

FACT SHEET

The Class of 2014 and the History of The George Washington University's Commencement

About the Class of 2014

- 2,393: Members of the Class of 2014 entered GW in 2010.
- 1960: Average SAT score.
- 45: U.S. states represented by the Class of 2014.
- 43: Countries represented by the Class of 2014.

History of GW's Commencement

- The tradition for an outdoor, university-wide Commencement began in 1992 and was the first such celebration for all graduates in nearly two decades. Previously, individual schools held their own graduation celebrations at on-campus locations, as well as at other Washington, D.C., landmarks, such as DAR Constitution Hall and the National Theater.
- The George Washington University's first Commencement took place in 1824 when the institution was known as Columbian College and located on College Hill in upper northwest D.C. bordered by 14th and 15th streets, Florida Avenue and Columbia Road. This Commencement was held at the F Street Presbyterian Church, now the site of Washington, D.C.'s Willard Hotel. Gilbert du Motier, the Marquis de Lafayette, was the invited speaker.
- From 1992 through 2005, GW held its Commencement on the Ellipse, with views of the White House and the Washington Monument. In 2006, Commencement moved to the National Mall (between 4th and 7th streets, NW) due to renovations on the Ellipse. This year, GW's university-wide Commencement will take place on the National Mall, between 7th and 14th streets, NW.
- To complement Commencement on the National Mall, GW's 10 academic schools hold individual celebrations for students and their families during Commencement weekend.