






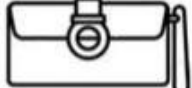



# COMMENCEMENT POLICY

In the interest of guest and student safety, Florida A&M University has a clear bag policy for all commencement-related events and programs. The clear bag and approved item policy was implemented as a way of keeping our students and attendees safer, while also expediting screening upon entry into the ceremony. This policy limits the size and type of bags and items allowed into the venue, with some exceptions for medical or childcare needs. All items are subject to being searched, and each attendee will be hand scanned or expected to walk thru a detector.

## PERMITTED BAGS & ITEMS:

  <p><b>MEDICAL &amp; FAMILY</b> <i>Items required for medical, family or child care needs</i></p>	 <p><b>BACKLESS CUSHIONS</b> <i>Less than 16"</i></p>	 <p><b>CLEAR TOTES</b> <i>Plastic, vinyl, or pvc Cannot Exceed 12" x 6" x 12" &amp; max logo size no larger than 4.5" x 3.4"</i></p>	
 <p><b>WATER BOTTLES</b> <i>One 20 oz unopened or empty bottle of water per person</i></p>	<p><b>SMALL CLUTCH OR WALLET</b> <i>No larger than 6.5 x 4.5 with or without a handle or strap. Can be carried in separate or within an approved plastic bag</i></p>   	 <p><b>CLEAR STORAGE PLASTIC BAG</b> <i>One gallon max, Re-sealable</i></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One-gallon clear, re-sealable plastic storage bag</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medically necessary items (after proper inspection)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Clear plastic, vinyl, or PVC bags that do not exceed 12"x6"x12"</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ A logo no larger than 4.5"x 3.4" can be displayed on one side of a permissible clear bag.</li> <li>◦ A clear bag shall be clear from top-to-bottom, and up to a 2" trim/border on the bag is generally acceptable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small clutch bags no larger than 4.5"x6.5", approximately the size of a hand, with or without a handle or strap</li> <li>• <b>UPDATED SUMMER 2023</b></li> </ul>	

# PROHIBITED BAGS & ITEMS:

Prohibited items **MUST** be returned to the owner's vehicle or discarded prior to entry. Any unlawful items are subject to confiscation, and the person in possession of such items is subject to arrest.



Prohibited bags include, but are not limited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Purses</li> <li>• Backpacks</li> <li>• Cinch/Drawstring Bags</li> <li>• Briefcases</li> <li>• Coolers/Ice Check or Cold/Ice Bags</li> <li>• Confetti and Glitter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fanny packs</li> <li>• Luggage of any kind</li> <li>• Computer bags</li> <li>• Messenger/over-the-shoulder bags</li> <li>• Cameras w/extendable lenses larger than 6"</li> <li>• Strollers and wagons</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binocular cases</li> <li>• Personal seatbacks</li> <li>• Bags not compliant with the clear bag policy</li> <li>• Posters, banners, and flags</li> <li>• Artificial Noise Makers</li> <li>• Umbrellas</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outside food or drink (including alcoholic beverages)</li> <li>• Weapons of any kind</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tobacco products (including e-cigarettes, vapor pens, and chewing tobacco)</li> </ul>	

## Seat Cushions:

Personal seatbacks will not be permitted inside the commencement venue. Seat cushions that are no larger than 16", do not have pockets, and do not have a back are permitted.

## Balloons:

This policy is in place to ensure the safety and unobstructed view of all attendees. Balloons can pose logistical challenges, create distractions, and obstruct sightlines for others.

## CLEAR BAG POLICY FAQ

### **Why did Florida A&M Commencement Committee adopt this policy?**

The safety of all attendees is at the forefront of all of our decisions. Each year, in an effort to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for those individuals that attend commencement ceremonies, Florida A&M Commencement Committee reviews public safety and security policies. This measure will enhance safety both inside and outside of the venue and ensure the ceremony is enjoyed by all.

### **How does the new bag policy improve public safety?**

A clear bag is easily and quickly searched and greatly reduces faulty bag searches. It also supports the Department of Homeland Security's **"If You See Something, Say Something"** campaign. Additionally, it will allow staff to be more efficient and effective in checking bags that are brought into the venue.

### **How many bags can each person bring into the stadium?**

One (1) large clear plastic bag - either a one-gallon plastic storage bag or a 12"x6"x12" clear plastic bag - plus one small clutch are permitted.

### **Can I carry cameras, binoculars, smartphones, or tablets separately from what I put in a clear bag?**

Yes. Binoculars, phones, cameras, and tablets can be carried into the venue **so long as** it is not in its own bag. This is not a restriction on items that attendees have been able to bring into the venue in the past. It is only a restriction on the type of container used to carry those items.

### **What happens if I show up at the entrance with a bag that is not permitted?**

There are no provisions for items to be "checked and stored" at the entrance. Attendees with a prohibited bag and or item will not be permitted inside the venue. Those individuals with prohibited bags or items will need to return the bag or item to their vehicle and transfer their belongings to an approved clear plastic bag before being allowed to enter the venue.

### **If I have certain medical items or medical equipment that I need to bring into the venue, what do I do?**

There are separate 'Bag' and 'No Bag' entry locations at each point of entry. Attendees with medical items or medical equipment will need to enter at a 'Bag' entry line to have their items inspected by security personnel.

### **What about diaper bags?**

Diapers can be carried in a clear bag.

### **Do I have to put everything I'm carrying into the permissible bags?**

The bag policy is limiting only the type of bags carried into the stadium, not the items that you normally bring or have on you. Attendees can continue to carry items in their pockets, such as keys, phones, wallets, credit cards, makeup, feminine products, combs, etc., if you choose not to put them in a clear bag or clutch. Items such as binoculars or cameras can be carried in your hands or around your neck. You cannot, however, bring into the venue a binocular or camera case.