



The
Frederick
Gunn
School

COMMENCEMENT DRESS

Below are the dress code guidelines for all graduating students. You will need to pick one of these two options for Commencement.

OPTION 1:

A white dress (fully lined or worn with a slip) in a style appropriate for a morning graduation ceremony and appropriate footwear for processing (white or light metallic colored flats, dress sandals, or wedges). Dresses must be no shorter than two inches above the knees and should be modest. Students should be able to sit comfortably in their dresses. Commencement dresses will be approved in person by the Dean of Students Office. We are happy to review photos before any purchases are made.

Dress: Your dress must be white (not off-white or cream), and it may not have any embellishment (trim, lace, belt, buttons, decorations, etc.) that is not white. It needs to be fully lined (so that it's not translucent in the sun), or you'll need a full slip. Remember that this is your graduation ceremony (not prom or a semi-formal) so your dress should be modest in cut and style. No backless, low back, or low-cut dresses or dresses with revealing slits. No dresses are allowed that are too tight or too short (the no more than two inches above your knees rule applies); you need to be able to sit down comfortably for your class portrait and during the ceremony under the tent. Your dress will wrinkle if it's too fitted, and you'll have to tug at it if it's too short. Finally, we suggest that you choose a dress fabric that is lightweight and breathable. It is often a hot day, and the day will be less enjoyable if you wear a dress that is heavy or made of really thick fabric.

Shoes: White or light metallic colored flats, dress sandals, or wedges (otherwise you will sink into the lawn or risk tripping) are all acceptable choices. Specifically, you should consider ballet flats or Jack Rogers-type sandals (not flip-flops or rubber-soled shoes) or wedges that have a white or light-colored sole and heel. Look for comfortable shoes, as you will be on your feet on a hot day for several hours.

Accessories: Graduation is a formal event, so make sure that your accessories match the occasion (today may be a day to leave bright and or/plastic bracelets or watches at home). You may wear flowers in your hair or a flower wreath (just keep the colors light and remember that you'll already be carrying a red rose). Any other hair accessories should be white.

OPTION 2:

A navy blue blazer in a style appropriate for a morning graduation ceremony with appropriate footwear. Blazers should be tailored and fitted for the occasion. Pants should be pressed and khaki in color. A belt is required. White dress shirts should also be pressed and clean. The alumni tie (distributed by the school) needs to be centered and tied correctly. Shoes need to be brown and in good repair. They must cover the entire foot. Socks must be dark.

Blazer: Your blazer must be a traditional navy (not royal), and it may not have any embellishment. It needs to be pressed and clean. Remember that this is your graduation ceremony (not prom or a semi-formal) so your blazer should be modest in cut and style. No blazers are allowed that are too tight or ill-fitting; you need to be able to sit down comfortably for your class portrait and during the ceremony under the tent. Finally, we suggest that you choose a blazer fabric that is lightweight and breathable. It is often a hot day, and the day will be less enjoyable if you wear a blazer that is heavy or made of really thick fabric.

Shirt: Your shirt needs to be white. It should be clean and pressed. Buttons need to be in good working condition. The collar should be pressed flat and not "popped."

Shoes: Brown shoes must be clean and free of holes. The entire foot will be covered; no sandals permitted. Look for comfortable shoes, as you will be on your feet on a hot day for several hours.

Accessories: Graduation is a formal event, so make sure that your accessories match the occasion. A belt is required and a professional watch may be worn, but please leave your pocket squares at home.

Approval: The Dean's Office will review your outfits in early May but are available to do so much earlier. You will need to wear your entire outfit (dress, shoes, the undergarments you plan to wear with your dress, accessories or send a picture). If you follow the guidelines, there should be no surprises and your outfit will be approved.

If you're not sure about whether or not a dress, blazer, slacks, or shoes meet the guidelines, feel free to show us at any time. You can also email us a picture or link before you buy.

Please keep your receipts, as your outfit may not be approved if it doesn't meet the guidelines. Thank you for understanding and following the above guidelines.

**If any of the requirements creates a conflict for religious or cultural reasons, please just let us know and we will coordinate accommodations together.*
