



INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMMENCEMENT

Saturday, July 25, 2026

10:00 a.m.

West Jackson Baptist Church
580 Oil Well Road | Jackson, Tennessee

NOTE: There will be no graduation rehearsal, so please read the instructions carefully and be on time to line up for last-minute instructions.

1. Line-Up

- Report to the Fellowship Hall at West Jackson Baptist Church for robing and line-up at **9:00 a.m.** Specific line-up instructions will be sent closer to time.
- Leave personal items with family or friends. No guests (including children) are allowed to line up with graduates.
- Line up in alphabetical order according to degree and then last name.
- Doctoral graduates: please drape hood on left forearm as you are lining up.

2. Processional

- The student processional will enter the sanctuary on the left side facing the platform. The faculty processional will enter the sanctuary on the right side.
- Remain standing until after the Doxology. (Men should remove caps only during the invocation and benediction. Caps should be kept on the rest of the time.)

3. Conferring of Degrees

- Dr. Jacob Shatzer will present the class to President Oliver, who will respond briefly.
- When directed to do so, the first row of graduates will proceed to the right, where they will walk out of the sanctuary doors and back through the stage doors. As the line gets shorter, the next row will proceed to the platform, as will each row thereafter.
- The dean of each school or college will call the names of graduates. **Do not cross the platform until your name is called.** Walk across and receive the diploma from Dr. Oliver as you shake his hand. Accept the diploma in your left hand and shake with your right hand. You will then go back to your seat and sit down.
- **Undergraduates:** As you leave the platform, your tassel should be moved to the left side of your cap. (Graduate students wear their tassel on the left. They do not move theirs.)

4. Recessional

- Leave down the center aisle.