1. When and where is Graduation?

Graduation for the Class of 2015 will be held on Sunday, June 28th at 10:30 a.m. in the Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier in Chicago.

2. Where is Navy Pier located?

Navy Pier
600 Grand Ave.
Chicago, IL 60011

3. How do I get to Navy Pier?

Many people find that it is easiest to drive to Navy Pier because early on a Sunday morning, traffic is very light. Be sure to check local traffic and construction information the morning of Graduation to ensure that you arrive on time. Click here for construction and traffic updates and here for directions.

4. Where should we park at Navy Pier and what does it cost?

Parking at Navy Pier is $25 and you want to arrive early enough to park in the East Garage, which is closest to the Grand Ballroom. It is a long walk from the parking garages to the Ballroom. The distance from the East (nearer) Garage to the Ballroom is more than the length of a football field. As the East Garage fills up, cars will park further away making the walk longer. There is a drop-off area just beyond the east garage where people who would find it difficult to walk so far can be dropped off. For more information, visit Navy Pier’s website.

5. When should I arrive?

All graduates should arrive in Lake View Terrace no later than 9:15 a.m. Navy Pier is a mile in length and you will check-in at Lake View Terrace, which is at the far east end of Navy Pier, near the Grand Ballroom. Please allow plenty of time to get to Lake View Terrace once you arrive at Navy Pier.

6. What is the attire for Graduation?

Attire for the day is business casual. You will be walking a lot, so wear comfortable shoes that are appropriate for the occasion.

7. Is there a place I can store my purse or other personal effects during the Ceremony?

No. LFGSM cannot provide a secure storage room during the Ceremony. Please leave any valuables with one of your guests.

8. Will Graduation be indoors or outside? How do I plan for the crazy Chicago weather?

Graduation is held inside the Grand Ballroom, but many of our graduates enjoy taking pictures outside after the ceremony with either the city or the lake in the background. Because Navy Pier is a mile in
length, it can be breezy on the Pier and your guests may want a light jacket or sweater. Visit The Weather Channel's website for the latest forecast for Navy Pier and Chicago.

9. How many guests can I bring to Graduation and do I need tickets?

You may bring as many guests as you’d like to celebrate your success at Graduation and you do not need tickets. No tickets will be distributed.

10. If there are no tickets, what can I send to my guests to invite them?

You can order personalized announcements here.

11. What about balloons?

Helium Balloons are not allowed in the Grand Ballroom. Please let your guests know that balloons will not be allowed inside.

12. I have guests with special needs who have difficulty sitting in chairs in rows. Is there any special seating available?

Yes. We have a limited amount of seating for people with special needs (e.g., wheel chair seating). This seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. To reserve special seating, please send an email to Ann Rahn at ARahn@LFGSM.edu with the subject line “LFGSM Graduation: Special Needs Seating Request” and let her know how many special needs seats you will need. All special seating requests must be made by June 1st.

13. Speaking of special needs, some of my guests have great difficulty walking long distance. Can I rent a wheelchair anywhere on Navy Pier?

Navy Pier does not have wheelchairs available for guests. We recommend bringing one with you, if you have one, or renting one from Howard Medical Company, 1600 N. Elston, Chicago, IL or call (773) 278-1440.

14. Are children allowed to attend the LFGSM Graduation Ceremony?

You may bring anyone you wish to celebrate your success, but we ask you to keep the enjoyment of others in mind, as well when planning who to bring. If you have small children who don’t sit still easily, you may want to bring someone who can be responsible for taking them outside, if need be. Strollers will not be allowed in the center aisle.

15. What is the itinerary for Graduation?

9:00 a.m. Grand Ballroom opens. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.
9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Graduates arrive and check-in at Lake View Terrace
9:00 – 10:00 a.m. Pre-ceremony pictures for alumni in corporate groups
10:00 a.m. Specific directions for graduates Lake View Terrace. Graduates only.
10:15 a.m. Line-up
10:30 a.m. Processional begins
16. What time will the ceremony end?
The ceremony will end at approximately noon.

17. Am I LFGSM “Class of 2014” or “Class of 2015”?
All students who complete their degree requirements within the 2014-15 academic year, or are taking their last course in Summer term 2015-16, are considered “Class of 2015”.

18. When will I receive my diploma?
All graduates receive their physical diplomas 2-3 weeks after the Graduation ceremony occurs, whether they attend the ceremony or not.