

Preface: Indiana University South Bend's 2023 Commencement ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 9. The event takes place at the Joyce Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. In past years, the procession began at 6 pm, students were asked to report at 4 pm, and staff get there even earlier to set up the place.

RESOLUTION ON COMMENCEMENT TIMING

IU South Bend Academic Senate

January 2023

WHEREAS the proposed timing of Commencement begins the event in the morning of a weekday; and

WHEREAS most of the students at IU South Bend are working to put themselves through college with as little debt as possible, often at jobs that require their presence during daytime hours; and

WHEREAS general admission to the ceremony is unticketed and doors will open one hour before Commencement begin, family and friends wishing to celebrate their loved one's accomplishments will need to arrive at the Notre Dame campus by 9 am or earlier on a weekday when most are likely scheduled to work; and

WHEREAS the earlier start time directly conflicts with the hours during which family members (children as well as younger siblings) who may wish to attend are instead expected to be present at school;

WHEREAS staff of IU South Bend support student efforts but would be forced to leave campus offices unstaffed if attending Commencement to celebrate and use personal time to get off from work; and

WHEREAS IU South Bend prides itself on recognizing, supporting, and advocating for the large number of students who are first generation, minority, with working class parent, or are parents themselves, and therefore would be unable to attend commencement without significant disruption and unnecessary inconvenience to their schedules, effectively putting a hurdle in the way of those we say we are trying to help;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the faculty of IU South Bend strongly urge the President of Indiana University to reconsider the unfortunate timing of the 2023 Spring Commencement ceremony so as not to deny or reduce the celebration of the graduates, their friends and family, and the well-wishers from the campus.