

# **Commencement Code of Responsibility**

## **Buffalo State University Commencement Code of Responsibility**

Date Established: February 2020

Categories: Commencement Ceremonies

Responsible Offices: Events

Management Date Last Revised: May 2025

### **General Policy**

Commencement is a momentous occasion, a celebration of your hard work and achievements. To ensure an enjoyable experience for everyone, disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

Buffalo State University observes a strict no-alcohol or other drugs policy prior to and during the commencement ceremonies. Ceremony participants, graduation candidates, and guests are prohibited from bringing alcoholic beverages or other drugs onto the premises or consuming alcoholic beverages during the ceremony.

For everyone's safety and to ensure that all participants enjoy the special occasion of commencement, Buffalo State University expects all present to refrain from any disruptive behavior. In fairness to graduates, guests, faculty, and staff, any person determined by college personnel to be disruptive prior to or during the ceremonies or receptions may be removed from the premises and prohibited from participating further.

All graduates planning to participate in the commencement ceremony must acknowledge by acceptance of tickets that they have read and understand this policy as well as the consequences for violating the policy prior to receiving tickets to commencement. The audience will be reminded prior to the ceremony that any student or guest determined to be disruptive will not be allowed to participate in the ceremony.

### **Note to Degree Candidates**

NOTE TO DEGREE CANDIDATES: The Buffalo State Commencement Code of Responsibility applies to all present on commencement day. Graduates eligible to participate in commencement ceremonies agree to abide by the terms of the code when they register for commencement and accept guest tickets, as well as agree to

provide their guests with the terms of the code. Graduates are expected to arrive on time with appropriate regalia.

All official commencement and related activities and venues are alcohol-free and drug-free zones unless part of Buffalo State University sanctioned activities.

The graduate lineup e-ticket (by Bengal ID card swipe) permits only the eligible graduate to participate in the ceremony. Only graduates will be permitted to areas reserved for graduates and to cross the stage during the ceremony.

Graduates are not to bring bags or purses larger than the size of a small clutch (4.5" x 6.5" x 2") of any kind. Graduates and guests are subject to search and any prohibited items will be confiscated. Any special exceptions due to special needs require approval from the Director, Events Management\*.

### **Prohibited Items**

The following items are prohibited. This list is non-exhaustive. Similar items not listed are also prohibited. Please leave these items at home or in a vehicle:

- Coolers, thermoses or other, bottles, cups, cans, or flasks
- Containers of any kind
- Alcoholic beverages
- Food of any kind
- Video cameras, tripods, recording devices, detachable camera lenses over 6" inches, selfie sticks
- Weapons, displayed or concealed
- Aerosol and spray cans
- Mace or pepper spray
- Animals or emotional support animals (except certified service animals) (leave non- sanctioned animals at home; do not leave in vehicle)
- Laser lights, strobe lights, or pointers
- Irritants such as artificial noisemakers, foam darts
- Fireworks or explosives
- Inflatables (beach balls, etc.)
- Flags or flagpoles
- Unauthorized banners or posters
- Strollers
- Roller blades, skateboards, etc.
- Illegal drugs

- Masks of any kind
- Drones

No vaping or smoking is permitted anywhere.

Your cooperation in adhering to these expectations will help us create a memorable and meaningful commencement ceremony for our graduates and their families and friends. Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Contact Information**

\*Please contact the Events Management Office for any requests for reasonable accommodation for students or guests, including, but not limited to any request to bring pets at [commence@buffalostate.edu](mailto:commence@buffalostate.edu) and 716-878-6114.