

February 16, 2012

Dear OPSU Graduating Senior,

The 2012 OPSU Commencement is fast approaching. Rehearsal for commencement will occur on Friday, May 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Oscar Williams Field House gymnasium. At that time, students will learn about the senior line-up, processional, and recessional; complete exit OPSU documents, and walk through the receiving line. Rehearsals usually last from 60 to 90 minutes depending on the cooperation of the graduates. Commencement begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12 in the Oscar Williams Field House. Seniors should arrive no later than 9:30 a.m. and proceed immediately to the location of their processional line-up. The ceremony itself may last 90 minutes. After the ceremony ends, all seniors and their guests are invited to a free, university-sponsored BBQ served on the University Clock Tower Plaza.

Seating for handicapped guests will be available on the gym floor. No student may reserve any seats for any guests.

Honor students will receive a gold honor cord from their school dean during the ceremony. Members of Alpha Chi (AX) may wear the Alpha Chi medallion available at [www.brownsgrad.com](http://www.brownsgrad.com). To order the medallion, AX members should click on the AX link and order item number 504. Chi Alpha Sigma members may wear their red honor cords indicating membership in that organization. Members of Alpha Zeta may wear their gold and silver honor cords

at commencement. Graduates of the School of Education may wear the light blue cords received during the School of Education's convocation.

Commencement is a time of celebration which must be tempered with dignity, an important element of the ceremony. Commencement is the outward recognition of a graduate's academic accomplishment and is to be shared with family members and friends of the seniors and of Oklahoma Panhandle State University. Students should understand that this very public event has a two-fold purpose: first to honor graduates and second to honor OPSU. Nothing should occur during commencement to detract from the ceremony itself—no tossed beach balls, no blaring air horns, no shooting silly string to pose problems, embarrassment, and hazards for guests, seniors, or OPSU. Students may throw confetti or streamers, but care should even be given with those merry-makers. Therefore, students should ensure that commencement be a solemn and dignified event. Any celebratory activities will occur only outside the gym after the conclusion of commencement. Academic regalia is worn at all commencement exercises, and its roots are shrouded in deep medieval, European, scholarly traditions. It should not be altered in any way for the event.

To graduate, students must have a graduation check on file in the Office of the Registrar, have paid their graduation fee, have completed the graduation application in the registrar's office, and have a "zero" balance at the OPSU business office. Students unable to attend commencement should inform the Office of Academic Affairs **in writing** about their intentions before Tuesday, May 1.

Order forms for photographs, academic regalia, and announcements are now posted on the OPSU website ([www.opsu.edu](http://www.opsu.edu)). Current students should access those documents via the website or via the attachments sent to their OPSU email address. To access the forms on the website, students should click the Senior Class link. Students who completed their academic programs in December of 2011 will have those forms mailed to them via the US Postal Service.

Questions about rehearsal and commencement should be directed to the Office of the Registrar at OPSU (580.349.1376) or Sara Jane Richter ([saraj@opsu.edu](mailto:saraj@opsu.edu), 580.349.1472, 580.651.7357, Hughes-Strong Hall 109) or Tito Aznar ([taznar@opsu.edu](mailto:taznar@opsu.edu), 580.349.1418, Hughes-Strong Hall 113).

Congratulations on your graduation: a job well done!

Best wishes,



Sara Jane Richter, Ph. D.  
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Professor, English  
Commencement Coordinator



Tito Aznar  
Instructor, English  
Commencement Coordinator