

Commencement 2019

Congratulations! You did it! If you are graduating any time in 2019 (February, May or September), your commencement ceremonies are in May 2019. This document contains important information about your two commencement events: the UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony and the main UMass Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony.

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UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony

Friday, May 10, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Campus Center Auditorium, UMass

- **What time do graduates need to arrive?** Plan to arrive by 1p.m. Expect heavy traffic.
- **Do I need to RSVP?** Yes. Email commencement@uww.umass.edu by Friday, April 26 with the total number of people, including yourself, who will be attending.
- **Do I need to wear a cap and gown?** Yes.
- **Who can attend?** This is a free event and is open to the public. There is no limit on the number of people you can invite.
- **Tell me more about this event?** This is a smaller, heart-felt ceremony where UWW graduates, their families, and UWW faculty and staff celebrate and acknowledge your individual accomplishments. Our emcee will call each student up to the podium to receive their commencement medal and a professional photographer will be on hand to take graduation photos. This event is not meant to replace the official commencement, and all students are

encouraged to attend both the University Commencement and the Senior Recognition Ceremony.

- **How do I get there?** This event will be held in the Lincoln Campus Center. [Here are directions.](#)
- **Where do I park?** You will park in the Campus Center Parking Garage. [Here are directions.](#)
- **I'm planning on going to the main ceremony after this one is complete. How will I get there?** We will hand out maps at the event. There is a shuttle bus that will take you to the stadium, or you can walk. You could drive, but given the heavy traffic, it's strongly discouraged. Either way, wear good walking shoes. If you need disability accommodations for yourself or one of your guests, visit the [Commencement Accessibility Information page](#) for information and instructions.
- **What do I do when I get there?** When you arrive, staff will greet you warmly and will give you a program, a nametag, and a cap and gown if you need one. They will then direct you to the reserved graduate seating area in front of the stage where graduates and faculty will sit together. Your family and friends will sit in the audience.
- **Are there assigned seats?** No.
- **What's this card on my chair and is it important?** A very important card will be on your chair. As soon as you sit down, fill out this card and keep it with you. You will give this card to the emcee as you cross the stage so she knows who you are and can read your name. Also, this card allows the photographer to know who you are so you can receive a link to your personal graduation photo.
- **How will the medal ceremony work?** From the podium, the emcee will give you clear instructions about what to do and where to go. But here's a sneak preview: row by row, starting with the front, the graduates will stand and each graduate will climb the steps onto the stage. You will hand your card to the emcee who will read your name. UWW Director Ingrid Bracey will hand you your commencement medal and shake your hand. A photographer will take a picture of you getting your medal. You will then leave the stage and go over to another photographer who will take a formal commencement photo in front of a UMass Amherst backdrop. Then, you will return to your seat. Everyone will clap and cheer and generally freak out and be super happy.
- **Will food be served?** Refreshments including baked goods and fruit will be available after the event, along with coffee, tea, water and juice.
- **Are children welcome?** Always!

Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Friday, May 10, 2019 at 4:30 p.m., rain or shine, McGuirk Alumni Stadium, UMass

- **Where do I find all information and instructions relevant to this event for graduates and their guests?** Visit the [UMass Commencement website](#) and the [Information for Seniors](#) page.
- **What time do graduates need to arrive at the stadium?** 3:30pm
- **Do I need to RSVP?** No.
- **Do I need to wear a cap and gown?** Yes.
- **Who can attend?** This is a free event and open to the public. There is no limit on the number of people you can invite.
- **Tell me more about this event?** This beautiful event is the university's official graduation ceremony attended by thousands each year. During the procession, UWW students sit together with UWW faculty. The president of UMass and members of the Massachusetts legislature, will attend; honorary degrees will be awarded; there will be a keynote speaker and student speakers. The UMass Chancellor will formally confer degrees by asking students to stand as a group by school/college or program.

Caps and Gowns

On-campus Pick-up

- Monday, May 6 to Thursday, May 9, 2019, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. [Campus Center](#) Room 165-69
- Friday, May 10, 2019, 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. at UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony, Campus Center Auditorium

Stadium Pick-up

- Friday, May 10, 2019 after 3 p.m. in Lot 11 at McGuirk Alumni Stadium

By Mail

- TBA

FAQ

- **I fulfilled the requirements for graduation at the end of December, 2018. When is my commencement?** Because you will be on the February 2019 graduate list, you will attend the May 2019 commencement ceremonies.
- **I'm not graduating until September, 2019. When is my commencement?** The May commencement ceremonies are for all students who have graduated in 2019 or anticipate graduating at any time in 2019. So, if you think you're graduating in 2019, your graduation ceremonies are this May.
- **I graduated in September, 2018. Can I still come to the graduation ceremony in May, 2019?** Yes, but since your graduation ceremony was officially in May 2018, please let us know that you're coming so we can make sure you are recognized in the commencement book.
- **How do I know if I'm graduating in 2019?** SPIRE contains your expected date of graduation. However, it is your responsibility to keep this up to date. If you have any questions about whether and when you are graduating, contact your advisor.
- **Is there anything I need to do to be able to receive my diploma?** Yes. Review the [Graduation Instructions](#) carefully. If you do not follow these instructions, you may not be able to officially graduate. Each year, there are students who do not receive diplomas because they did not follow instructions.
- **If I'm listed in the commemorative commencement booklet, does this mean I'm graduated?** No. Fulfilling the requirements for receiving a diploma from UMass Amherst is different from attending the commencement ceremonies and being listed in the commemorative booklet. Review the Graduation Instructions carefully.
- **If I attend the commencement ceremonies, does this mean I've graduated?** Your official date of graduation is not determined by the date of commencement, but by when you have been determined by the UMass Amherst Registrar's Office to have satisfied all of the requirements for graduation and have submitted any necessary paperwork, cleared all outstanding balances, etc.
- **When will I receive my diploma and certificate?** You will receive your diploma and certificate in the mail within three months after your official date of graduation. The diploma and certificate will come separately.
- **I need to stay overnight. What do you suggest?** Visit the [UMass Commencement website](#) for information about accommodations.
- **How do I get disability accommodations for myself or one of my guests?** Visit the [Commencement Accessibility Information page](#) for information and instructions.

- **I'm a veteran. How do I get my stole?** Contact the Veterans Resource Center at 413-545-0939.
- **Which ceremony should I attend?** We support you in attending whichever ceremony or ceremonies you would like to attend. You have worked hard to get where you are. Savor this moment with your family, friends and community.
- **What will the traffic be like?** Expect the worst. Traffic will be heavy. Plan accordingly.
- **Will my faculty be there?** Every year, our faculty do their best to attend, and they sit with the graduates!

Graduation Checklist

- Read this document.
- Carefully read and follow the [Graduation Instructions](#). Following these instructions is essential for you to be awarded your diploma and certificate.
- Talk with your academic advisor if you have questions about your graduation status.
- If you want to be recognized in the UMass Commencement book, check to see if your name is on our list- TBA. If it's not on our list, email us at commencement@uww.umass.edu by TBA.
- Email your RSVP for the UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony to commencement@uww.umass.edu by Friday, April 26. Please indicate the total number of people, including yourself, who will be attending.
- Review the [UMass Commencement website](#) for additional information and instructions.

Becoming the Student Commencement Speaker

Call for Submissions – Main UMass Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

- Apply to [speak at the Main UMass Amherst Commencement Ceremony](#) at McGuirk Stadium
- Deadline: Thursday, February 1 at 4:30 p.m.

Call for Submissions – UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony

- Email your 4-5 minute written speech to commencement@uww.umass.edu. If you are selected as a finalist, you will be asked to submit a video of yourself delivering your speech. For more information, contact Jonah Carlson, chair of the speaker selection committee at commencement@uww.umass.edu.
- Deadline: Monday, April 1 at midnight

Announcements

Re-visit this document, and check the [UWW Student Center](#), and the [UMass Commencement website](#) for important announcements.

Timeline of Important Dates

- **February 1:** Deadline to apply to be the main UMass Undergraduate Commencement Speaker.
- **April 1:** Deadline to apply to be the student speaker at the UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony.
- TBA: Deadline to get your name into the UMass Amherst commencement book.
- TBA: Last day to order your cap and gown to be shipped.
- **April 26:** Deadline to RSVP to the UWW Senior Recognition Ceremony.
- **May 10:** Graduation!