

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Am I required to attend both the university-wide ceremony and the Wilder School Graduation Ceremony?**

Graduates may choose to attend both ceremonies, or they may choose to attend either the university-wide ceremony only OR the Wilder School ceremony only. This is entirely up to the graduate.

### **What is the difference between the Wilder School ceremony and the University-wide ceremony?**

Graduate recognition is different at each ceremony. At the university-wide ceremony graduates will be recognized from their seats as the Master of Ceremonies (MC/host) calls out the department/school's name. Doctoral graduates are exempt as they will have the opportunity to be recognized on stage during their hooding recognition.

At the Wilder School ceremony, all graduates (undergraduates, graduates and doctoral) are individually recognized and have the opportunity to walk across the stage. The name and degree will be called out and the graduate will receive a faux diploma that they will be able to use in their picture with the school's dean and keynote speaker on the stage.

NOTE: VCU diplomas will be mailed to the address you specified on your [University Graduation Application](#).

### **Will I need tickets for the Wilder School ceremony?**

No. Graduates will not be required to provide tickets for their guests to attend the Wilder School ceremony.

### **Will there be a livestream of the Wilder School ceremony?**

No. In-person attendance is the only way to participate.

### **If I am graduating as a double major in two Wilder School programs, with which program will my name be called at the Wilder School ceremony?**

Graduates with a double major will only be called from the stage once (both programs will be announced at this time). The graduate should specify with which program they wish to be announced in their [RSVP form](#).

**Will graduate names be called at the university-wide ceremony?**

No. Graduate names will only be called at the department (Wilder School) ceremony.

**Will I receive my diploma or certificate on graduation day?**

No. VCU diplomas will be mailed to the address you specified on your [University Graduation Application](#). Visit the VCU commencement website for more information on diplomas and other commencement items.

**How do I RSVP for the Wilder School ceremony?**

Graduates who plan to attend the Wilder School ceremony need to RSVP at the following link - [Spring 2025 Wilder School Ceremony RSVP Form](#).

**How long will the Wilder School Ceremony last?**

The spring ceremony will begin at 5:00 PM and is approximately two hours.

**What time will doors open? When should guests arrive?**

Exhibit Hall A doors will open to the public at 4:00 p.m.

Guests should use the entrances at Third and Marshall or Fifth and Marshall streets to access the Exhibit Hall Pavilion of GRCC. Guests should allow additional time to travel and park as heavy traffic in the area is anticipated. Tickets are not required, and there is no reserved seating. Seating is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

An accessible drop-off area will be designated on Third Street, adjacent to GRCC. Family and guests seeking additional information about accessibility/ADA at the GRCC should visit [richmondcenter.com/visitor-amenities](http://richmondcenter.com/visitor-amenities).

**Will there be special seating or accommodations for invited guests with disabilities?**

Accessible seating options will be available throughout the exhibit halls. Additionally, there are ramps and elevators that can assist guests coming into the hall from the

parking deck. If additional accommodations are required, please contact Katherine Huynh at [wilderschool@vcu.edu](mailto:wilderschool@vcu.edu).

### **How do I find out about caps and gowns, invitations and other graduation day needs?**

Academic regalia will be available for purchase at the Barnes & Noble @ VCU on the Monroe Park and MCV campuses until Graduation day. If you are unable to attend Grad Fair or visit Barnes & Noble @ VCU, please order your regalia online at **[balfour.com/vcu](https://balfour.com/vcu)**. Shipping charges will apply to all internet orders. Online ordering will be available through Balfour from March 8th - April 6th.

NOTE: Please remember that you must visit your primary campus' Barnes & Noble @ VCU to purchase your specific regalia.

### **Where do I view/obtain the photos that were taken during the ceremony?**

A professional photographer, University-contracted **[GradImages](#)**, will be present to take photos at the stage. Proof of photos and information about purchasing will be sent to the permanent email address provided on the [RSVP form](#).

### **Which ceremony offers a Commencement Program Handbook? [View Fall 2024 Handbook](#)**

The Commencement Program Handbook will be available at the university-wide ceremony only.

NOTE: The Records and Registration office compiles the names from students who are eligible to graduate for the current semester only. Please note graduates are not individually recognized at the university-wide ceremony unless you are graduating with your doctorate degree. All other graduates stay seated and are recognized per school from their seats.