

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 2024, participating graduates can bring up to four (4) guests.

3. *Will there be extra seating available?* We are rarely able to offer any additional seating but there will be a live webcast of the ceremonies. The link will be posted online the morning of April 27.

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 at least one rehearsal (optional, not mandatory). 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 2024, 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.