



West Point

FACT SHEET

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
WEST POINT, NEW YORK 10996
(845) 938-2006/4261 FAX: (845) 446-5820

Graduation 2005 Questions and Responses

BAR PINNINGS

Where do the bar pinnings take place, when?

Please ask your cadet. The location of bar pinning ceremonies vary, and they may begin as soon as your cadet has completed final clearing after graduation.

CONSTITUTION ISLAND

How do I get to Constitution Island?

Constitution Island can be reached by boat from the South Dock. The post shuttle will include a stop at South Dock 12:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. May 25th and May 26th. The boat departs every half hour from 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm on these days.

DRESS

What should I wear for the banquet and hop?

The civilian dress for these events is formal. The suggested dress for men is a tuxedo or conservative business suit and a long or short formal dress for ladies.

What should I wear for the Graduation ceremony?

The suggested civilian dress is a business suit or coat & tie for men and afternoon dress or suit for ladies. Please note that umbrellas, backpacks and coolers will not be allowed into the stadium.

ENTERING WEST POINT

What gate should I enter?

Guests should use the Thayer or Stony Lonesome gates to enter the Military Academy grounds. Washington Gate is reserved for only those with DoD decals on their vehicles and with military or civilian DoD identification.

What kind of security should I expect?

Individuals age 16 or older are required to show photo IDs. When approaching the gates, please have IDs out and ready to present to the gate guards. All vehicles are subject to search.

EVENTS PRIOR TO GRADUATION

What time is the graduation parade?

The graduation parade is at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, May 27. It will be cancelled only in the event of severe inclement weather.

What if I don't have a ticket for the graduation parade?

You may stand along the walkways, except for the south and west sides.

Where will my cadet be standing during the graduation parade?

1st Regiment will be near sections A, B & C; 2nd Regiment will be near sections D, E & F; 3rd Regiment will be near sections G, H & I; 4th Regiment will be near section I, J & K, and Brigade Staff will be near the Superintendent's Review Box and Stands (seating in these sections is by invitation only).

How can I meet/find my cadet after the graduation parade?

You should prearrange to meet your cadet near the area his or her company was standing or some other specific place.

What time is the Graduation Banquet? Who may attend the banquet?

The graduation banquet in the Cadet Mess (Bldg 745) begins at 7 p.m., and ends at 8:30 p.m. 3 tickets are distributed to each graduating cadet. Anyone with a ticket may attend.

Where on post can I eat if I don't have a ticket to the Banquet?

The West Point Club and Thayer Hotel will be serving dinner. Tickets must be purchased by your cadet in advance.

Are there any TV viewing areas for the Graduation Banquet for those who do not have a ticket?

Limited overflow seating with a video link of the banquet in the Cadet Mess will be available in the West Point Club (Bldg. 603) and the Thayer Hotel. Tickets are also required for this seating. In addition the banquet will be televised on the Command Channel, local (West Point only) channels 8 and 23.

What time is the Graduation Hop? Where is it held? Who can attend the Hop?

The Hop begins at 8:30 p.m. and runs to 1:00 a.m.; it is held in the ballroom at Eisenhower Hall. Anyone may attend the Hop. No tickets are required.

What time is the Awards Convocation? Where is it?

The ceremony will be held at 2 p.m. in Eisenhower Hall Theatre.

Can I go there if my cadet isn't getting an award?

Yes.

What are some other events I can attend on Friday?

The following sites are open on Friday:

- Nininger Hall, Bldg. 747, which includes the 1st Division period rooms and the honor courtroom, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- The USMA Bookstore, Thayer Hall, 4th floor, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- The USMA Library, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- The Museum and Gift Shop at Pershing Center, Olmsted Hall, 9:30 a.m. – 5:45 p.m.
- The Visitors Center and Gift Shop in Pershing Center, Bldg 2107, 9 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.
- Fort Putnam, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., May 22 – 28 only

FACILITIES

Where is the nearest bathroom to the parade field?

Johnson Stadium. There are additional facilities near the Kosciuszko Monument and below Trophy Point.

FIRST AID

If I need first aid where is it available?

The Military Police can assist in any emergency.

For reviews, an ambulance and medic are stationed at Daly Field.

For graduation, a first aid station is at Gate 3 of Michie Stadium. An ambulance is also stationed there. Medics will “rove” the stadium, should anyone require assistance. They can be identified by the red cross on white brassard (arm band) they wear.

FOOD

Where can I get some lunch or dinner?

There are restaurants lining the main street of Highland Falls, just south of Thayer Gate.

*The following on-post facilities are available for cadets and their guests **only**:*

Eisenhower Hall

Saturday – Tuesday

Closed

Wednesday –Friday

8:00 am – 11:30 pm

Grant Hall

Sunday

Noon – 10:00 pm

Monday – Friday

7:00 am – 9:00 pm

Saturday

7:30 am – 10:00 am

Firstie Club

Wednesday – Friday	11:30 am – 1:30 pm
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West Point Club

Monday – Friday	11:00 am – 1:30 pm
Thursday Dinner*	
Pierce Dining Room	5:00 pm – 9:00 pm
Benny Haven’s Lounge	4:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Sunday Brunch	10:00 am, Noon seatings

The following restaurants are available to the general public:

Bistro (Bldg. 683, Adjacent to West Point Cemetery)

Monday – Friday	6:00 am – 5:00 pm
Saturday	8:00 am – 1:00 pm
Sunday	Closed

Burger King (Bldg. 1204, PX Mall)

Monday – Saturday	9:00 am – 7:00 pm
Sunday	10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Seattle’s Best

Monday – Friday	10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Saturday	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Sunday	10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Lil’ Skeeters Smoke House BBQ at the Bowling Center (Bldg. 622)

Sunday	1:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Monday	4:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Wednesday	11:30 am – 1:00 pm 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Friday	11:30 am – 10:00 pm
Saturday	11:30 am – 10:00 pm

The Thayer Hotel

Breakfast	7:00 am – 10:30 am
Lunch	11:30 am – 2:30 pm
Dinner	5:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Saturday Post Graduation Lunch*	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Sunday Brunch	9:30 am – 2:00 pm

***RESERVATIONS REQUIRED**

GRADUATION DAY***How do I get a copy of the parents’ graduation booklet and/or a map?***

Downloadable versions of the parents’ graduation booklet and/or a map are available at:
<http://www.usma.edu/publicaffairs/graduation2005/grad2005.htm>

Do I need a ticket to attend graduation?

Yes, to sit in the sections reserved for family and friends a ticket is required. Cadets are given 10 tickets for this reserved seating. Additional tickets for general seating can be obtained at the gates.

What time do the gates open?

For graduation day, Michie Stadium gates will open at 7:00 a.m.

What time does Graduation begin?

The Graduating Class enters Michie Stadium at 8:40 a.m. The Graduation exercises will begin at 9:00 a.m. Graduation ceremonies will begin on time. You can avoid long lines by arriving early and being prepared to present proper identification.

How long does the graduation ceremony last?

Approximately 1½ hours.

Who is this year's graduation guest speaker?

General Richard B. Myers, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Can I bring my pet to Graduation or to parades?

No. Only Seeing Eye dogs (or other assisted aid dogs) are allowed. You can board your dog at Morgan Farm Kennels (845) 938-3926. *Advance reservations are required.*

Is food sold at the stadium on graduation day?

Yes. Once the gates open food and drink will be sold. It will not be sold during the diploma presentation period.

What if it rains for graduation ceremony?

Graduation will be held rain or shine at Michie Stadium. Seating is not in protected areas. Be prepared with appropriate clothing and sunscreen. Please note that umbrellas are not allowed in the stadium.

Where will the graduation ceremony be held in severe inclement weather?

In the event of severe weather the ceremony will be held in Eisenhower Hall. **Only those holding inclement weather tickets will be admitted to this ceremony because of very limited seating.** Each cadet receives 2 inclement weather graduation tickets.

Overflow seating is provided with the graduation ceremony televised in Robinson Auditorium and select classrooms, both in Thayer Hall. Additional viewing sites include Michie and Kendrick Auditoriums in Bartlett Hall and Washington Hall.

Staff and Faculty are reminded that Eisenhower Hall locations are for families and guests only.

Graduation exercises will also be shown live on local (West Point only) channels 8 and 23.

When can underclass cadets depart for summer leave?

Generally, underclass cadets may depart for summer leave upon completion of their official duties and the graduation ceremony. Check with your cadet for further details.

Where can I pick up my cadet after Graduation?

If your cadet is a member of the classes of 2006, 2007 or 2008, you should arrange to meet at either Clinton Field or Doubleday lots after the Graduation Ceremony. If your cadet is graduating, please make arrangements prior to the ceremony. Bar pinning ceremonies are held at various locations.

MEDIA

I'm a member of the media interested in covering graduation. Who do I contact?

Contact the Public Affairs Office, Public Information Branch, at (845) 938-2006.

I'm a parent covering graduation for my local paper back home. Can I get down on the field for pictures?

No media is allowed on the field without presenting proper credentials. If you have any questions as to what is required, contact Public Affairs, Public Information Branch at (845) 938-2006.

PARKING

Where can I park?

Parking for all events, except graduation, is available in Lots A – F. Parking during graduation exercises is available in Lots D, E, F & H.

Where can I catch the shuttle bus?

Graduation Week Shuttle Bus Schedule

<u>Stop</u>	<u>Minutes after the Hour</u>	
A-Lot (pick up and drop off inside the lot)	0	30
Holleder Center	1	31
Herbert Hall	2	32
Buffalo Soldier Field	3	33
Pershing Center/Spellman Hall	5	35
Hotel Thayer (Exit Ramp)	7	37
Thayer and Mills intersection	8	38
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Mahan Hall	9	39
West Point Club	10	40
Eisenhower Hall	12	42
K-Lot	14	44
H-Lot (Commissary and PX)	29	59

*Wednesday and Thursday between 12:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., the shuttle bus will include a stop at South Dock for boat service to Constitution Island. Buses will cross the railroad tracks, turn and discharge/pickup passengers north of the Harborcraft Building.

Where are spots for handicapped parking?

In addition to regular spots that are delineated by permanent signage, there are designated spots for parking for each graduation event.

For all reviews (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), Clinton Field Lot

For the Awards Convocation, the Eisenhower Hall Tunnel

For the Graduation Banquet at the North Courtyard, by the Gen. MacArthur Monument

For the Graduation exercises, H-lot, by the Commissary

Am I permitted to drop a person off at the stadium if their mobility is impaired?

No. Traffic restrictions make this impossible. Buses equipped for wheelchair transport are available at the handicapped lot (Lot H) by the Commissary.

Where can I park my motor home or travel trailer?

Official parking for motor home and travel trailers is available at Round Pond.

Reservations are required. Alternate parking is available at the North Dock. However, at North Dock, no hook-ups are available and parking is available on a first come, first serve basis. RV owners utilizing the North Dock may empty holding tanks at the sewage treatment plant.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Can I take pictures of my graduate?

Yes, but you may not come onto the floor of the stadium until after the hat toss, at the close of the ceremony.

Is there a commercial photography firm that sells graduation photos?

Yes, Academy Photo at (845) 938-3448 sent out mailings to cadet parents. They will have two video recordings available of graduation sometime in August. Video 1 (VHS only) will show graduation week activities and is \$84.95. Video 2 (DVD only) will have the same activities and will also show your cadet and his/her company receiving their diplomas. Video 2 is \$99.95. In addition, photos of your cadet receiving his/her diploma and the hat toss will be available in August. There is a \$4.00 shipping fee charged by Academy Photo.

SECURITY

What kind of security should I expect?

Individuals age 16 or older are required to show photo ID's. When approaching the gates, please have IDs out and ready to present to the gate guards. All vehicles are subject to search.

Are there restrictions as to what I can bring into Michie Stadium for graduation?

Yes, due to increased security, items such as large bags, coolers, wrapped packages, backpacks and umbrellas will not be allowed into Michie Stadium. Please plan accordingly.

TICKETS

Where can I get additional tickets for the parade or graduation?

Should there be any extra tickets for either event, they will be at the information booth.

TOURS

Can we tour the cadet barracks?

No, this is cadet living area and is closed to the public. Cadets may request exceptions through their tactical officer.

Is the Superintendent's or Commandant's home open for tours?

A guided tour of the Superintendent's home is available to all guests of the Superintendent's Reception. LTG Lennox invites you to attend both the reception and the house tour; the tour will be available for an additional 45 minutes after the last reception ends. Self-guided tours are available all day. Transportation is provided between Eisenhower Hall and the Superintendent's quarters.

TRAFFIC

Why is there so much traffic on post?

We expect approximately 10,000 people to attend graduation week events. In addition, various roads and parking lots will be closed on an event-by-event basis, leading to greater than usual traffic congestion.

WATER

Where can I get water?

Various locations around post offer bottled water. Water will be available from concessionaires along Daly Field during the Graduation parade. There are water fountains behind the stands at the parade grounds. Michie Stadium will have water bottles for sale during graduation.

What if it rains during the graduation ceremony?

Graduation will be held rain or shine at Michie Stadium. Seating is not in protected areas. Be prepared with appropriate clothing and sunscreen. Please note that umbrellas are not allowed in the stadium.

However, in the event of severe weather, the ceremony will be held in Eisenhower Hall. **Only those holding tickets will be admitted to this ceremony because of limited seating.** Each graduating cadet will receive 2 inclement weather tickets. Overflow seating via closed circuit television is available in Robinson Auditorium and select classrooms, both in Thayer Hall. Additional viewing sites include Michie and Kendrick Auditorium in Bartlett Hall and Washington Hall.

Graduation exercises will also be shown live on local (West Point only) channels 8 and 23.