

Countdown to Commencement

Virtual Information Session

for the

Class of 2024

Welcome and Congratulations!

Your big day is almost here! But first...

Arrival

Plan to arrive no later than

9 a.m.

on Saturday morning.

Doors open to graduates at 8:30 a.m.

Arrival

- Allow time for traffic, road closures, tunnel delays, inclement weather, and security screenings upon entry
- Arrive wearing your regalia or bring your regalia in ready to wear condition

Parking

- Parking - \$5 **cash** upon entry
 - Scope underground garage
 - Surface lot across St. Paul's Blvd.
- The Scope Parking Garage contains accessible parking spaces adjacent to the Scope Arena lower Box Office doors
- Enter through the Exhibition Hall doors in the underground garage – closest to the parking entry gate

Entry

- After Security Check – proceed to iPad check-in stations and then to your program table
- Leave personal belongings in car or with family/friends
 - Do not bring any other items with you (no purses, books, etc.)
 - Items you can't leave behind such as car keys and phones can be secured with Police & Public Safety in Meeting Room 3

Family and Guests

- Doors open on the Plaza Level at 8:45 a.m. for family and friends
 - Please note: Guests are **not** permitted in the Exhibition Hall
- Balloons are not permitted inside the Scope
- Guests may bring sealed, unopened bottles of water. Other outside food and beverage items are not permitted.

Family and Guests

Families with Graduates in the following programs should access the arena using Gates 7 & 8:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| ■ Art Therapy & Counseling | ■ Doctor of Medical Science | ■ Reproductive Clinical Science (PhD) |
| ■ Biomedical Sciences (PhD, MS, Research) | ■ Medical Masters (1 & 2 year) | ■ Medical and Health Professions Education (PhD) |
| ■ Doctor of Health Sciences | ■ Physician Assistant | |
| | ■ Public Health | |

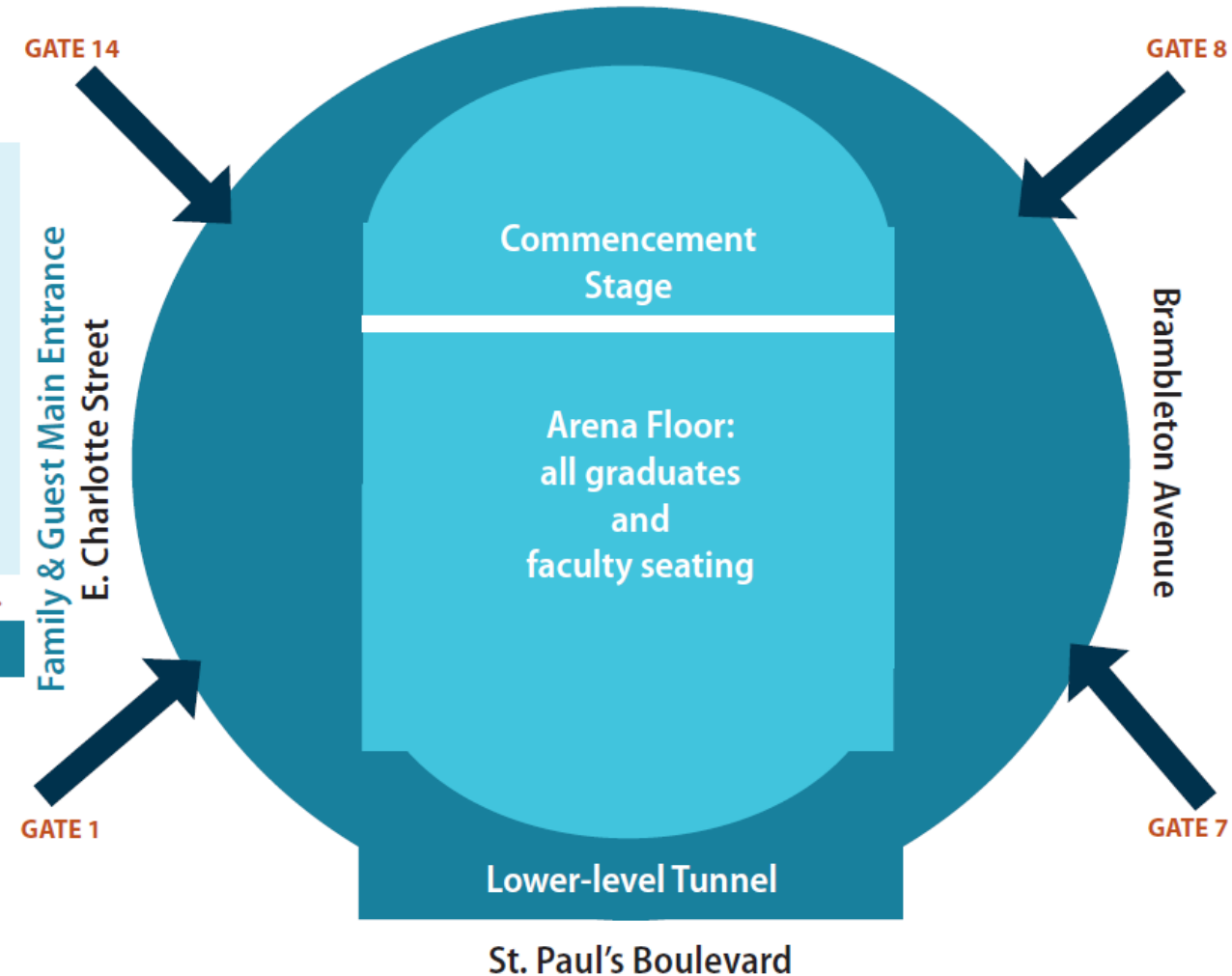
Families with Graduates in the following programs should access the arena using Gates 1 & 14:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| ■ Anatomical Sciences | ■ Laboratory Animal Science | ■ Reproductive Clinical Science (MS) |
| ■ Doctor of Medicine | ■ Medical and Health Professions Education (MMHPE) | ■ Surgical Assisting |
| ■ Healthcare Administration | ■ Pathologists' Assistant | |

Sign language interpretation will be provided for guests seated on the risers closest to the arena floor in Section 122.

Family restrooms are located at Gates 3 & 11.

This diagram is available in the Commencement app and will be uploaded to the Commencement website after today's session.



Health & Safety Protocol

- Masks are not required to attend or participate in EVMS Commencement
 - EVMS supports individuals who prefer to wear a mask in the ceremony or arena
- Please be sure to share this information with your family and friends
 - A live stream will be available on the EVMS.edu homepage for guests who are unable to attend in person

Attire

- **Professional attire is required.** Individuals who are not dressed appropriately will not be allowed to participate.
- **All participants must wear:**
 - **either pants, a dress or skirt.** Shorts and jeans are not permitted.
 - **dark, low-heeled footwear is recommended.** Athletic footwear and flip flops are not permitted.
- **No jewelry can be worn on or over your regalia.**

Regalia

- **DON'T FORGET YOUR REGALIA!**
 - Be sure to take your regalia out of the package before coming to Commencement.
 - Steam or hang your regalia to relax any wrinkles. If using an iron, use a low heat setting and do **not** use on the velvet.
 - Double check that you have all components of your regalia – gown, hood, mortarboard or tam, and tassel
- Wear comfortable shoes that won't slip off

Regalia

- **Masters Graduates:**
 - Wear gown, hood and honor cords/stoles
 - Bring cap with tassel
- **Doctoral Graduates:**
 - Wear gown and honor cords
 - Bring hood and tam with tassel

Academic Honors

- You will pick up GHHS honor cords, SGA recognition and Military Service cords at your program table.
- Any honor cords or stoles issued prior to Commencement day are your responsibility to bring.
- Only cords and stoles issued by EVMS are permitted to be worn during the ceremony.

Amenities & Accommodations

- Personal belongings such as car keys and phones can be secured with Police & Public Safety in Meeting Room 3.
- Bobby pins are available at program tables and in restrooms to secure your caps/tams.
- A lactation room is available for nursing mothers.
- If you requested or need other accommodations, ask a staff member to help you onsite.

Name Pronunciation

- You will receive your reader card at your program table.
- Review your reader card for misspellings or other inaccuracies.
 - **The name on your reader card is the one you provided in your application to graduate and cannot be changed.**
- Linguists have reviewed the name pronunciations you provided.
- If the linguist has requested to see you prior to the ceremony, you will be notified at your program table. If so, please go directly to them after you check in.
- Do NOT write on your reader cards.

Sample Reader Card

Graduate Name:

1

Ryan Anand Abdul-Haqq

Phonetic Pronunciation:

Program: Doctor of Medicine



Processional

- Go to the restroom BEFORE lining up for the processional. The ceremony can last up to 2.5 hours!
- **Masters Graduates:**
 - Only carry your reader cards
- **Doctoral Graduates:**
 - Only carry your reader cards and hoods (unbuttoned, over your left arm)

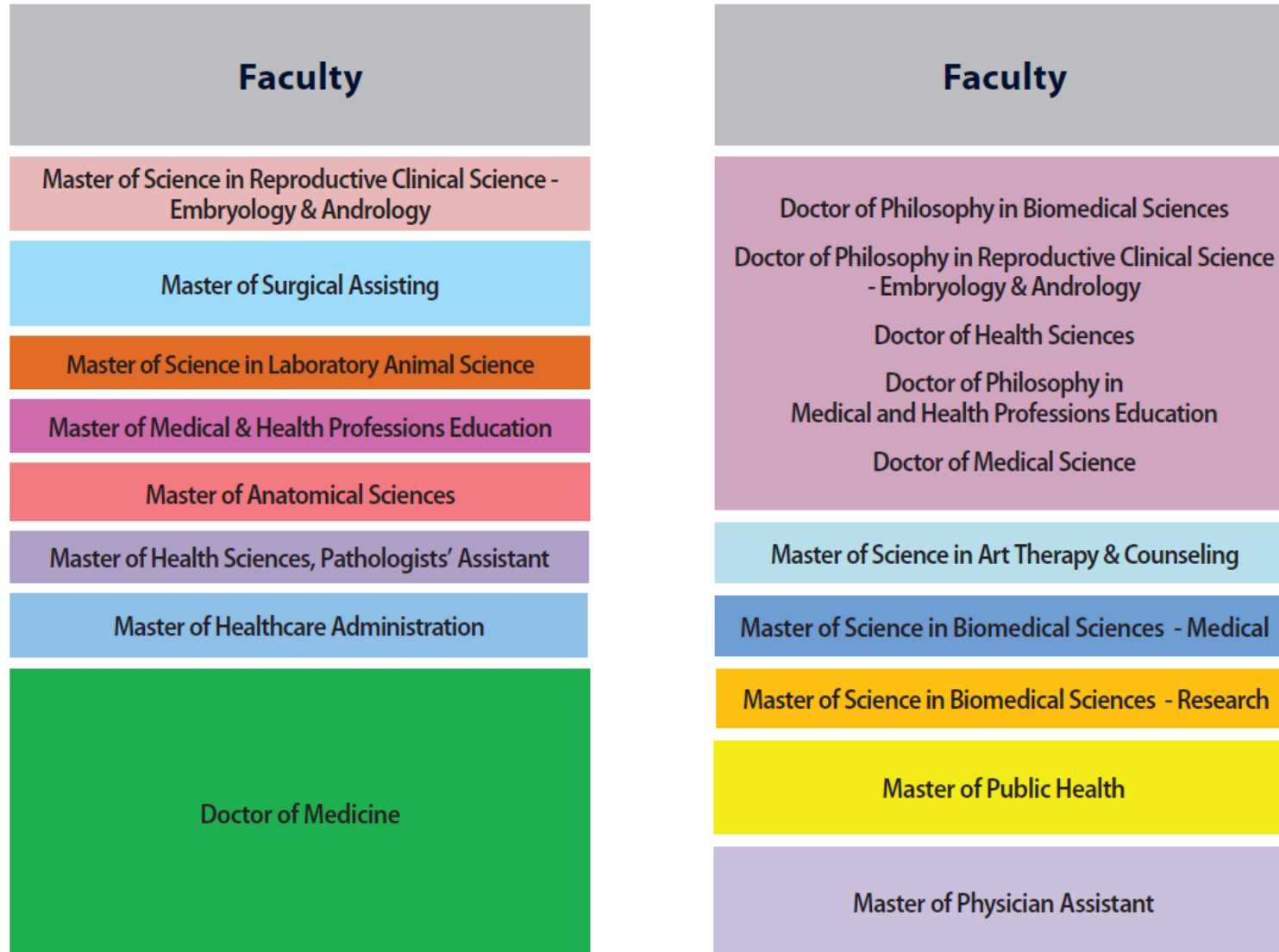
Processional

- We will seat the right side of the arena followed by the left side.
- Quickly march two-by-two; then enter the row indicated by the usher.
- The first student processing in each program will give program card to row usher.

Processional

- Graduates process in first, followed by faculty and then the Platform Party.
- Remain standing in front of your chair until you are asked to be seated.
- You will be seated with your programs in the following format:

STAGE



This diagram is available in the Commencement app and will be uploaded to the Commencement website after today's session

Conferral of Degrees

- During the ceremony, Dr. Combs or Dr. Flenner will call for each School to stand collectively.
- He will state that the academic requirements have been met.
- The President will confer the degree.

Lining Up to the Cross Stage

- An usher will call your row and direct you towards the stage.
- **Don't forget your reader card!**
- **Doctoral Graduates:**
 - Hood folded over your left arm – make sure it is unbuttoned

Crossing the Stage

- Your reader card will be scanned before reaching the stairs.
- Once directed, ascend the stairs and hand the card to the linguist who will read your name.
- Walk as soon as you hand off your card; **do not wait** for your name to be called.

Crossing the Stage

- Awards and distinctions (if any) will appear on the Jumbotron as you cross the stage.
- You will receive your diploma cover as you cross stage.
- Shake hands and carefully exit the stage.

Crossing the Stage

Doctoral Graduates hooded on stage:

- Ascend stairs and hand reader cards to linguist.
- Give hood to the hooding assistants.
- Turn and face the audience.
- If you feel comfortable, please remove your tam to be hooded.
- Please stoop down if you are very tall.

GradImages®

- Individual photos of graduates receiving diplomas and being hooded, as well as posed portraits after exiting the stage, will be taken by a professional photographer.
- It is important to keep the photography line running smoothly, **do not stop** on the stage or stairs to pose for photos for friends or family.

GradImages®

- Photos are available for purchase and a link will be emailed to you within 1 week of graduation to the non-EVMS email address you provided during registration.
- Photos will also be available at gradimages.com.
- Additional photos taken by EVMS will be posted on EVMS Flickr site.

Confetti Wands

- At the end of ceremony, the Chief Marshal will ask graduates to rise. At this time, retrieve confetti wands from under your seats.
- When audience is asked to help celebrate our 50th Anniversary and congratulate the graduates and alumni, applause and music will begin.
 - Release confetti wands at this time – **NOT BEFORE.**
- Please direct the confetti wand **up**, not forward.

Recessional

- Following, the recessional occurs in the following order:
 - Platform Party
 - Faculty
 - Last rows on both sides of arena floor begin first; an usher will direct you.
- Move more quickly. Spacing is not important.

Post Ceremony

- Collect personal items stored with EVMS Police.
- Return any borrowed regalia items to the regalia table. Otherwise, regalia and any honor cords you received are yours to keep.
- Exit the Exhibition Hall and head up to the outdoor plaza to meet your family and friends.

Diplomas

- Diploma certificates are not in the covers you receive on stage.
- 2024 Graduates ***who have completed degree requirements*** will be mailed diplomas by the end of June to the address provided in your graduation application.
- If you need to confirm or change your mailing address, please contact the Registrar's Office.

Alumni Association

Stay Connected

- Create your alumni profile at EVMS.edu/ALUMNI
- Attend Alumni Events
- Follow Us on Facebook at Facebook.com/EVMSAlumni
- Submit Class Notes
- Support students following in your footsteps by volunteering

Commencement App

- Download the Commencement App available for both Apple and Android users.
- Notifications will be sent via the app for any last minute changes.



Celebrating on Social

- We hope you document this exciting time with photos and videos!
- If you post on social media, remember to **tag EVMSedu** and **use #EVMSGrad2024**
- And **follow EVMSedu** on our social media accounts to see photos and news during Commencement week and after graduation!

Reminders

- **DON'T BE LATE!** Expect delays (travel and entry security).
 - Arrive no later than 9 a.m.
- **DON'T FORGET YOUR REGALIA!**
 - Tam/Mortarboard, Gown, Hood, and Tassel
- Bring \$5 **cash** to pay for parking on Saturday.
- Encourage your family & friends to maintain decorum when your name is called so that all names can be heard.
- Lock valuables in your car or leave them with your family.

Questions?

Congratulations!

Visit the Commencement website at
evms.edu/commencement

Download the Commencement App:

