2021 graduates who placed in the Top 10% and Top 20% based on their Fall 2021 cumulative grade-point averages, and August 2021 graduates whose final grade-point average is within those ranges, will receive an honor cord prior to Commencement. Please note final
status may change after calculation of final ranks in the summer. Students who graduate in the top 10% of the Class of 2022 will receive their cords at the Harlan Society Luncheon on Friday, May 20, 2022; graduates in the top 10 – 20% can pick up their cords from the Office of the Dean on the dates noted above.

GUEST TICKETS: Seating in the Bill Greehey Arena is limited and guest tickets are required for Spring Law Commencement. All guests need a ticket to attend; children younger than 3 years do not need a ticket but are required to sit on an adult’s lap. The number of tickets for each graduate is based on the total number of commencement candidates and the available guest seating in the Arena. For the May 2022 Law Commencement Ceremony, the number of guest tickets will be determined after the March 1 application deadline and students will be notified via e-mail of the exact number of tickets they will receive for their guests. There will be an e-ticket system and information about how to acquire the e-tickets will be sent via e-mail.

Masks may be required of all graduates and guests, depending on current CDC guidelines and University policy at the time of the ceremony. Graduates will be notified of any changes to the masking rules, so be sure to check your StMU e-mails for any updates.

COMMENCEMENT HOODERS: Each graduate will identify one family member or friend as the person who will hood them. Your Hooder will sit directly behind you and they will hood you at the appropriate time. Your chosen hooder must be at least 14 years of age. Your Hooder will require one of your guest tickets.

LAW SCHOOL CLASS GROUP PHOTOGRAPH – Outside RABA
April 18, 2022, Monday, 4:00 p.m. – Includes the 2022 LAW graduates and faculty ONLY. Please dress in business attire. Orders for the pictures by Herndon Panoramics will be taken on-site at a cost of $35 each. PLEASE BE PROMPT.

FIESTA FAREWELL – Law Courtyard
April 18, 2022, Monday, 4:30 p.m. – Come celebrate the almost-end of law school at the fiesta celebration immediately following the class photo. All graduates, faculty, staff, and administrators are invited.

UNIVERSITY BACCALAUREATE MASS – Bill Greehey Arena,
University Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center
May 13, 2022, Friday
5:00 p.m. – Assemble for the academic procession in cap and gown (hoods are to be left at home) in the Auxiliary Gym of the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center.
5:30 p.m. – University Baccalaureate Mass begins. Persons of all faiths are cordially invited. Graduates and their family and friends are invited to the Reception following the Mass. Please check Gateway for complete information: https://gateway.stmarytx.edu/group/mycampus/services/registrar

LAW COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY – Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center
May 21, 2022, Saturday
12:00 p.m. – Arena doors open to the public. GUESTS MUST HAVE E-TICKETS TO ENTER ARENA. (See Page 1)
12:00 p.m. – Graduates report to the Auxiliary Gym of the Alumni Athletics & Convocation Center for robing & lining up.
12:45 p.m. – All graduates are to be in line for the processional into the Bill Greehey Arena.
1:00 p.m. –Commencement begins.
A family member is invited to join you on the floor of Greehey Arena. They will be seated behind you and will hood you at the appropriate time. Seating will be determined given current social distancing requirements.

All participants may be required to wear masks to enter the Arena.

LAW COMMENCEMENT RECEPTION – The Law School Campus
May 21, 2022, Saturday
3:00 – 5:00 p.m. – Graduates and their guests are invited to the reception immediately following the ceremony.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COMMENCEMENT PHOTOS AND LIVE STREAM: A professional photographer from Flash Photography (800-410-8070) will take individual pictures of all graduates as they receive their diplomas from the University President and when they exit the stage. Order forms will be available in the Auxiliary Gym for students to complete to receive these photos. A live
stream of the Law Commencement will be broadcast. Please check the School of Law’s website for more information as the date approaches. 

https://law.stmarytx.edu/commencement/

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JOINT DEGREES: Students who earn a joint degree are welcome to attend the University Commencement on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at 1:30 p.m. Please note the Masters diplomas are mailed out approximately 2 weeks following that ceremony. For the Law Commencement on May 21, the joint degree is included in the law program and announced when the joint graduate crosses the stage. Please contact Ms. Olfers, volfers@stmarytx.edu, to confirm your joint degree and ensure this accomplishment is part of the law ceremony.

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GRADES: Final grades for the Spring 2022 semester are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2022. You can view your grades on Gateway to monitor individual grades, which are processed by the Director of Student Records shortly after the faculty enter the data. Subject to completion of all degree and University requirements, you will officially graduate from St. Mary’s University School of Law with the effective date of May 21, 2022. Certification of our May 2022 law graduates – LL.M., J.D., and M.Jur. – will occur once all grades, all classes, for the semester are processed and posted. We anticipate this to be no later than mid-June.

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MAILING DIPLOMAS: Students will receive their diplomas after we have certified all of our May 2022 graduates and we have received the final diplomas from the printer. The Law School will schedule two “Diploma Pick-Up Days” once we have the diplomas, which we anticipate will be later in the summer. Graduates will receive an e-mail from Associate Dean Niesel when the diplomas are available, and will need to respond to that e-mail if they want to pick up their diplomas. All mailed diplomas will be sent to the address provided by the graduate in their online graduation application. For a change of address, send written notification to Ms. Olfers at volfers@stmarytx.edu; be sure to include your Student ID number in your message. Students who graduate in the Top 20% will have their confirmed “laude” distinction printed on their diploma.

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ABA GRADUATION SURVEY: As part of our ABA-accreditation, the law school must collect post-graduation employment information from each graduate. This information is submitted anonymously and in aggregated fashion; all personal information is kept confidential. Please go to the “Jobs and Job Offers” tab of CORE and update your profile with your post-grad plans, including if you are seeking. Access your CORE account here.

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