

OHS Graduation Information

Class of 2026

Ticket Information

Each graduate will receive 15 tickets for the commencement ceremony at the Convocation Center in DeKalb. These tickets will be distributed to graduates on April 13th and April 14th during lunch hours. Tickets will be collected at the entrance to the event. Seating is open; first come, first serve. Doors will open at 8:30am.

Cap & Gown / Graduation Ticket Distribution

Graduation caps and gowns will be handed out during lunch hours on **April 13th and 14th, 10:00am - 1:00pm**. Call Herff Jones at 815-756-4743 to find out the balance due on your graduation gown. Final payment is due at pickup and **cash only** will be accepted. If you are an early graduate, please come to Door #1 to pick up your gown during those days and times.

MANDATORY Graduation Rehearsal

All graduates must attend graduation practice to participate in the formal ceremony. Practice will be held on **Friday, May 15th** in the Main Gym at Oswego High School. **Please arrive by 8:45 am**, since the practice starts promptly at 9:00 am. Graduates may enter Door 13 or Door 35. Disruptive students will be removed from rehearsal and may be prohibited from participating in the ceremony.

Graduation Ceremony

The OHS Graduation Ceremony will be held on **Saturday, May 16th 2026 at 9:30am**. The ceremony will take place at the Northern Illinois University Convocation Center, located at 1525 West Lincoln Highway in DeKalb, IL.

Graduate Information

- Graduates should plan on being at NIU when the doors open at 8:30am.
- Traffic around NIU will be extremely busy, so please plan appropriately.
- All rules and policies of the school will be enforced.
- Students who possess disruptive objects or who are disruptive will be excluded from the ceremony.

What to Bring

- Bring your gown and collar, hat and tassel. If you earned any medals or cords, please be sure to bring those too.
- No cell phones, purses or other personal items are allowed. Please leave those items in your car or with your family for the duration of the ceremony. There is no place at the NIU Convocation Center to safely store these items.

Ceremony Attire Expectations for Graduates

- This is a dignified ceremony and graduates are expected to dress appropriately for this important event.
- All graduates will wear the cap and gown issued by Herff Jones (not altered in any way).
- Medals (if received) should be worn **under** the collar.
- Cords (if received) should be worn **over** the collar.
- Students must remain properly dressed throughout the ceremony and are expected to follow directions explained during rehearsal or they will be excluded from the ceremony.

Parking and Entrance Doors

- Upon arrival, NIU staff will guide guests to the appropriate parking lot. Click [here](#) for map.
- All lots are ADA accessible.
- Premium parking is available through NIU. Please use the link below if interested in this option. <https://niuhuskies.eventue.net/promotions/OSWEGOPARK>

Diplomas

- Immediately following the ceremony, graduates will pick up their diplomas before going upstairs to meet with their families.
- Designate a place outside of the building to meet your family.

Guest Information

- Doors will open for guests at 8:30am.
- The ceremony will begin promptly at 9:30am.
- Traffic around NIU will be extremely busy, so please plan appropriately.
- ADA seating – There are decks around the perimeter of the arena that are intended to accommodate guests who require seating accommodations. Please be advised that anyone who sits in these locations may be accompanied by one other person. General seating is available near those areas for families who want to be close together.
- Seats can not be reserved and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Seat saving is not allowed and is monitored by the NIU staff.

- Sign language interpreters will be at the ceremony.
- Designate a place outside of the building to meet your family.

Guest Expectations

- NIU has restrictions that must be followed:

Clear Bag Policy

The following bags are permitted: Clear bags that do not exceed 12" x 12" x 6"; gallon clear plastic ziplock, or small purses which do not exceed 5.5" x 8.5" and no more than 3" thick. An exception will be made for medically necessary items. Click [here](#) for a graphic of this policy.

Prohibited Items

The following items are prohibited by NIU: purses (see Clear Bag Policy), diaper bags, laptop bags, camera bags, backpacks, duffels, and fanny packs (see Clear Bag Policy above); wrapped gifts and gift bags, helium balloons, laser pointers of any kind; coolers, bottles, cans, containers, or projectiles; weapons, flammables, or other potentially dangerous items; aerosol containers or any pressurized container; horns, noisemakers, or whistles; any illegal substances; posters, banners, or signs on sticks; cane umbrellas; tripods, monopods, selfie sticks; outside food and beverages; strollers. View prohibited items list [here](#).

- Please stay seated during the ceremony. Excessive moving around is a distraction and violators will be asked to leave.
- Please be mindful of others who are there to hear their graduates' speech, songs, and names.

Photographs and Flowers -

Flowers

Flowers will be available for purchase at NIU. You may preorder and pick up your flowers on graduation day at NIU. You can place preorders and get more information [here](#).

Photos

Graduation photos are taken by Grad Images. Please visit their website at www.gradimages.com and click on **Pre-Event Email Registration** where you will be able to enter your email and up to six emails for other people who would like to share in your accomplishment by viewing and ordering your photos.

Live Stream

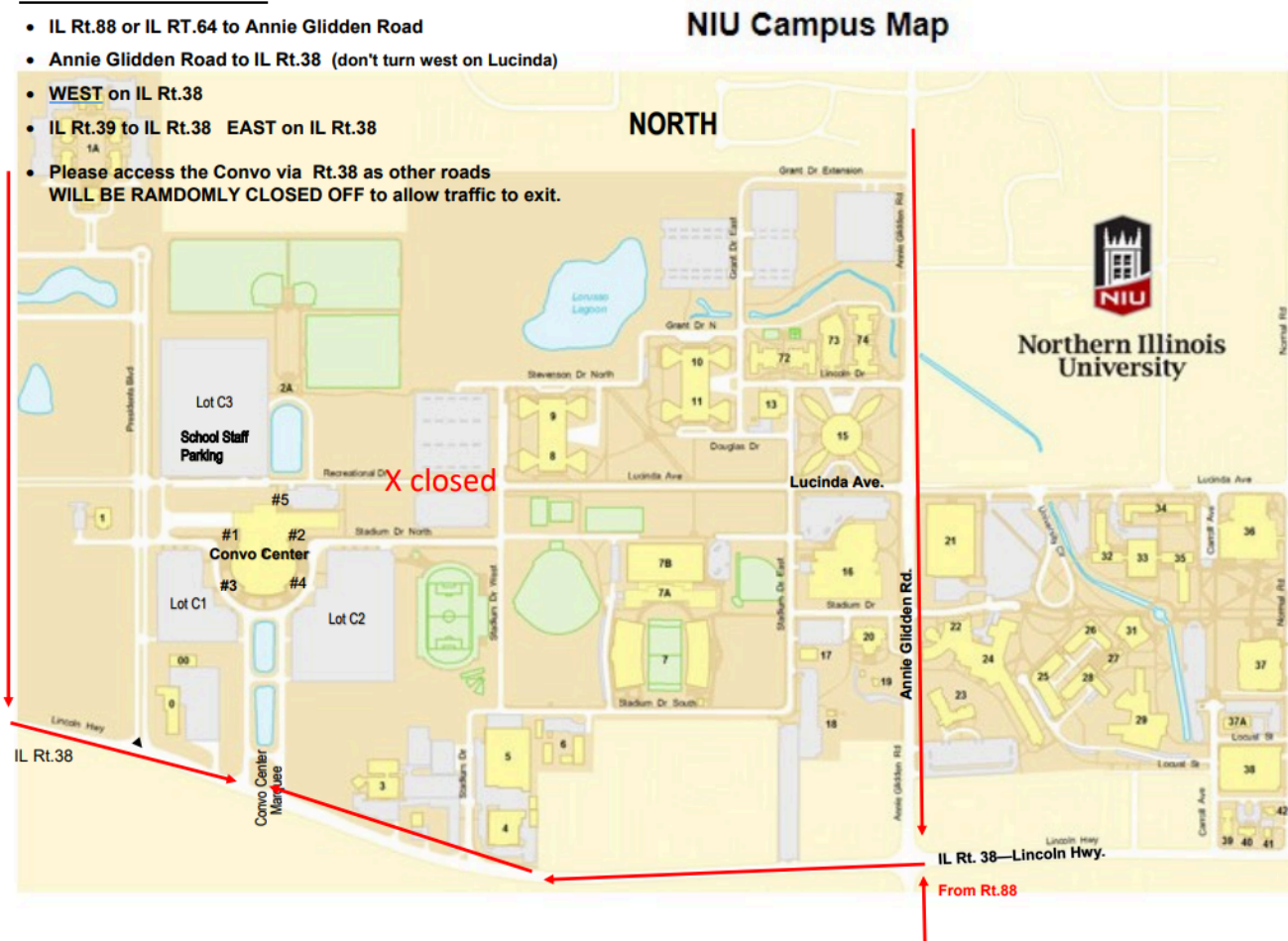
The graduation ceremony will be live-streamed, with a link on the district website. Video copies will not be sold this year, however, a free download will be available for all families within a few days of the ceremony. Follow the district website for more information.



NIU Parking Map

GUESTS traffic routes

- IL Rt.88 or IL RT.64 to Annie Glidden Road
- Annie Glidden Road to IL Rt.38 (don't turn west on Lucinda)
- **WEST** on IL Rt.38
- IL Rt.39 to IL Rt.38 EAST on IL Rt.38
- Please access the Convo via Rt.38 as other roads WILL BE RANDOMLY CLOSED OFF to allow traffic to exit.



- ADA parking is in lot C4.
- Doors open at 8:30am.
- The ceremony starts promptly at 9:30am.

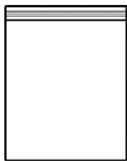
NIU Clear Bag Policy

CLEAR BAG POLICY

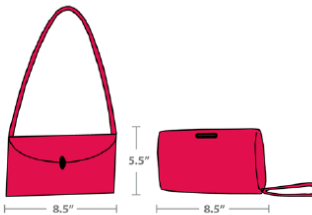
APPROVED
WITH INSPECTION



CLEAR TOTE
MUST NOT EXCEED
12"x12"x6"



PLASTIC BAG
GALLON, CLEAR



CLUTCH PURSE
MUST NOT EXCEED
5.5"x8.5"x3"

PROHIBITED







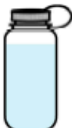
BACKPACKS, CLEAR BACKPACKS, COMPUTER BAGS, COOLERS, DUFFEL BAGS, CAMERA BAGS, PURSES LARGER THAN CLUTCH OR ANY BAG LARGER THAN THE PERMISSIBLE SIZE. ALL BAGS ARE SUBJECT TO INSPECTION.

NIU Prohibited Items

PROHIBITED ITEMS
PLEASE LEAVE THESE ITEMS IN YOUR VEHICLE



BAGS



BEVERAGES



STROLLERS
NOT ALLOWED IN ARENA



OUTSIDE FOOD



ALCOHOL



COOLERS



VIDEO CAMERAS/TRIPODS
UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



NOISEMAKERS



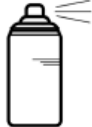
FIREARMS



KNIVES



HELIUM BALLOONS



AEROSOLS



CANE UMBRELLAS

Beautiful Bouquets

BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS

Available for
purchase at
the Oswego
High School
Graduation!

PRE-ORDER BELOW &
PICK UP YOUR ORDER
ON GRADUATION DAY!



SCAN ME



THECOMMENCEMENTGROUP.COM/OSWEGO