

1. When and where is the Ford School commencement?
 - Ford School Commencement will take place at [Hill Auditorium](#) on Sunday, May 3, at 4:00 pm. The ceremony will end around 6:00 pm.
 - There are other commencement ceremonies and events throughout the UM campus; please see #13 below for further information and ticket details.
 - The Ford School is also hosting a [Graduation Open House](#) on Friday, May 1, from 2-4 pm. Students and guests are welcome to stop by Weill Hall to celebrate, take photos, and enjoy some refreshments!
2. Who can participate in the Ford School commencement?
 - Any Ford BA major, MPP, MPA, or PhD student graduating in December 2025, May 2026 or August 2026 is eligible to participate in the May 2026 commencement ceremony.
3. I have filled out the commencement RSVP form. Does this mean I'm done?
 - No! Please also make sure you apply for graduation in Wolverine Access by April 21 in order to ensure you will be reviewed for graduation in Winter 2026. Students should complete this step regardless of whether or not they plan on participating in commencement.
4. How do I apply to graduate in Wolverine Access?
 - [Click here for instructions on how to apply to graduate in Wolverine Access.](#)
5. What is the parking situation on commencement day?
 - Traffic can be very congested during commencement weekend. We highly recommend that students and guests give plenty of extra time to ensure they can park and get to the ceremony. All [University parking structures and lots](#) are free and open to the public on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of commencement weekend.
6. What are guests allowed to bring to the ceremony?
 - Graduates and all guests will be asked to observe the [Prohibited Items List](#) at Hill Auditorium. Guests will be refused entry if they are in possession of any of the items listed. Please be sure to read the list carefully and leave any prohibited items in your car or at home.
7. When should I arrive at commencement?
 - Graduating students should arrive (dressed and ready) at Hill Auditorium by 3:00 pm.
 - Guests will be allowed into the venue starting at 3:30 pm. (Please note: there is another ceremony before ours, so we will not have access to the area prior to the times noted here.)
 - Hill Auditorium doors will close at 4:20 pm to avoid disruptions to the ceremony. Please be sure to arrive in plenty of time to enter the facility.
8. What if one of my guests needs accommodations for commencement?
 - Please email Cindy Harris (lacharri@umich.edu) as soon as possible, and she will be able to assist you with your guest's needs.

9. What do I need to wear to commencement?

- Academic attire (tassel, cap & gown for BA students; tassel, cap, gown, & hood for masters students; tassel, cap, doctoral robe, & hood for PhD students) is required for all graduates who plan to participate in commencement.
- Student & Academic Services will have some caps, gowns, and hoods for loan beginning on March 31. Loaned regalia is available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Students may choose to purchase a cap, gown and hood at Barnes and Noble (Student Union or Pierpoint Commons locations), or Michiganansian Yearbook. [More details are available here](#). **Everyone should purchase the “peacock/ming blue” tassel.** An example photo of the Ford tassel is [linked here](#).
- Masters student robes also have wings on the arms and undergraduate robes do not. The bookstores' staff know the difference. The bookstores should have academic attire available for purchase in mid-March.
- Students may wear stoles and/or cords for the ceremony if they wish. Stoles are available for purchase with regalia packages at local bookstores. Cords can be purchased or may be provided by campus organizations that students belong to. These additional items are completely optional.

10. Do I receive an honors or service cord?

- The Ford School does not issue any graduation with honors or service cords to students. However, students are free to wear any other honors cords or service cords they may receive from other offices on campus.
- BA students with a GPA of 3.75 or higher will be recognized on their transcripts and diploma as 'Graduation with Distinction'. If you would like to purchase honors cords to recognize this, they are available at the bookstore. Some students may also receive an invitation to the University Honors Convocation. They will provide more information on honors cords for this event.

11. Is there a rehearsal?

- Yes, commencement rehearsal takes place on Wednesday, April 22 from 2-4 pm. The rehearsal will be held at Weill Hall in the Great Hall and Annenberg Auditorium. **This is a mandatory rehearsal for all students planning to participate in commencement**, with the exception of December 2025 graduates who have already moved away from Ann Arbor. This is also when the class group photos will be taken. You'll get a printed copy of the class photo at our commencement, when you cross the stage.

12. How many guests can we bring to graduation? Do we need to buy tickets for guests to come to graduation?

- Tickets for the Ford School Commencement Ceremony will be available for graduates and all Ford School community members starting on April 13. Those who wish to attend the ceremony can claim a ticket in the Student and Academic Services office during normal business hours (8 am-5 pm, M-F). The last day to claim a ticket is May 1. All guest tickets are free and general admission.
- Students can claim up to 15 guest tickets during the first phase of ticketing, from April 13-24. Additional tickets can be claimed starting from April 27 to May 1. We anticipate having plenty of tickets for all members of the Ford School community.

- *Graduating students: you will need a special 'graduate' ticket for your entry as a participant in the ceremony, in addition to any guest tickets that you would like to claim. Be sure to stop by the SAS office to claim your tickets.*
- Students must distribute tickets to their guests before the ceremony so that they can be admitted to the venue. Graduates and guests will not be allowed to leave and re-enter the venue, so please plan accordingly.
 - We understand there may be rare cases where guests are unable to obtain a ticket before the ceremony. Those without a ticket will need to visit the Hill box office/will-call window on the west side of the building. Guests will be asked to present their ID in order to obtain a ticket.

13. What other commencement ceremonies can I participate in?

- Graduating students have the opportunity to participate in multiple graduation ceremonies and to be recognized by different organizations on campus; please see [UM's central commencement website](#). We strongly encourage all our graduates to attend the Ford School commencement. Attendance at the 'Big House', Rackham, and other ceremonies is entirely up to you. Please visit the links below for details on registration, ticketing, and contact information for event coordination staff.
 - [U-M 'Big House' Ceremony](#): Saturday, May 3 at 10 am
 - [Rackham Graduate Exercises](#): Friday, May 1 at 10 am (*graduate students only*)
 - [OAMI Cultural Graduation Celebrations](#): various dates
 - [Spectrum Center Lavender Graduation](#): Thursday, April 16
 - [CEW+ Commencement Ceremony](#): Wednesday, April 29
- BA students: if you are completing a minor in LSA or another school, please check with the advisor from your minor department regarding any additional ceremonies that you may be eligible for.

14. What is the 'Grad Extravaganza'?

- The Michiganansian Yearbook staff puts on several events leading up to graduation. The dates and details of their events are [available on their website](#).

15. What other deadlines should students be aware of?

- The [graduation application on Wolverine Access](#): must be completed by April 21.

16. What if there is inclement weather?

- The Ford School Commencement Ceremony will take place indoors, and will proceed rain or shine.

17. (For BA students) Do I need to apply for a major release or minor release?

- Major release - No, BA Academic Advisor Amy Flanagan will confirm your degree completion separately, via your Wolverine Access degree audit.
- Minor release - Yes, meet with your minor advisor and request a release.

18. How can students access their transcripts and diploma?

- All final unofficial and official transcripts can be ordered by the student through Wolverine Access. More information on transcript orders can be found here: <http://ro.umich.edu/transcript/>
- Your diploma will be sent to the address you specify when applying to graduate. Diplomas will arrive 6-8 weeks after commencement. If you would like to order additional copies of your diploma please [visit the Registrar website for instructions](#).

19. How should students stay connected to the Ford School and U-M?

- There are a number of ways to stay engaged with the Ford School and U-M after you graduate!
 - Keep your contact information up-to-date with the Ford School via this [form](#).
 - Attend Ford School events. Upcoming events to mark on your calendar:
July 9 - [Worldwide Ford School Spirit Day](#)
 - Access to the Ford School's professional and educational resources, such as FordCareers.
 - Connect with the U-M Alumni Association.
 - Meet with current students and share your professional expertise through office hours, mock interviews, and resume reviews.
 - Become an Alumni Admissions Ambassador and help recruit the next class of the leaders and best to the Ford School.
 - Send job and internship opportunities to fordcareers@umich.edu.
 - Follow the Ford School on social media.
- Be sure to check out the [Fordie Grad Fair on April 21 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.](#) in the Becky Blank Great Hall! Grab some Ford School swag, fill out your graduation survey, take photos, and enjoy a Washtenaw Dairy sundae!.