A Penn degree is the happy outcome of great minds engaging with a great education. With joy at your achievements, hope for our future, and immense pride, I congratulate our graduates and their families.

The University of Pennsylvania’s 264th Commencement

Penn’s 264th Commencement will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020 in Franklin Field. The gates to the field will open at 8:30 a.m. for guest seating. Guests will be seated in the southeast, east, and northeast stands of the stadium. Guests should enter through the south stands entrance from South Street. For updated information, refer to the Commencement website commencement.upenn.edu

The ceremony will feature the conferral of degrees, the awarding of honorary degrees, greetings by University officials, and remarks by the Commencement speaker. The ceremony will be held rain or shine. Tickets are not required for admission. Degree candidates are required to wear academic regalia.
Degree candidates will assemble in Hamilton Village by 8:45 a.m., process down Locust Walk, and enter the field at 9:30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10:15 a.m. upon the entrance of the academic procession (the President’s party and the faculty) and will conclude at approximately 12:00 noon.

Graduation Ceremonies for Undergraduates

Saturday, May 16, 2020

2:00 p.m. School of Engineering and Applied Science Undergraduate Ceremony

Palestra

Sunday, May 17, 2020

9:00 a.m. Wharton School Undergraduate Ceremony

Palestra

6:30 p.m. College of Arts and Sciences Ceremony

Franklin Field

Monday, May 18, 2020

8:30 a.m. Gates open to Franklin Field

9:30 a.m. Procession enters Franklin Field

10:15 a.m. University Commencement Ceremony

Franklin Field

6:00 p.m. School of Nursing Ceremony*

Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center, Broad and Spruce Streets

*Tickets are required
The Commencement Ceremony

Upon the entrance of the academic procession into Franklin Field, all graduates and guests should rise and remain standing until after the invocation.

Caps are worn during the procession and removed for the singing of the National Anthem. When the deans present the candidates for each degree, candidates will replace their caps, rise, and remain standing until the President confers the degrees. After the degrees have been conferred, graduates lift their caps in salute to the President. The tassel is then shifted to the left side, front.

The Provost will acknowledge those receiving various academic honors, prizes and awards, as well as membership in scholastic honor societies. He will ask all persons who have earned these honors to rise for recognition and to remain standing until the completion of his remarks.

Webcast of the Commencement Ceremony

Family members and friends who are unable to attend Penn’s 264th Commencement may view the ceremony live over the Internet. Coverage from Franklin Field will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 18th. Please visit commencement.upenn.edu/webcast.html to learn more about the webcast.

Academic Regalia

Academic regalia is required for degree candidates at Commencement. All candidates who do not possess regalia must obtain their regalia from the Penn Bookstore, located at 36th and Walnut Streets. Detailed information is available on the Penn Bookstore website at www.upenn.edu/bookstore.

Articles of clothing that will be visible at the neck and below the gown should be in keeping with the conservative style of the academic attire.
High heels should not be worn by graduates due to uneven surfaces along the procession route. The hood should be secured so that it will not slip off the shoulders. The cap is worn parallel to the ground; the tassel is worn in front and on the right side until the degree has been conferred.

In case of inclement weather, please be advised that the dye in the gown may stain clothing.

**Bachelor and Masters Degree Candidates**
Beginning March 18th through March 20th graduating students can purchase and receive Commencement regalia at the Penn Bookstore during the Graduation Fair. Please visit the textbook department on the second level of the store where you will have the opportunity to talk with sales representatives.

**Doctoral Degree Candidates**
Please visit the Penn Bookstore website for ordering options. Representatives are currently available at the Bookstore to measure degree candidates for regalia and discuss various purchase/rental options. Regalia rented by March 20th will be available for pick up beginning April 20th through May 18th. Regalia must be returned to the Bookstore by 12 noon, Tuesday, May 19th. Purchase and rental options are also available on the Penn Bookstore website.

**Those Unable to Order Regalia at the Graduation Fair**
If you are a Doctoral Degree candidate unable to go to the Penn Bookstore, you may order regalia online by visiting the Penn Bookstore website at www.upenn.edu/bookstore. Bachelor and Master’s Degree candidates may go to the Bookstore anytime until May 18th to purchase regalia. If you are unable to go to the Penn Bookstore, you may order regalia to have shipped to your home by visiting the Penn Bookstore website at www.upenn.edu/bookstore.
Assembly of Degree Candidates

Degree candidates will assemble according to school in Hamilton Village, 39th Street and Locust Walk, no later than 8:45 a.m. (diagram below). School assembly points will be designated by signs. The identifying sign for M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. candidates, regardless of school, will be “Graduate Faculties,” with the exception of the specific degrees noted on the diagram shown below.

Please be prompt! Those who are not at the assembly points, in academic regalia, when the procession is formed will not be able to march with their classmates.
Student Procession
The procession of degree candidates will form and move in four columns as directed by Commencement marshals (identified by lanyards). The procession will move along Locust Walk, across 34th Street, down Smith Walk across 33rd Street, and into the north entrance of Franklin Field (diagram below).

Degree Candidates
If you wish to sit with friends on the field, you must line up in front of or behind each other in the same column of the procession. Do not stand next to each other, as each column is directed to a different section of Franklin Field. Once the procession begins, be sure to follow the person in front of you and stay in your original column.

Please walk briskly and make sure there are no gaps in the line in front of you. Do not leave the procession once it is underway. Candidates will be seated on the field according to school (diagram below).

When you reach the row to which you are directed, please move into it quickly, leaving no vacant seats in the row, and be seated immediately. An end seat in each row will bear a stack of programs; the person occupying that seat should pass the programs along the row. Bottled water will be available on the field for the degree candidates.

SEATING CHART
Hotel and Travel information
Guests of degree candidates are strongly advised to make reservations as early as possible. For hotel and travel information, contact the following:

- **VISIT PENN**
cms.business-services.upenn.edu/penntravel/visiting-penn.html

- **VISIT PHILLY**
www.visitphilly.com or 800-537-7676

Parking
If you plan to drive to campus, please remember that there will be tremendous traffic congestion and parking will be limited, so arrive early. It is a regular workday for many people in the area and there are road closures to accommodate the procession. Parking facilities are located at:

- Walnut 38, University garage – the northeast corner of 38th and Walnut Streets (enter on 38th Street)
- Sheraton University City, Hotel garage – 36th and Chestnut Streets
- Walnut 40, University garage – 40th and Walnut Streets
- Chestnut 34, University garage (limited parking) – 34th and Chestnut Streets (enter on 34th Street)
- Ludlow 34, University lot – Ludlow Street (south side) between 33rd and 34th Streets
- Penn Park, University lot – 31st and Lower Walnut Street (accessed from Chestnut Street)
Seating for Guests with Disabilities

Seating for guests who use wheelchairs, as well as those with limited physical mobility or medical conditions, will be available both on the field and in the lower stands. Please be aware that the stadium is bench seating. Due to space constraints, guests who are seated on the field may be accompanied by one escort only.

Beginning March 1st, arrangements for disability seating may be requested at commencement.upenn.edu/ceremonies#access. An email confirmation will be sent within five business days of submitting your request. Starting April 1st, you can call (215) 898-7369 (voice) if you have any questions. There is no guarantee that an accommodation can be made if the request is received after April 30th. Tickets will be mailed at the end of April. Commencement information materials are available in alternate formats upon request. Advance notice is required.

Announcement Cards

The University provides eight announcement cards and envelopes to each graduating student for mailing to family and friends. Please remember that tickets are not required for the Commencement ceremony on Monday, May 18, 2020 and that there is no limit to the number of guests who may attend.

Students can pick up their announcements at their home schools, beginning Monday, March 23rd. M.A., M.S., and Ph.D. candidates can pick up announcements from the Graduate Division of the School of Arts and Sciences. Students who graduated in August or December of 2019 will receive announcement cards, if requested, by mail.
Franklin Field Policies
Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited in Franklin Field. Guests and students are asked not to use cellular phones during the procession across campus and during the ceremony in Franklin Field.

In the Event of Inclement Weather
Commencement will be held rain or shine. Franklin Field is an outdoor stadium and guests should come prepared for all weather conditions, including rain and hot sun. Only a limited amount of covered seating is available.

In the Event of Extreme Weather Conditions
In the event of dangerous weather conditions that threaten personal safety (such as a severe thunderstorm, lightning, or tornado), the ceremony will be delayed. In the unlikely event that dangerous conditions are forecast to persist throughout the morning, the ceremony may be moved to the Palestra (33rd Street, just north of Franklin Field), where seating would be limited to degree candidates only. These steps would be taken only in extreme circumstances.

If changes are required due to severe or extreme weather, details about changes will be communicated by:

- A notice on the Commencement website, commencement.upenn.edu
- Announcements on the University's emergency information line (215) 898-MELT (6358), radio station KYW (1060 AM), and (215) 573-GRAD (4723)
- Signs at Hamilton Village and around campus
Baccalaureate Ceremony
The Baccalaureate Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. in Irvine Auditorium, located at 34th and Spruce Streets. The Baccalaureate Ceremony is an interfaith program that includes musical performances, readings, prayers, and a special guest speaker. Tickets and academic regalia are not required.

Diplomas
The following schools will distribute diplomas at their individual graduation ceremonies:

- School of Dental Medicine: *All*
- Penn Law School: *All*
- Perelman School of Medicine: *M.D.s only*
- School of Veterinary Medicine: *All*

All other diplomas for May graduates will be mailed in July.

Diploma Mailing Procedure
Diplomas are mailed in July, via First-Class U.S. Mail (not trackable), to the permanent address listed in Penn InTouch. Students who do not wish to use their permanent address should set a temporary address in Penn InTouch. The temporary address must be valid from June 7th–September 30th (these dates can be set in Penn InTouch). Addresses should be updated no later than June 7th. Diplomas mailed to international addresses can take up to eight weeks for delivery. To purchase trackable express shipping or to arrange for diploma pick up on campus, please visit the website of the Office of the University Secretary (*secretary.upenn.edu/diplomas*) for more information.

Commencement Information
[commencement.upenn.edu](http://commencement.upenn.edu)
(215) 898-7006