

Grad 2019

Student Commencement Ceremony Details

Schedule of Events	
Date	Friday, May 31, 2019
Doors Open	5:45 p.m.
Commencement Ceremony	6:30 p.m
Dinner	7:00 p.m
Location	<p>Executive Royal Hotel, Calgary 2828 23 St NE Calgary, AB T2E 8T4</p> <p>Executive Royal Hotel offers a group booking rate of \$94 plus GST, for a one or two queen-bed room on the night of May 31, 2019. To receive this rate, students/families can call the hotel, toll-free, at 1-877-769-2562 or directly through the front desk at 403-291-2003. Quote "VVS" at the time of booking.</p>
Costs	<p>VVS will pay for each graduand's meal. Graduands may invite up to 7 guests. Guests will pay \$50.00 each. Children under 5 years of age are free. Children aged 5 to 12 years are \$25.00. If you think you'll require more than 7 tickets, let Miss Seward know and she will place your name on a waiting list for extra seats, if they become available.</p>
Payment Options and Deadline	<p>Payment must be received no later than May 27, 2019.</p> <p>Payment for guest tickets can be made by credit card (Visa/Mastercard or Visa/Mastercard Debit) over the phone by calling one of the RSVP contacts, or in person at either Vista Virtual School campus (in Edmonton or Calgary).</p>
Photographs	<p>We do not hire professional photographers for graduation, but our staff do take pictures of each grad individually and with their families, and we do take a group photo after the ceremonies. If you are interested in professional portraits, any photography studio can likely help you out, along with places like Walmart. If you would like to borrow a gown and stole ahead of time for photographs, please contact Aletta Seward or Jadyn Menjivar. If you wait to have your professional portraits taken after our commencement ceremony, you do get to keep your grad cap and tassel.</p>

What happens at the Commencement Ceremony?

The evening begins with a welcome and a reading of each graduand's name so that guests know who is being honoured during the evening. We then eat a buffet meal, catered by Executive Royal Hotel. Once the meal is finished, we have a ceremony where each graduand is called on stage to be recognized for his or her achievements. During this time an introduction (provided by you) will be read. You will also be given a recognition certificate from Vista Virtual School. Please note that you do not receive your actual diploma at this event. It is mailed to you directly by Alberta Education once all your diploma requirements have been fulfilled.

IMPORTANT: Commencement Ceremony Write-up and Photo Request

As mentioned above, each graduand has a write-up read about them during the commencement ceremony. This write-up need not be lengthy, but because this is a distance learning school, it's nice to learn a little bit about you and your accomplishments. Reveal as much or as little as you wish about why you joined Vista Virtual School, your most memorable achievement, favourite courses, favourite pastimes, events you'd like to remember, future hopes and dreams, and thank yous. Please write this information in paragraph form using 3rd person (Don't say "I am planning to work", say "He (or she) or use your name is planning to work". Please also include how your first and last name are pronounced so we don't mess it up when we are introducing you. :-)

Because there is also a slideshow presentation during this evening, we'd like you to send two pictures: one of you in your childhood and one more current photo. Please send these photos in digital format only. Both your write up and your photos need to be sent to Miss Seward (aletta.seward@phrd.ab.ca) no later than May 24/19.

IMPORTANT: Dress Code and Cap and Gown Size Needed

The suggestion we give is that graduands follow a semi-formal dress code for the evening. That being said, some graduands wear formal dresses and suits, but that is not an expectation for the evening.

After dinner is finished, graduands will be given a gown and cap to wear for the ceremony itself. **As such, you need to let Miss Seward know ahead of time what your height and weight are, (no, this won't be read out at the ceremony) so that she can get a gown that fits you properly.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask! We look forward to celebrating your success!!

Aletta Seward and Jady Menjivar
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1-855-974-5333 ext. 6112 or 6202