



2018 COMMENCEMENT

CONGRATULATIONS!

As a prospective candidate for graduation, you are eligible to attend the Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine Commencement Ceremony.* The Commencement Ceremony will begin at 3:00 PM, Saturday May 19, 2018 at the Watsco Center located on the University of Miami campus in Coral Gables, Florida. You will find all the necessary information for the Commencement Weekend taking place May 18 & 19 in this document. If you have any questions regarding the information below, please contact RUSVMalumni@rossu.edu.

GRADUATES: PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY!

Students completing their academic requirements by the following dates are eligible to be included in this ceremony:

- January 31, 2018
- May 31, 2018
- September 30, 2018

REGISTER

CRITERIA FOR MEETING GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must meet the following requirements to be eligible to participate in the May 2018 Commencement Ceremony:

- Successful completion of all basic science coursework.
- Successful enrollment and/or completion of clinical clerkships.
- Pay all outstanding fees and charges owed to Ross Vet.

GRADUATION RECEPTION

There will be a special reception for graduates on Friday evening, May 18, 2018 from 8 PM – 10 PM at The Cruz Building, 3157 Commodore Plaza, Coconut Grove, FL 33133. Due to **limited space**, each graduate may bring **ONE GUEST** to this complimentary event. Light hors d'oeuvres as well as beer, wine and soft drinks will be served. Due to limited space it is imperative that you register for this event. Check-in is REQUIRED at this event.

PLEASE SUBMIT PHOTOS

A photo montage slideshow will be projected throughout the Graduation Ceremony of all the great memories you have from St. Kitts and your clinical clerkships! Please submit photos of your experiences that will be shared in a slide show. Submit your electronic photos to RUSVMalumni@rossu.edu by May 1, 2018.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

All graduating students MUST register to be part of the ceremony at the Watsco Center. Tickets for guests are NOT required for the ceremony, however, it is important that you indicate on the registration page how many people will be attending with you and if any of your guests require assistance or handicap accessible seating.

DIRECTIONS TO THE WATSCO CENTER

For directions, please visit the Watsco Center website by [clicking here](#).

COMMENCEMENT DAY ITINERARY

1:00 PM Graduates arrive and check in

1:00 PM Lunch
– 2:15 PM (available for all graduates)

2:15 PM Line-up for processional

3:00 PM Processional begins

BRIEF CEREMONY OUTLINE

- Processional
- Welcome & Introductions
- Commencement Address
- Conferral of School of Veterinary Medicine Degrees
- Recognition of Honors Graduates & Recitation of the Veterinarian Oath
- Recessional

ARRIVAL FOR CEREMONY

Graduates should arrive at the **Watsco Center by 1:00 PM with their robe, tam, hood and tassel**. Graduates should enter through the breezeway to the right of the main entrance (street level) and go to the Multi-Purpose Room (Field House). **Please have someone hold your personal belongings during the graduation ceremony** because the Multi-Purpose Room will remain unlocked during the ceremony and you will NOT return to the same seat after going on stage. There will be signs to guide you. Graduates are to check in no later than 2:00 PM. Please line up at the appropriate check-in station based on the first letter of your last name. **At check in, you will be required to show your student ID or driver's license in order to receive your seating card**. Graduates will receive seating cards placing them in one of four groups printed with their name and honors information. Please do not lose this seating card because it will also be used to announce your name during the ceremony (See Conferral of Degrees).

GUEST INFORMATION

Your guests will be allowed to enter the Watsco Center beginning at 2:00 PM through the main entrance. Please discourage guests from bringing extraneous personal belongings as there is no coat check or security available. Additionally, be aware that large bags and backpacks of all guests may be searched upon entrance to the Watsco Center. Light refreshments will be available for purchase in the concourse. Outside food and beverage is not permitted. The facility will not permit us to have balloons inside the arena.

LINE UP FOR PROCESSIONAL

Once you arrive in the Multi-Purpose Room, please place the tassel on the left side of your tam. Drape your hood, folded lengthwise, felt side up, over your left arm. You will be “hooded” during the ceremony. A lunch will be available for graduates at this time.

You will line up in the Multi-purpose Room. At 2:15 PM, you will be instructed to line up based on your seating card color. Ross Vet group leaders will share the procedures for the processional, row arrangements, standing protocol, how to receive the diploma, and where to stand for pictures. While we want you to socialize with your fellow graduates, please be sure to listen to line-up instructions, as there will be limited time to prepare.

CONFERRAL OF DEGREES

A Ross Vet staff member will instruct you when it is time to stand and when it is time to walk. When directed, you will proceed to the right side of the stage. You will then proceed up the stairs to be hooded. A faculty member will take your hood from you and place it over your head. Please hand your seating card to the appropriate staff member on stage when you approach the microphone. You will then proceed across the stage to receive a diploma jacket from the Dean. Shake with your right hand and take the diploma with your left hand above your right shaking hand. A picture will be taken at this time. Continue to the left side of the stage where you will proceed off the stage for your portrait, and then back to the seating area.

VETERINARIAN OATH

Following the awarding of the last diploma, all graduates will participate in a recitation of the Veterinarian Oath. All graduates will receive a copy of the Veterinarian Oath in the program the day of the ceremony.

RECESSIONAL

Once the dignitaries on stage have exited, the recessional will begin by section. An RUSVM staff member will direct you when to stand and begin the recessional. From this point you will be able to exit the arena through the main entrance to reunite with your guests outside the arena.

ACADEMIC REGALIA (TAMS, GOWNS, HOODS, AND TASSELS)

All graduates are REQUIRED to wear the designated academic regalia in order to participate in the ceremony. Students must purchase a doctoral tam, gown, hood and tassel through Herff Jones, Inc. Please note that you must order the tam, gown and tassel set and the hood set from the Herff Jones website directly. This is not handled through Ross Vet.

Please complete the order form appropriately with your height, weight and school information (indicate whether you are a medical or veterinary graduate). For further information regarding the ordering of your graduation regalia, contact Herff Jones at (305) 255-0502 or by email at hjcollegefl@aol.com. Additional charges may apply for international shipping. [CLICK HERE](#) to order your cap and gown from Herff Jones, (type in Ross University, select URL, and then select School of Veterinary Medicine from the drop down and select School of Veterinary Medicine.) **The deadline to order academic regalia is Friday, April 27, 2018.** Please be sure to order by that date to avoid additional fees for a rush-order.

**You will not be permitted to walk in the ceremony if you do not have a tam, gown, hood, and tassel. It is your responsibility to have these with you for the ceremony!*

HONORS INFORMATION

Honors statuses are determined by the Honors policy in which a student matriculated into Ross Vet. Eligible Honors designees will be recognized during the ceremony and will be identified with honor cords that will be distributed in the multi-purpose room the day of the ceremony. Honors recognition is reflected on the graduate's transcript and diploma. *Due to the timing of receipt of clinical evaluations and completing the final degree audits, you may not be recognized at the ceremony.*

FEDERAL LOAN EXIT COUNSELING

All graduates who have borrowed federal student loans must complete federal loan exit counseling. Loan exit counseling is a federal requirement with which you must comply. If you have not already fulfilled this obligation, please visit www.studentloans.gov and complete the exit counseling. If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact the Office of Student Finance at FinAid@rossu.edu.

DIPLOMA DISTRIBUTION

Please note that diplomas will not be distributed at the May 2018 commencement ceremony. Your diploma will be mailed to the address provided on your graduation application within 2-3 weeks after you have been cleared for graduation. We are unable to provide graduates with a copy of their diploma or a final transcript until the degree audit has been completed and you receive final clearance for graduation. Original diplomas for all graduates will be mailed to the address provided on the graduation application after your graduation date has passed and the degree audit has been completed.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

For your convenience, we have secured courtesy blocks at a number of area hotels at discounted rates; however, students and their guests are responsible for arranging their own travel and lodging accommodations. [CLICK HERE](#) for a list of participating hotels.

PARKING

Parking is free at both events and directional signage will be posted for all parking locations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For information regarding degree audit clearance, please contact the Office of the Registrar at Registrar@rossu.edu.

For information regarding licensure, please contact the Office of Student & Professional Development at professionaldevelopment@rossu.edu.

For any additional information or questions regarding the graduation reception or ceremony, please e-mail: RUSVMalumni@rossu.edu.

CONGRATULATIONS!

WE ARE ALL LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING
YOU DURING COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND!

* Please note that the receipt of this e-mail does not indicate clearance for diploma issuance. In order to officially graduate, you must meet all graduation criteria and submit to RUSVM all documents required for graduation clearance.

** There is an ATM available at the venue, however RUSVM does not take responsibility for it dispensing correctly.