



**Class of 2016 Graduation Student Speaker and Vocalist  
Information and Guidelines  
Auditions at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 6, 2016, in the Moot Court Room**

**Commencement Information**

- The Student Speaker and Vocalist must be December 2015, May 2016, or December 2016 JD graduates in good academic standing.
- The Student Speaker must take part in the pre-ceremony assembly in Fromm Hall and process into the Church with the members of the Board of Governors, the University President, the Dean, the faculty, and other honored guests. He or she has the option of sitting on the platform or with his or her classmates during the ceremony.
- The Vocalist must take part in the pre-ceremony assembly in Gleeson Hall and process into the Church with his or fellow classmates. He or she will sit with his or her classmates in a reserved seat at the front of the Church before and after the singing. During the ceremony, an organist will play the music for the Star-Spangled Banner, and the Vocalist will lead everyone in singing the Star Spangled Banner.
- The Student Speaker & Vocalist will get in line with their classmates to have their names announced, walk across the platform, receive a graduation scroll, and shake hands with the University President and the Dean.
- The names of the Student Speaker and Vocalist will be listed in the graduation program.

**General Audition Information**

- You must sign-up to audition as the Student Speaker or the Vocalist. The sign-up sheet will be on the counter in front of Megan Watt's desk (Kendrick 328) from March 14-April 1. The deadline to sign-up for an audition is April 1 at noon.
- The order of auditions will be determined by lottery, and the Office of Student Affairs will notify students of their audition time via their USF email account on April 4.
- Be prepared to introduce yourself at the outset of your audition.
- The audition room will include the auditioning student and a selection committee comprising seven graduating JD students chosen by the Graduation Committee and the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The selection committee will select the winner, and a representative of the selection committee will notify the auditioning students of the outcome via their USF email account.

**Student Speaker Audition**

Please bring one copy of your printed speech to the audition for the selection committee. The content of the speech that is delivered at the audition must be identical to the content of the speech that will be delivered at the ceremony.

The maximum allotted time for the student speech is five minutes. A student whose speech reaches five minutes will be given a signal that he or she has 15 seconds to conclude. If a student does not conclude within 15 seconds, the auditioning student will be told to stop and will be disqualified immediately.



The following criteria will be used to select the Student Speaker.

### **Content**

- The speech should be intelligent, eloquent, witty, and original. Clichés should be avoided.
- The purpose of the ceremony is to honor our graduating students and for them to celebrate this momentous achievement with their classmates, friends, and family. The speech should be respectful of all attendees and congratulatory in nature.
- The speaker should have something relevant and significant to say to his or her classmates and attendees.
- The speech should be accessible and easy to understand by those inside and outside of the University. While the primary audience is the students, it is imperative to connect the speech to families and friends in attendance.

### **Effectiveness of Delivery**

- Connection with the audience, stage presence, eye contact
- Articulate and energetic delivery
- Appropriate tone and volume
- Formal, yet conversational delivery style
- Proper grammar and use of vocabulary

### **Vocalist Audition**

Students auditioning to be the Vocalist must be prepared to sing the Star-Spangled Banner either a capella or with an instrumental track. Each auditioning student is responsible for providing his or her own instrumental track and the means to play the track.

The following criteria will be used to select the Vocalist.

- Vocal range: good variation from low to medium to high notes
- Vocal quality: appropriate vocal texture
- Subtext: a connection between the vocalist's singing and his or her emotions
- Stage presence: appropriate non-verbal communication and connection with the audience