

Protocol 1044 Graduation

Protocol Number: 1044

Effective Date: 12/02/19

Revised Dates: 6/8/2021, 12/13/2022; 07/30/2025

Protocol

GSSIMR holds one graduation event each academic year at the Stowers Institute for Medical Research (SIMR). The exact date is listed on each Academic Calendar. All arrangements for the graduation event are made by GSSIMR staff.

Graduates

Graduates who have completed or will complete their Ph.D. during the particular academic year (August – July) are invited to participate in the graduation events. If a graduate is not able to attend graduation for their academic year of completion, they are invited to attend and participate in graduation the following year. All graduates receive their diplomas when they complete their Ph.D. degrees; thus, they are given a certificate instead of the diploma at the graduation ceremony.

If a graduate has completed their Ph.D. and moved from the Kansas City area prior to graduation, GSSIMR arranges and pays for their round-trip travel and up to three nights' lodging in Kansas City for dates immediately surrounding graduation. Graduates' guests' travel arrangements and expenses are their responsibility.

Attendees

Graduates are invited to include a reasonable number of family and guests in the graduation events. GSSIMR coordinates with the graduates to include family and guests in particular events of graduation.

GSSIMR president, dean, vice dean, board members, graduates' thesis advisors, and faculty participate in the graduation ceremony. All GSSIMR predoctoral researchers and all members of the graduates' labs are invited to attend, as well as the larger SIMR community.

Regalia

Academic regalia is worn by graduates; GSSIMR president, dean, and vice dean; GSSIMR faculty, including graduates' thesis advisors; and anyone else who has a role in the graduation ceremony. GSSIMR board members, teaching faculty, and staff wear business-appropriate attire instead of regalia at the ceremony. Participants in the ceremony who own doctoral-level regalia from their alma mater may wear it. GSSIMR rents full doctoral regalia (i.e., robe, hood, tam, tassel) for those who need it, and they may wear their alma mater's hood or GSSIMR's. GSSIMR's designated hood is black crepe with Ph.D. blue velvet, old gold (signifying science) satin background, and white satin chevron. GSSIMR rents regalia for the graduates and

purchases GSSIMR hoods for them as gifts. Rental and GSSIMR regalia are stored in the GSSIMR office, distributed the morning of graduation, and must be returned to GSSIMR by the end of graduation day.

Photography and Recording

GSSIMR arranges for professional photography of the events and video recording of the ceremony. Graduates are given digital copies of the events' photos and a copy of the video.