

## Commencement Committee Agenda Fall 2021 Meeting

Meeting via ZOOM on October 18 at 3pm

ZOOM LINK: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98575481695?pwd=MUE4N2MzQldrNi93NVF5QiswbGdTQT09>

### ITEM #1: Review of plan for 2021 Fall Commencements (December 17 & 18)

- 1 doctoral ceremony; 3 Bachelor/Master/Specialist ceremonies
- Full schedule can be found here: <https://commencement.ufl.edu/fall/event-schedule/>
- Currently, there are not specific changes in place for COVID. This could change as the semester continues, depending on CDC recommendations, as well as state protocols.

### ITEM #2: Approved plan for 2022 Spring Commencements (April 28-May 1)

- Schedule and plan overview (see attachment for full schedule for University and colleges)
- This can also be found here: <https://commencement.ufl.edu/spring/event-schedule/>

### ITEM #3: Proposed 2022 Summer Ceremony Schedule (August 5 & 6)

#### Background

- Final registrations for Summer 2021: Doc 278; Master 355; Bachelor 1,183
- HOWEVER, before the COVID surge, our registration numbers at their height were:  
Doc 324; Master 403; Bachelor 1,228
- In comparison, the 2019 numbers were (Doc 282; Master 323; Bachelor 766)

NOTE: Fire code dictates there be no more than 1100 persons on the floor; this includes the stage party, faculty marshals, photographers, graduates, etc.

#### Feedback from summer 2021 ceremonies

Most of the consistent negative feedback we got from the summer ceremonies came from COVID-related changes or non-changes:

- #1 we didn't mandate masks
- #2 we didn't hold a processional
- Being seated so close together/not having more space/too many people at the ceremony during a pandemic
- Being able to leave after their name/their student's name was called (if they were of the second half to be called)
- Missing the alma mater
- Doctoral grads disappointed their dissertation chairs didn't get to hood them
- Warrington bachelors upset they were sat in the stands rather than the floor (this was done to avoid exceeding fire code on the floor)

The most common highlights were the common responses, followed by the gratitude involving how we managed the COVID related changes or non-changes

- President Fuchs speaking
- Hearing their name/their student's name & crossing the stage/seeing their student cross the stage
- Commencement speaker
- Grateful we had a ceremony in person
- Being able to leave after their name/their student's name was called (if they were one of the first half to be called)

Proposal for Summer 2022

To meet the needs of the increased interest in participation in the summer ceremonies, we should combine the Bachelor's & Master's as we do in the spring and fall. This will keep us at 3 ceremonies and maintain appropriate ceremony size. We can maintain the same schedule times, just adjust the colleges and degrees participating.

Friday, August 5 at 2pm in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

Doctoral Ceremony

- All colleges except Law & Dentistry, which don't have grads this semester
- Assume 300-ish grads + escorts

Friday, August 5 at 7:30pm in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

Bachelor/Master/Specialist Ceremony #1

- Art (45)
- Design, Construction & Planning (31)
- Education (34)
- Health & Human Performance (172)
- H.W. College of Engineering (72)
- Medicine (10)
- Pharmacy (29)
- Nursing (140)
- Public Health & Health Professions (31)
- Veterinary Medicine (11)
- Warrington College of Business (229)

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Saturday, August 6 at 10am in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center

Bachelor/Master Ceremony #2

- Agricultural & Life Sciences (266)
- Liberal Arts & Sciences (385)
- Journalism & Communications (166)

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