

# V-rak-ke-ce-tv

## Graduation & Recognition Ceremony



The Center for Leadership & Social Change  
The Center for Academic Retention and Enhancement  
Student Governance & Advocacy  
University Housing  
Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life

Every semester, representatives from the Center for Leadership and Social Change, CARE, Student Government & Advocacy, University Housing, and the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life come together to plan the Cultural Graduation to honor you all as the graduating class! This has been a long standing tradition since 2012 and continues to grow every year.



# V-rak-ke-ce-tv

(Uh-tha-key-chee-tuh)

I know you have seen this word on the registration site and the actual application but are not sure how to pronounce the word. This word is pronounced UH-THA-KEY-CHEE-TUH. It is a Seminole word meaning to honor, which is what we do each semester - honor you all as the graduating class through the cultural lens of the Seminole Tribe.

# Spring 2015 Ceremony



Here is a short video that provides more explanation behind the ceremony. It's a great way to get a feel for the ceremony if you have not been to one before:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ-nnzuxwT0>

# Event Information

**Date:** April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Time:** 6:00-8:00PM

**Graduates arrive at 5pm- Check in at Moore Auditorium**

- Doors open at 5:30PM for guests
- Reception starts directly after ceremony

**Location:** Oglesby Union Ballrooms

**Guests:** 4 invitations per person

**Student Attire:** Graduation Regalia, Cocktail wear

**Guest Attire:** Cocktail wear

This semester's ceremony will take place the evening of Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. I understand that this is the last day of exams, so if you know you may be late due to an exam, work, or any other obligation, please email us ASAP so that we can accommodate you when you do arrive. The ceremony will begin promptly at 6pm and will go until about 8pm. As a participating graduate, you must arrive at 5PM and check in at Moore Auditorium! There you will receive any information you need the night of. Doors will open at 5:30pm, so that is the earliest your guests and loved ones can come to the ballroom and begin picking out seats. There will be a small reception directly after the ceremony. The reception will only be light refreshments and small d'oeuvres; it will not be a full course meal. With that in mind, I would recommend you eat BEFORE arriving to the ceremony. Since you'll be arriving at 5pm, and won't be leaving until around 8/8:30pm, you may get hungry in between so please plan accordingly.

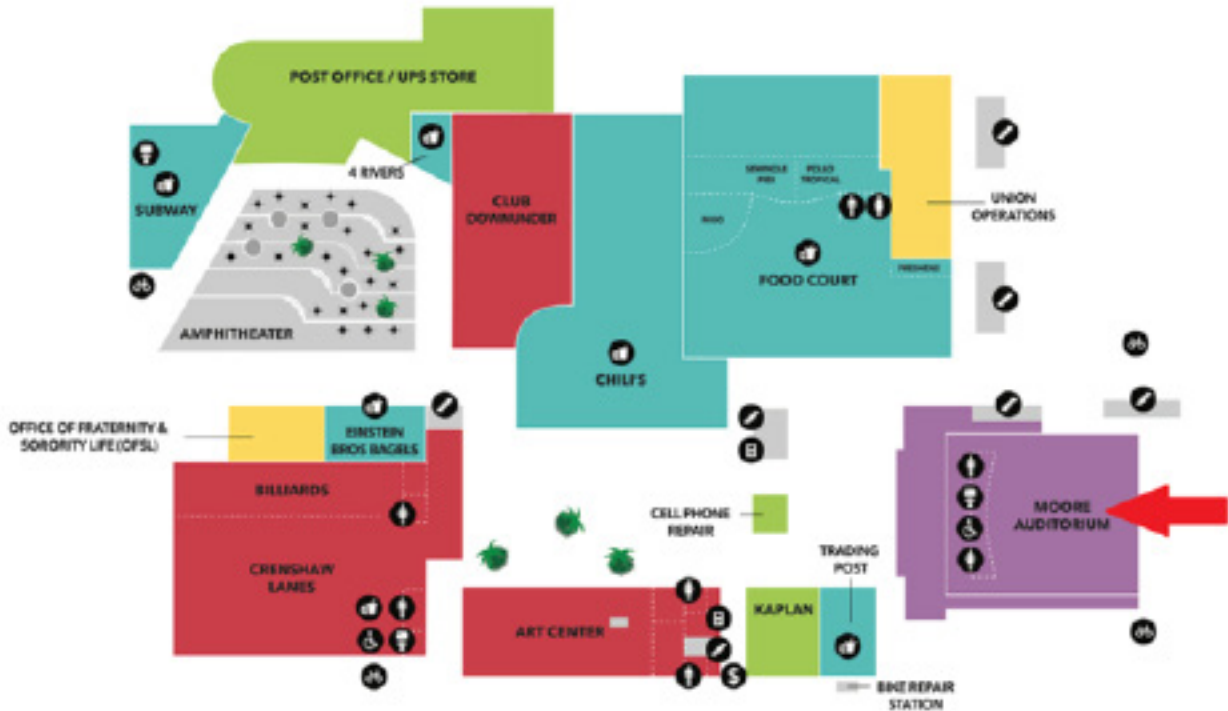
The ceremony will take place in the Union Ballrooms. We'll be taking up the entire space for both the ceremony and reception. As a participating graduate, you get to invite 4 guests on your behalf. This number includes the person that will stolon you that evening. The reason we do limit the number of people you invite is because we are limited on space.

As a participating graduate, you must wear your graduation regalia (cap and gown) and cocktail attire underneath. We will have dignified guests there including the Vice President of Student Affairs, deans of college, etc. so we do want make this a nice affair.

Let your guests know as well that it is also cocktail wear for the ceremony.

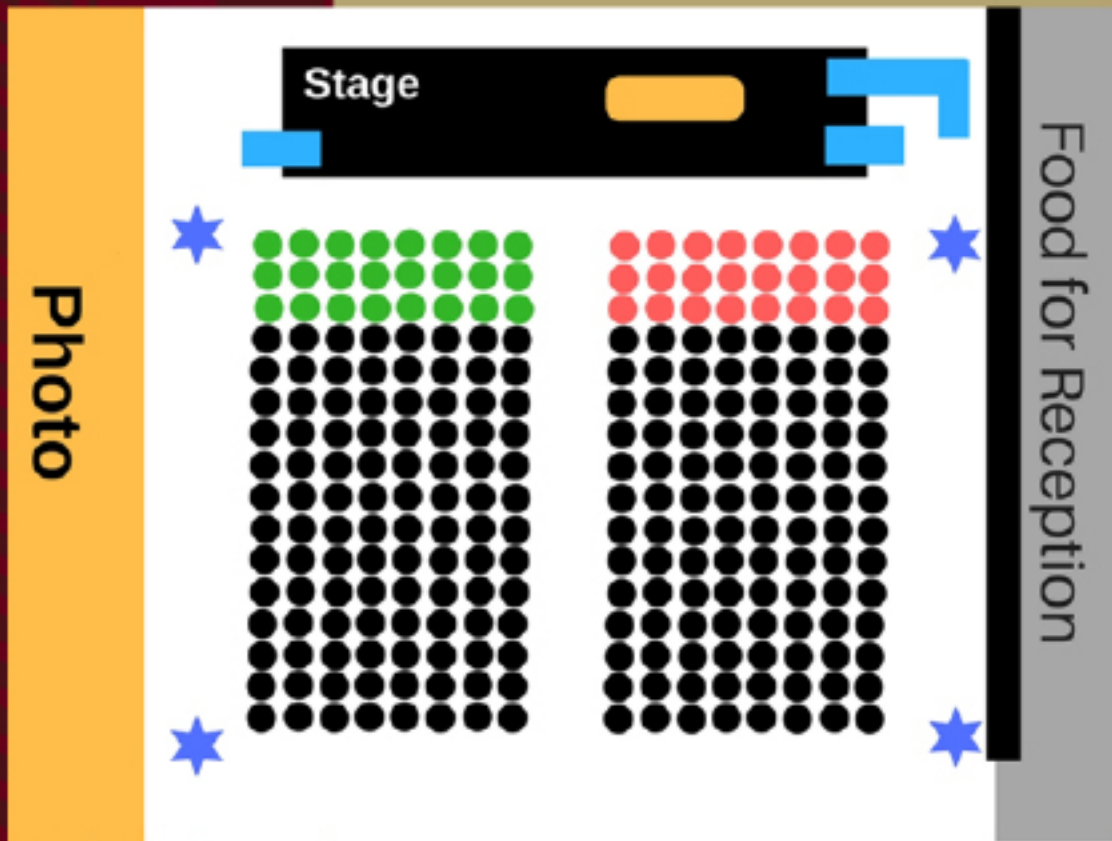
# Check-In

## FIRST FLOOR



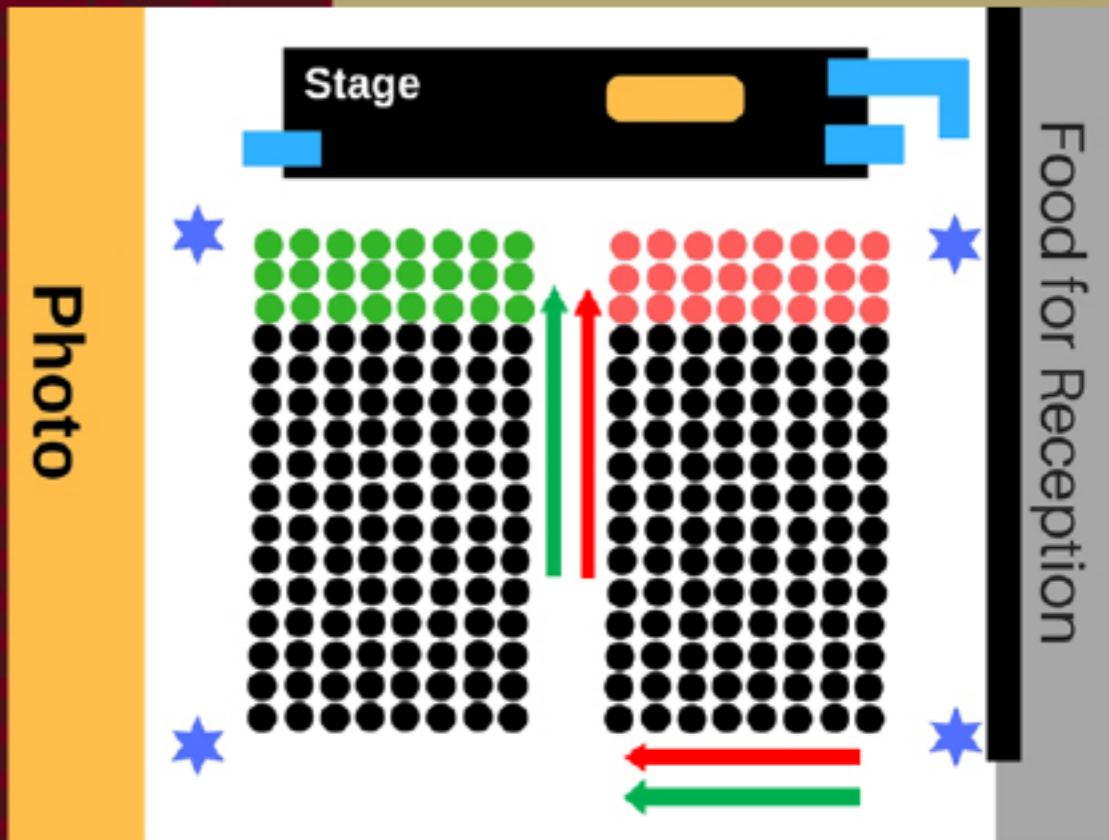
The ceremony will be held in the Union Ballroom. In particular when it is time for you to check in at that night at 5pm, you will check in at MOORE AUDITORIUM. There we will give you your name card that includes your name pronunciation guide, the name of your stoler, and your seat number.

# Ceremony Layout



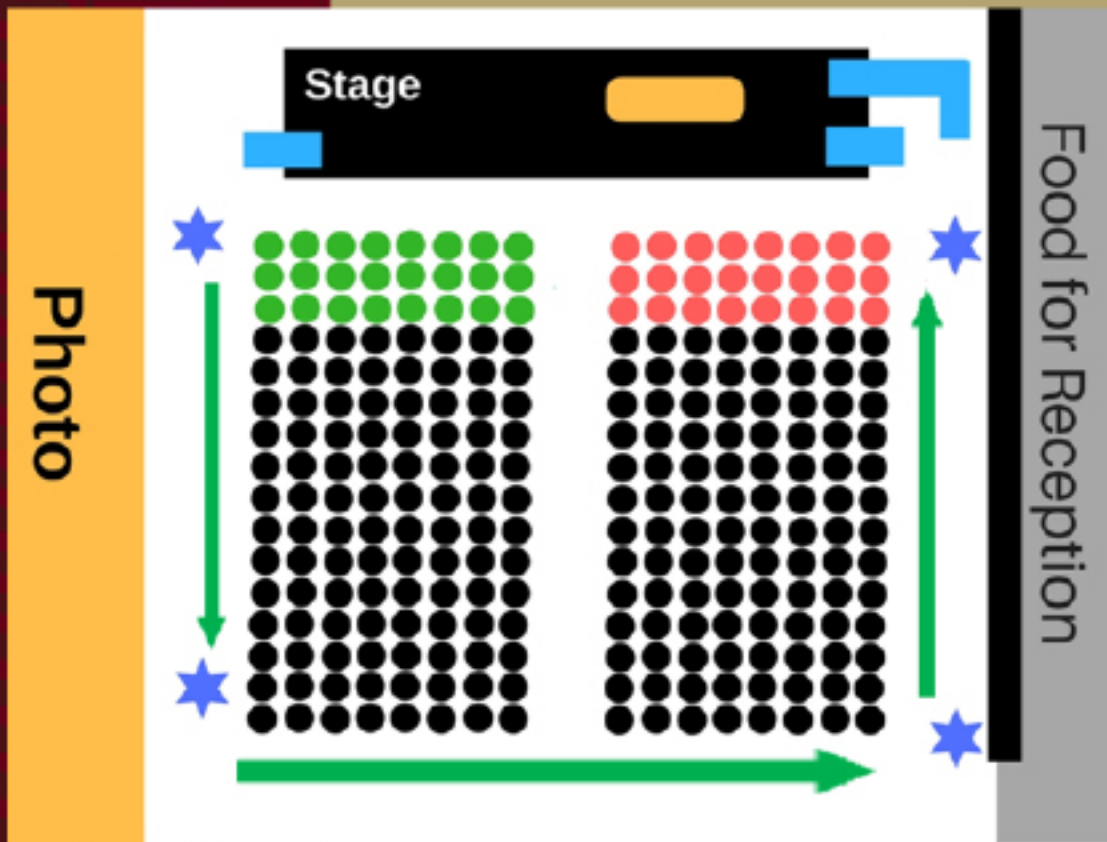
This is the layout of what the ballroom will look like the night of the ceremony. The red and green dots represent where you all as graduates will be sitting. The green dots on the left stage typically are where people with last names at the beginning of the alphabet will sit. On the right side, symbolized with the red dots, is typically where those at the end of the alphabet sit. When you check in that evening, you will receive your name card. That name card will have a seat number in the upper right hand corner so worst case scenario, if you get lost or not sure where to go when the ceremony begins, go off the number on the card and find the appropriate seat. So if your name card says #37, you know that when the ceremony starts you need to be in seat 37. All the seats will be labeled with their numbers appropriately. Also, the purple stars are where you will be able to find a volunteer at all times in case you are in need or have an immediate question.

# Enter Ceremony



When it is time for the ceremony to begin, volunteers will get everyone in order based on last name, split into two lines. When the time comes, we will direct everyone to come around the back and process down the middle aisle together. Depending on your last name you'll either go towards the left, where the beginning of the alphabet will be seated, or to the right, where the end of the alphabet will be seated.

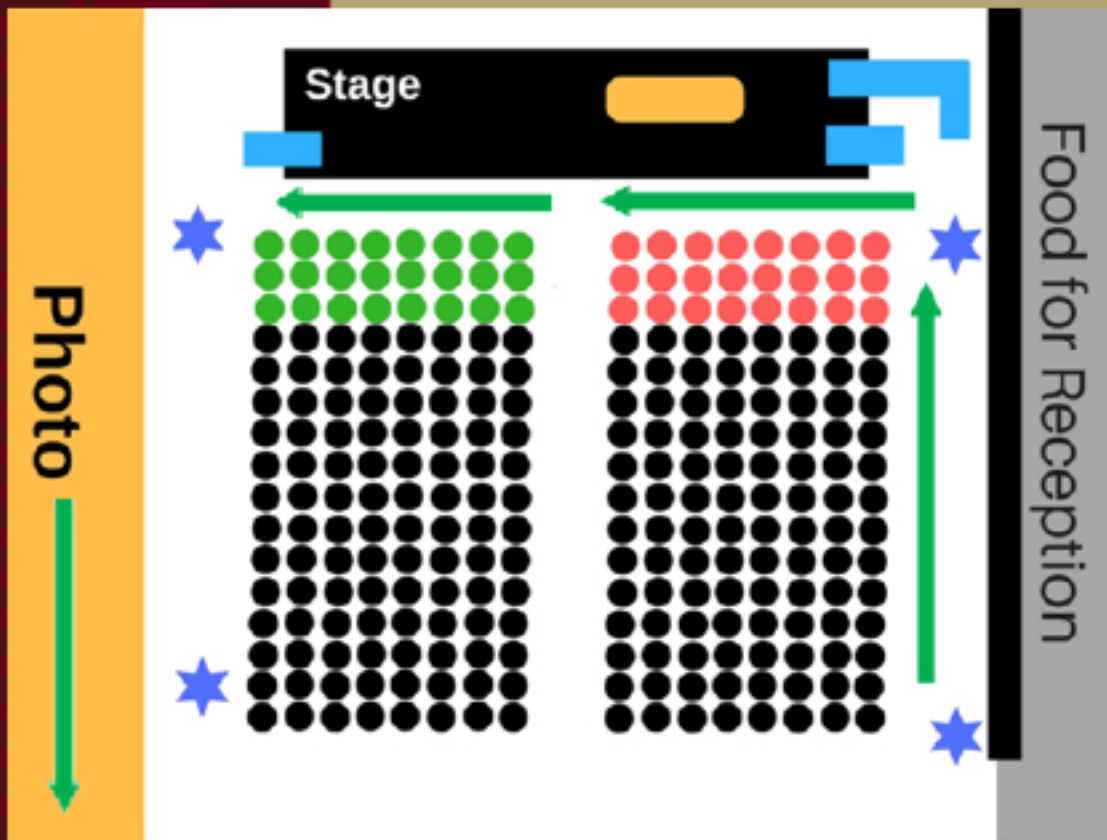
# Green Line-Up



When it is time to head to the stage, a volunteer will signal to your row that is time to rise. Collectively as a row, you will stand up together. If you are on the left side, which is the beginning of the alphabet, you will rise first. As a row you will stand up, process down the side aisle, come around the back, and line up parallel to the food and reception area. From there, there will be a volunteer at the end of the stairs (represented by the blue star on the upper right-corner) that will direct you all one at a time when it is time for you and your stoler to head onto the stage together.

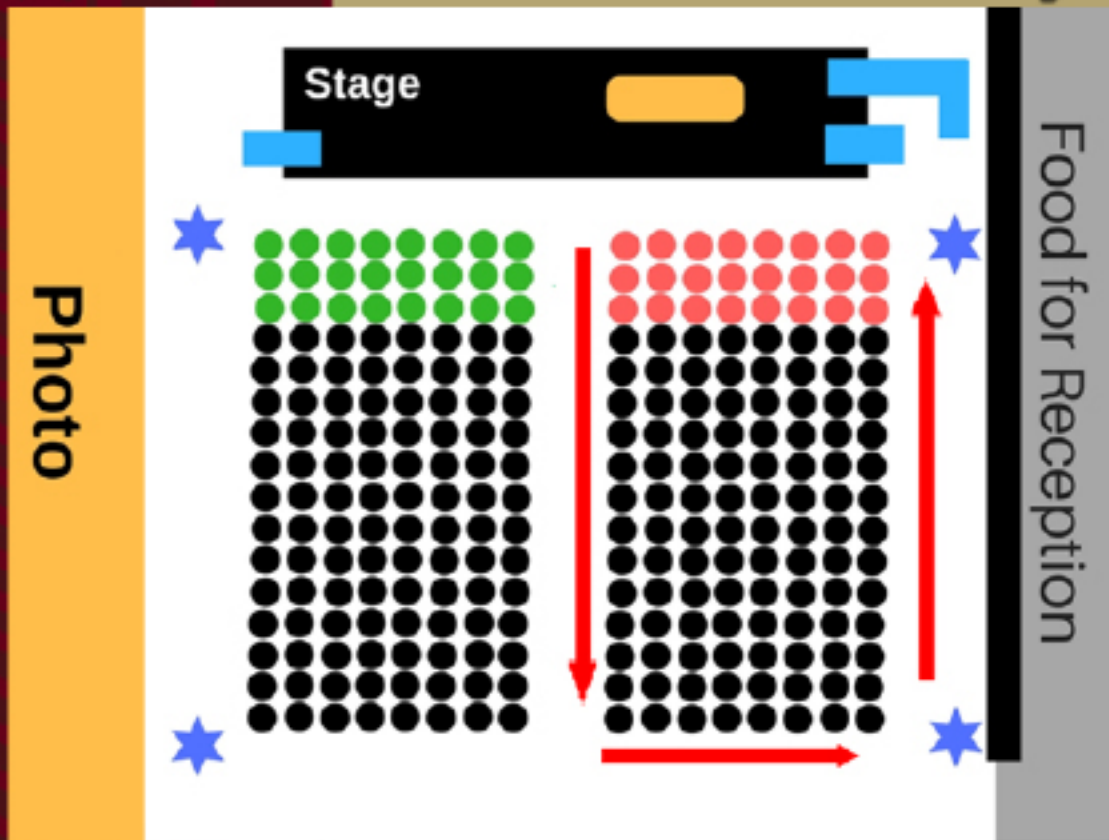


# Green Crosses Stage



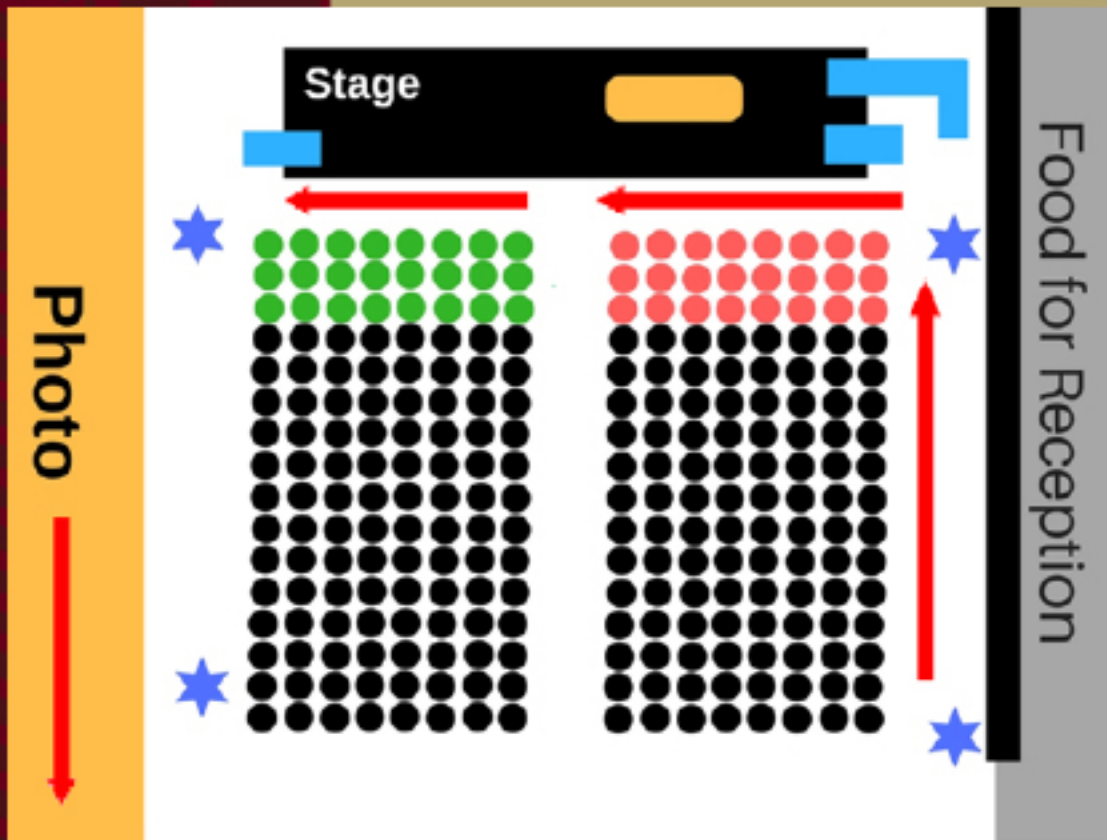
When the volunteer gives you the signal, together with your stoler you will head onto the stage and stop halfway. At that time, this is where you have your 'moment.' More than likely your loved ones will be applauding, cheering you on and taking pictures. With that being said, you want to make sure that your back is not facing the crowd and that you are not covering your face. Your stoler will grab a stole from behind them on the designated table on stage, place it around your shoulders and drape it to your front. After you've had your moment, you will exit stage left, walk down the side far left of the ballroom, and take a picture at the end of the aisle. The photo will be with you and your chosen stoler. Since we are very limited on time during the ceremony, we only have time to take one picture; however if you would to take more, you are more than welcome to at the end of the ceremony. After you take your photo, your stoler will head back to their appropriate seat and you will process down the middle aisle to get back to your seat.

# Red Line-Up



If you are the red side - so the end of the alphabet - your directions are very similar. The only difference: when it is time for you to line up, you will stand up collectively as a row, process down the middle aisle, come around the back of the ballroom and line up parallel to the food and reception area. From there the steps stay the same!

# Red Crosses Stage



When signaled you'll head onto the stage with your stoler. Both you and your stoler will stop halfway, have your moment, your stoler will drape the stole in front of you, then exit stage left. Once off the stage, you and your stoler will head to the back to the photo area and take a picture. Once you have taken the photo, you and your stoler will head back to your appropriate seats.

# Stoler Involvement

- When it is your turn to line up, please notify your guest that this is the time they should join you in line
- Have the individual stand on your right hand side
- You will walk center with your guest. At this time they will take a stole off a table and put it on you
- The guest will then follow you to shake hands with representatives of FSU
- The guests will then follow you around to take a photo and head back to your appropriate seats

In terms of stoler involvement, be sure to tell your stoler this VERY tip: when they see you stand up during the ceremony, they need to stand up as well! This is their first cue that it is time for you to head on stage and they need to join you. Once your stoler sees you in line waiting to head onto to the stage, they will simply join you in line on your right hand side. From there, they will follow the exact same steps that you follow. They will go on stage with you, stop halfway, grab a stole from the designated table on stage, drape it over your shoulders, exit the stage, head to the back for photos, and then go back to their seats.

These instructions will be emailed to them, but as a second reinforcement of the information, please let them know to join you in line immediately after they see you stand up!

# Questions?

If you have any questions about these instructions, or about the ceremony in general, please feel free to reach out to Satcha Sanon at [ssanon@fsu.edu](mailto:ssanon@fsu.edu) or Kenya Shakir at [kshakir@fsu.edu](mailto:kshakir@fsu.edu).

# Sign In

[https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_cuJT5g0QvAmj3s9](https://fsu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cuJT5g0QvAmj3s9)



Make sure to scan the QR code above and sign in so that we know you completed this orientation! Have a great rest of the semester and happy graduation!