

Dear UWF Golden Graduate,

We are so excited to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of your graduation from the University of West Florida during the Golden Graduate Ceremony and Luncheon at the December 13, 2025 UWF Commencement Ceremony. It is our hope that this celebration will help you remember all of the great moments you had as a UWF student.

The ceremony and luncheon will be hosted at the Pensacola Bay Center, 201 E Gregory St., Pensacola, FL 32502. The ceremony will start at 10 a.m. with lunch immediately following the ceremony.

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help you prepare for the ceremony and luncheon.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Ceremony Details

Where do I park? In this packet, you received a parking pass that can be used to park in the front parking lot of the Pensacola Bay Center. Please see the map included in this packet. If we have your email address, an electronic version will also be sent to you to print.

Where do I report? Golden Graduates will report to the ground-level main entrance doors of the Pensacola Bay Center. You will then be directed to the designated meeting area right inside these doors. Bathrooms will be available in this area. Your guests will be seated in the VIP section of the arena.

When do I report? Golden Graduates will need to report by **9:30 a.m.** to the meeting area on the ground floor of the Bay Center. (The Bay Center opens at 9 a.m.)

What do I wear? The dress for the event is business casual. The Pensacola Bay Center can be very cold due to ice down under the flooring of the arena for the Pensacola Ice Flyers hockey team. Wear comfortable shoes. Regalia (the traditional black graduation cap and gown) will be provided upon check-in and our staff will be available to assist you.

You will be provided with an embroidered gold stole and blue and green tassel to wear during the ceremony. The stole and tassel are gifts to you from your friends at the UWF Alumni Association.

What will happen at the ceremony? Golden Graduates will be fitted into their regalia and lined up in the meeting area. The group will then process into the arena and be seated with the rest of the graduates during the commencement ceremony. *If you need mobility assistance or use a wheelchair, cane or walker, please let us know as soon as possible.*

Where do my guest(s) sit for the ceremony? All Golden Graduate guests will sit in VIP section 130 on the upper level. There will be staff and volunteers available to assist your guests in finding their seats.

One of my guests is handicapped. Is there ADA access to VIP section 130?

Please let us know as soon as possible if a guest needs special seating accommodations. There will be access to an elevator on the ground floor and there is ADA seating close to section 130.

Golden Graduates Luncheon

Where is the luncheon held? The luncheon will be hosted at the Pensacola Bay Center on the 2nd floor. Golden Graduates will be escorted from the ceremony up to the luncheon. The luncheon will last between 60 and 90 minutes.

How will my guests get to the luncheon? Guests seated in VIP section 130 will be escorted by volunteers to the 2nd floor luncheon location.

What will happen at the luncheon? Golden Graduates and guests will be joined by UWF VIPs for a seated, 3-course lunch. UWF's Interim President, Manny Diaz Jr., will address the group.

Will there be time for photos? A UWF photographer will take a group photo after the ceremony, and will also be at the luncheon to take photos in front of an official UWF backdrop. These will be emailed to you after the event.

Optional Campus Tour

Revisit your time as a student and see the transformation of the UWF Main Campus! Please join us Friday, December 12th at 9:30 a.m. for a campus tour led by our Student Ambassadors.

*Please RSVP to Teresa Burgess at 850.474.2423 or by emailing alumni@uwf.edu by **December 1st**.*

If you have any other questions or need additional information, please contact Katie Schutts, Associate Director of Alumni Events and Communications at kschutts@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2766.