

Frequently Asked Questions about Commencement



1. *Why haven't I received any information about graduation and/or commencement?* It is your responsibility to let the university know that you plan to graduate. See your academic advisor to apply or contact the [Academic Advising](#) office. ***An application to graduate is NOT an RSVP to participate in the commencement ceremony; they are two separate processes.**

2. *How many Guests will each graduate be allowed to bring?* This is usually determined by the number of students who decide to walk in the ceremony; for 2025, participating graduates can bring up to four (4) guests (as of 1/28/25).

3. *Will there be extra seating available?* We are rarely able to offer any additional seating BUT participating students will be notified the week of March 31, 2025 if additional seating has become available. [We always have a live webcast of the ceremony! The link will be posted online the morning of May 3.](#)

4. *Do we need tickets for the ceremony?* No physical tickets are needed; however, guests MUST be with their graduate to enter Chambers Hall and will be seated together in pre-assigned "pods".

5. *Will there be a rehearsal?* In addition to thorough instructions and a "how to" guide that should be posted online in April, there are plans to hold a rehearsal a day or two before the ceremony. Details will be released as they become available.

6. *How long does the ceremony take?* Each ceremony typically lasts between 1 and 1½ hours, depending on the number of students participating in the ceremony.

7. *Where is the ceremony held?* For 2025, it has been decided to hold the ceremony in Chambers Hall Gymnasium.

8. *When do I get my honors cords?* You will receive your honors cords (for Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude) when you cross the stage at the commencement ceremony.

**Nursing students that participate in commencement activities at the Oakland campus will receive their cords at those events. Nursing Faculty will coordinate the cords.*

9. *Do I get anything for being in an honor society, student organization, or for being a student athlete?* Your honor society advisor, student org. advisor, or the Office of Athletics should provide you with the appropriate honors medallion, society-specific cord(s), stole, or pin prior to the ceremony.

10. *When do I get my diploma?* At the ceremony, you will receive a gift from the University - your diploma cover. Once your final semester grades are calculated, you will receive your actual diploma in the mail. Typically, this takes a few weeks after the semester ends. If you were an August or December graduate, you should have already received your diploma.