

# **Policy on Conferring Degrees at Commencement Ceremonies and Related Participation**

Each commencement ceremony at Mount St. Joseph University is a special event for all involved. They commemorate the completion of a significant educational goal by each University graduate and allow the University community, family, and friends to share in the celebration of that accomplishment with graduates. Commencement ceremonies are formal occasions, with rituals and etiquette protocols that are long-standing traditions at the University.

While commencement marks an important rite of passage in every student's academic journey, it also recognizes that the University's full-time teaching and administrator faculty have been instrumental educators, mentors, and guides for the University's students in achieving their academic goals. The presence of the University's full-time teaching and administrator faculty at commencement ceremonies is a meaningful display of their integral roles at the University. Consequently, full-time teaching and administrator faculty are expected to attend three of the four University commencement events each year: Baccalaureate Mass, May traditional student commencement, May adult student commencement, December commencement.

Conferring degrees to University graduates during commencement ceremonies is a unique honor and a privilege that flows directly from the academic programs of the University. As such, the honor of conferring degrees at University commencement ceremonies is reserved exclusively for the University President, Provost, and/or full-time teaching and administrator faculty. Requests by full-time teaching and administrator faculty to confer degrees upon specific graduates must be made to the Provost at least 60 days prior to any commencement ceremony. All commencement ceremony program decisions, including decisions on requests to confer degrees upon specific graduates, are made by the University Provost.