

Marist College 2021 Commencement Ceremony Code of Conduct

Marist is permitted to hold a graduation ceremony for the Class of 2021 only if all attendees abide by the following policies, which are based on New York State guidelines regulating commencement ceremonies.

Marist is making the most of the allowances provided in the guidance, but there is no room for noncompliance. Any attendee who violates any of the following policies will be forced to permanently leave the ceremony site. No more than one warning will be given.

We urge everyone in attendance to let the focus remain on the Class of 2021 by not being a distraction. This ceremony is intended to honor their achievements.

Social Distancing

According to New York State guidelines, all attendees must maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other individuals except for members of the same party/household/family.

Congregation of groups in any area on the Marist campus, including entrances and exits, is strictly forbidden.

Masks

All attendees must wear an appropriate masks. Masks must:

- Be worn at all times when on the Marist campus, including the ceremony site
- Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
- Be clean
- Cover the nose and mouth completely
- Fit snugly against the face without any gaps

Gaiters, bandanas, and face shields are not acceptable facial coverings.

COVID-free Environment

New York State guidelines strictly control who may be permitted onto the ceremony site. Without exception, all attendees must have one of the following:

- Proof of having completed the COVID-19 vaccination series at least 14 days prior to the date of the event.
- Proof of a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 90 days and full recovery.
- A negative diagnostic test result for COVID-19 using a Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or DOH authorized polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or other nucleic acid amplification test (NAATs) of comparable analytical sensitivity performance that was performed on a specimen (e.g., swab) collected within 72 hours of the event.

According to New York State guidelines, “Any individual who fails to present a negative diagnostic test result or proof of immunization, as required, must be denied entry to the event.”

Hand Hygiene

All attendees are expected to practice good hand-washing hygiene (washing after touching eyes, nose, or mouth); covering a sneeze or cough; washing after blowing nose, sneezing, or coughing; washing after touching contaminated surfaces; using hand sanitizer if hand washing facilities are not available.

Shaking hands is not permitted.

Directional Flow and Seating

Attendees must follow one-way directional traffic flow. Chairs cannot be moved.

Restrooms and Refreshments

According to New York State guidelines, Marist must “reduce restroom occupancy” and “provide no refreshments,” to the extent practicable. Therefore, only water will be offered to graduates, and restrooms will be open in the Murray Student Center and Marian Hall.

Attendees are permitted to remove masks momentarily to take sips of beverage or quick bites of food. This should be infrequent and only as absolutely necessary for personal health.

Alcohol

Alcohol is not permitted before or during Commencement exercises.

Aerosols

Attendees must refrain from yelling or other activities that elevate the emission of aerosols.

Contact Tracing

Attendees must notify reopening@marist.edu if they test positive for COVID-19 at any time up to 14 days following the ceremony.

Attendees must cooperate with any contact tracing efforts related to the ceremony.