

Commencement Ceremony: Important Details for Seniors

Cap & Gown Distribution

Caps, gowns, and hoods are worn during the Commencement Ceremony. If you did not pick up your academic costume at Senior Salute in February, you may purchase it at the University Bookstore, from May 11th until May 17th. The schedule is as follows:

Monday, May 11th through Friday, May 15th: 9am-7pm

Saturday, May 16th (Graduation Day): 8am-6pm

Sunday, May 17th: 9am-7pm

Fair Weather Plan

In sunny weather, the SFS Commencement ceremony is held outside on Healy Lawn. Seniors report to assigned classrooms in the White-Gravenor Building to robe and line up in alphabetical order with the Deans. Students are brought out into Red Square where they will line up behind the University Registrar, followed by the Color Guard and the Class Marshal carrying banners for the school, who lead the student procession.

Dean Robert L. Gallucci serves as the MC of the Commencement Ceremony which includes a Commencement Address from the Honorary Degree Recipient and the awarding of the degrees. Graduates cross the stage as their names are read, shake hands with the Dean and they are then hooded by the Associate and Assistant Deans. The Commencement Ceremony normally lasts about 1.5 hours.

The names of August '08, Dec '08, and May '09 degree recipients are printed in the Commencement Program. The names and honors included in the Commencement program reflect the academic record as of May 5, 2009. Graduates will receive their diplomas immediately after Commencement in the ICC Galleria where Deans greet students and families and offer personal good wishes.

Rain Plan

In case of inclement weather, the rain call will be made at 6:30 am. Please call 202-687-7669 for information. In the event of rain, report directly to the McDonough Gym tent by 7:45 a.m.

Timetable

7:45 AM Graduates must report to the second floor of White-Gravenor to line up in alphabetical order by last name. Please check the signs posted in the hallway which will list the room to which you should report.

(If rain plan is in effect, report to McDonough Gym)

8:00 AM Deans will conduct roll call to double-check the alphabetical order of graduates.

8:40 AM Procession begins. **Please inform your parents of this.**

**** Please leave all personal belongings with your family members (i.e., umbrellas, purses, etc)****

Procession

Graduates will march single-file behind the class marshal. The procession will make its way down the center aisle. Ushers will direct the graduates into rows of 31 students each. You should remain standing until the ceremony begins. The hood is to be carried on your left arm with the bunting toward the wrist. The tassel on the cap is worn on the left side at all times.

On Stage

At the direction of the ushers, graduates will be asked row by row to stand and to move down the aisle to the left-hand stairs leading to the stage. Each graduate will mount the ramp to the stage when his or her name is called. Proceed right across the stage to Dean Gallucci to shake hands and receive the diploma translation. Remaining in order, each graduate should proceed to the BSFS Deans to be hooded. Hand them your hood, remove your cap, and turn to face the audience so the Dean can place the hood on your shoulders. Exit the stage to the right and return to your seat. Please remain quiet until all of the members of the SFS Class of 2009 have left the stage.

Recessional and Diploma Distribution

Following the academic recessional, the graduates will be led double-file down the center aisle. Diplomas may be picked up in the **ICC Galleria until 11:30 am.**

If diplomas are not picked up by 11:30 a.m., May 16th, they will be mailed to you **upon request.**

Handicapped Accessible Shuttle and Seating

Handicap accessible shuttle service will be running throughout Commencement Weekend from parking lots to both Healy (bus stop at Leavey) and McDonough gym for the following times:

Friday, May 15: 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m

Saturday, May 16: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 17: 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

If you have a family member that needs a wheelchair and/or handicapped accessible seating, please contact Kendra Baity at kpb2@georgetown.edu .

Wheelchair Tent Schedule:

Thursday, May 14: Noon-6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 15: 9:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 16: 7:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 17: 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Notice to August 2009 Degree Candidates

Students who will complete degree requirements during summer are invited to participate in the May Commencement Ceremony. You will wear your cap and gown and march with the class and your name will be called as you cross the stage.