



SSW SPRING 2023 COMMENCEMENT
IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR GRADUATES

(Please Review before Commencement)

Saturday, April 29, 2023 @ Power Center – 1:30 pm

Keynote Speaker: Jason Smith

MSW Student Speaker: Ayah Chehade

MSW Student Speaker: Kacey Richardson

Ceremony Marshals: Julie Ribaud, David Cordova & Erin Martinez-Gilliard

MSW Hooders: Miriam Connolly & Kristin Seefeldt

MSW Name Readers: Justin Hodge & Zaynab Boussi

12:30pm – Graduates arrive, robe, and prepare for ceremony (Rehearsal Hall)

12:30pm – Power Center doors open for all

12:55pm – Group photo of graduates and lineup for procession into auditorium

1:30-3:00pm – SSW Commencement Ceremony

Reception in Power Center Lobby immediately following ceremony

Health & Safety

- Commencement will operate in conjunction with the current [University masking policy](#) allowing masks to be optional.
- All students, faculty, and staff must complete the [ResponsiBLUE](#) screening prior to entering campus buildings.



STUDENT GUEST RSVP: EACH GUEST MUST SHOW AN ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION or A PRINTOUT OF THE REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION TO ENTER THE POWER CENTER AUDITORIUM.

Each MSW graduate may have up to seven (7) guests for SSW Spring Commencement. Please [register your guests](#), family, or friends planning to attend the SSW ceremony at the Power Center. [Registration is required](#). *The registration confirmation will serve as an event ticket to enter Power Center auditorium, so be sure to forward a copy of the registration confirmation to each of your guests or print a copy to give to them.*



GRADUATES SHOULD ARRIVE AT THE POWER CENTER BY 12:30 P.M.

Upon your arrival at the Power Center, **GO TO REHEARSAL HALL** (accessible from the upper level of the parking ramp door) for robing and assembly for the procession. Staff will be available to assist and direct. **NOTE:** The entrance doors to The Power Center will not be open until 12:30 p.m. Should your guest require assistance with seating, please have them approach one of the ushers for accessible seating assistance.



GO TO THE APPROPRIATE TABLE BASED ON YOUR LAST NAME TO RECEIVE YOUR PRE-PRINTED NAME/PHOTOGRAPHY CARD. The card is used by the Reader to announce your name. (Available in the robing room.)

Names on cards are listed with the information and phonetic spellings provided by graduates.

If you would like your name read differently than what is printed on your card, please take a blank card and enter in the correct information.

The QR code for photos will be on the back side of your name card. You will need to use the photographer QR code to electronically fill out your information so the photographer can identify, contact you, and send you the proofs for

possible purchase. Photo instructions will be emailed to graduates prior to commencement. There is *no obligation* to purchase the pictures.


Hold on to this card until you go up on the stage. You will hand it to one of Readers at the lectern so they can announce your name. The card will not be given back to you, so you must fill out the photo card before commencement begins.

 **TASSELS SHOULD BE ON THE RIGHT.**

 **HOODS SHOULD NOT BE WORN. YOU WILL CARRY IT OVER YOUR LEFT ARM.**

As part of the ceremony, you will hand your hood to one of the faculty hooders on stage who will ceremonially place the hood over your head. Staff will provide hooding instructions prior to the ceremony.


 ***DO NOT LEAVE VALUABLES (CAMERAS/PURSES) IN THE ROBING ROOM, AS IT WILL BE UNATTENDED DURING THE CEREMONY.***

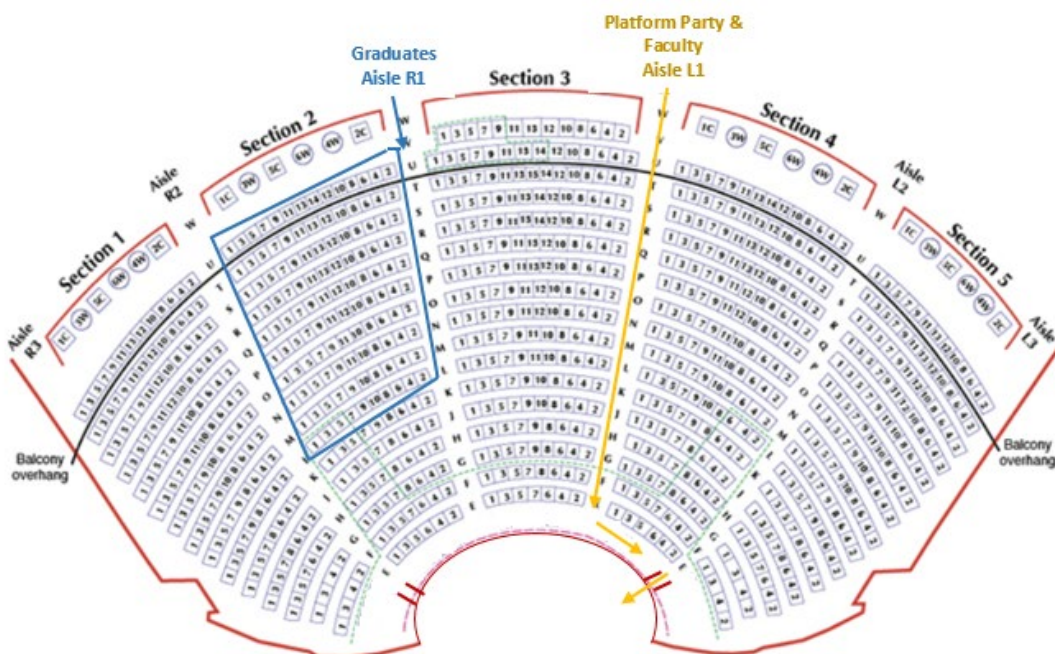
 **A GROUP PHOTO OF GRADUATES IS PLANNED FOR 1:00 P.M.** (Weather & time permitting)
The Marshals and photographer will give specific instructions to all graduates in Rehearsal Hall. Please be sure that all of your cards have been filled out, your attire is on, and you are ready for the ceremony **prior** to the photograph.

 **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GROUP PHOTO, THE MARSHALS WILL DIRECT YOU TO GET INTO THE PROPER ORDER FOR THE PROCESSION**.** The procession into the auditorium will begin promptly at 1:30 p.m. The Marshals will give you instructions/directions.

****ORDER OF GRADUATES FOR PROCESSION** (in the following order):

- PhD Grad: Lolita Moss
- PhD Grad: Ramona Perry
- MSW Student Speaker: Ayah Chehade
- MSW Student Speaker: Kacey Richardson
- MSW degree candidates in alphabetical order

 **MARSHALS WILL LEAD THE GRADUATES INTO THE AUDITORIUM** and direct graduates to their seats. Graduate seating will be in section 2. Please remain standing until all graduates have entered the auditorium and directed by the Dean to be seated.



DURING THE CEREMONY: “Presentation of Graduates”

When the Dean announces that the Hooders, Readers, and Marshals should take their places for the Presentation of Graduates – one Marshal will stand at the end of the row. The Marshal will motion for the first row to stand up, walk up and out of the auditorium and re-enter the auditorium through Aisle R3 and walk up to the stairs at the bottom of the stage. One Marshal will remain at the stage stairs to direct students to the hooders **two at a time** and wait until both have been hooded before sending the next two. The Marshals at the end of each row will continue moving down the rows of graduates, emptying one row at a time.

Two Hooders will be on the stage positioned to the right of the lectern. Staying in order, each graduate will position themselves in front of one of the Hooders. The 1st student in front of the 1st hooder, 2nd student in front of 2nd hooder. Each graduate should hand their hood to their hooder and then turn around to face the audience. Each Hooder will then place the hood over the graduate’s head. The two graduates, after being hooded, should then turn and move to the right toward the lectern – staying in order - then proceed forward one at a time to hand their name card to one of Readers, and continue across the stage to greet the Dean. **In the interest of health/safety, the Dean will not shake hands with graduates, but feel free to bump elbows, wave, etc.** The photographer will take a picture of the graduate with the Dean at this time. The graduate continues toward the stage exit stairs and will be greeted by the SSW Alumni Board of Governors Representative who will give a handout, then exit the stage via the stairs. The photographer will take a 2nd photograph of the graduate in front of the stage. Proceed back to original seat and sit down. ***Congratulations, Graduate!!!***

LIVESTREAM: The School of Social Work Commencement will be livestreamed on the [SSW website](#) for individuals who do not plan to attend the ceremony in person. Graduates were surveyed to see who was not planning to attend the ceremony in-person. Graduates who informed us they will not be attending in-person will have their name read and a slide with their photo shown during commencement and via the livestream. **We cannot guarantee a slide will be included for students who did not inform us of their plan to NOT attend in-person.**

RECEPTION

Join us for a light reception that will be held immediately following the ceremony in The Power Center Lobby.

PARKING FOR THE CEREMONY: The Fletcher street parking structure located at 201 Fletcher Street will be open to the public for parking at no charge. The Thayer street parking structure located at 216 S. Thayer Street will be open to the public for parking at no charge. Handicap parking is available in both structures. For driving directions & campus maps: <https://campusinfo.umich.edu/campusmap>.

RETURN OF BORROWED ATTIRE OR DONATION OF GRADUATION ATTIRE:

Graduation attire borrowed from the SSW ***must be returned to the Office of Student Services no later than May 29, 2023.*** For graduates’ convenience, a drop off box will be available in the graduate robing area at The Power Center and outside the Office of Student Services on the day of commencement to drop off your attire immediately following the ceremony/reception. **Be sure to attach a note with your name, so we know you returned your attire.**

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING ALL OR PART OF YOUR GRADUATION ATTIRE for the use of future graduates if you purchase your attire. You can put it the drop off box with a note or bring it by the Office of Student Services during regular office hours.