

SEVERE WEATHER CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR MAY 14 and 15 CEREMONIES

As Spring weather in Texas is highly unpredictable, SMU has developed a weather contingency plan that will be used to move the All-University Commencement Convocation indoors if the Friday evening forecast calls for severe weather on the morning of Saturday, May 15.

Graduating students will be notified by text and SMU email by 9 p.m. Friday, May 14, if a weather-related venue change appears likely. **A final decision would then be made and shared via text and SMU email shortly after 5 a.m. Saturday.**

Graduating students and their guests are encouraged to check **this site** and SMU social media after 9 p.m. Friday and again after 5 a.m. Saturday to prepare for any changes.

Moving the 8 a.m. All-University Commencement Convocation from Ford Stadium indoors to Moody Coliseum will occur *only* if the National Weather Service forecast calls for a high probability of severe thunderstorms. Rain, alone, will not prompt a change in plans.

Because safety must be the University's first priority, no indoor venue on campus – if needed – is large enough to accommodate all of our graduates *and their guests* while maintaining the social distancing recommended by the CDC for indoor events. As a result, **if severe weather does force a venue change, guests will need to make plans to watch the 8 a.m. all-university ceremony online** at smu.edu/live from the comfort of their homes or hotel rooms instead of attending in-person.

However, guests still will have the opportunity to attend the smaller school and college degree recognition ceremonies scheduled throughout the day Saturday, regardless of weather.

Outdoor School Ceremonies

Degree Recognition Ceremonies for Cox School of Business, Dedman College, and Lyle School of Engineering currently planned for Ford Stadium on Friday and Saturday, will relocate to Armstrong Fieldhouse in case of severe weather.

Administrators will notify graduating students of any weather-driven location changes no fewer than 2 hours prior to the start of the ceremonies.

The University sincerely hopes that it will not be necessary to move the 8 a.m. Saturday all-university ceremony indoors, and will make the decision based on the best information available Friday evening and Saturday morning.