



The  
Frederick  
Gunn  
School

## COMMENCEMENT DRESS

Below are the dress code guidelines for all Gunn graduates. Students are asked to select one of these two options for Commencement.

Each student is invited to choose either an alumni tie or the alumni scarf to accompany one of the following options for Commencement. The tie or scarf will be distributed by the school to each graduate.

### OPTION 1:

A modest 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). The alumni scarf (distributed by the school) should be tied appropriately. Dresses must have cap sleeves, thick shoulder straps, or sleeves and be no shorter than two inches above the knees. Students should be able to sit comfortably in their dresses.

**Dress:** Dresses must be white (not off-white or cream), and 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 worn with a full slip. Attire is for a graduation ceremony (not prom or a semi-formal) and dresses 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 (no more than two inches above knees). Dresses are not able to be strapless, nor should they have "spaghetti-straps." Students need to be able to sit comfortably for class portraits and during the ceremony under the tent. Finally, we suggest that students choose a dress fabric that is lightweight and breathable, as it is often a hot day.

**Shoes:** White or light metallic-colored flats, dress sandals, or wedges are all acceptable choices. Ballet flats, Jack Rogers-type sandals (not flip-flops or rubber-soled shoes), or wedges that have a white or light-colored sole and heel are encouraged. Look for comfortable shoes, as students will be on their feet on a hot day for several hours.

**Accessories:** Graduation is a formal event, so make sure that accessories match the occasion. Students may wear flowers in their hair or a flower wreath (please keep the colors light and remember that students will 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:** Blazers must be a traditional navy (not royal or black), and may not have any embellishment, but should be pressed and clean. This is a graduation ceremony (not prom or a semi-formal) so blazers should be modest in cut and style. No blazers are allowed that are too tight or ill-fitting; students need to be able to sit comfortably for their class portrait and during the ceremony under the tent. Finally, we suggest that students choose a blazer fabric that is lightweight and breathable, as it is often a hot day.

**Shirt:** Shirts need 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 should be covered; no sandals permitted. Look for comfortable shoes, as students will be on their feet on a hot day for several hours.

**Accessories:** Graduation is a formal event, so make sure that accessories match the occasion. A belt is required and a professional watch may be worn. Pocket squares are not permitted.

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**Approval:**

If students are not sure about whether or not a dress, blazer, slacks, shoes, or accessories meet the above guidelines, feel free to show items to the Dean of Students Office at any time. Students can also email the [Dean of Students Office](#) a picture or link before attire is purchased.

All graduating members of the class will have a house meeting in the spring to confirm they have the appropriate clothing for the Commencement ceremonies. *Thank you for understanding and following the above guidelines.*

*\*If any of the requirements create a conflict for religious or cultural reasons, students are asked to please let the Dean of Students Office know and we will coordinate accommodations together.*