PARENT AND FAMILY GUIDE TO
COMMENCEMENT

PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND
MAY 20 -22, 2022
Dear Parents and Guardians:

Congratulations on your graduate’s upcoming commencement from Providence College!

We are sending you this Commencement Guide so that you will have time to prepare for the weekend’s festivities. Included in this guide is a schedule of the Commencement Weekend activities, answers to frequently asked questions, and a list of phone numbers you may find helpful.

If we can be of any assistance to you as you prepare for this joyous celebration, please call the Office of College Event Management and Planning at 401.865.2344 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or feel free to email us at colevent@providence.edu.

Also be sure to visit the College’s website www.providence.edu/commencement and download the “PC Event” app on your smartphone and download the Commencement Guide for up-to-date notifications and information about Commencement.

Sincerely,

Deirdre A. Driscoll-Lemoine, MBA ’98G, CMP
Associate Vice President
Event Management & Planning
Providence College

Tara Baxter
Senior Director, College Events and Conferences Services
Providence College
Schedule of Events

Sunday, May 1, 2022
Patriot Battalion Award Ceremony
1:00 p.m.
’64 Hall, Slavin Center
Contact the Department of Military Science at 401.865.2471 for details.

Friday, May 20, 2022
ROTC Commissioning
2:00 p.m.
War Memorial Grotto
Contact the Department of Military Science at 401.865.2471 for details.

Saturday, May 21, 2022
Academic Awards Ceremony
11:00 a.m.
Peterson Recreation Center
(enter via the Concannon Fitness Center)
Students receiving honors or awards are expected to attend. Students assemble in Mullaney Gymnasium by 10:15 a.m. All graduates and their families are welcome to attend; tickets are not required. Academic attire (cap and gown) is required; graduates wear cap with tassel hanging in front of cap on right side. The hood is not worn at this ceremony. Graduates will bring their honor cord, if applicable, (distributed at Cap & Gown Day) to the ceremony. Academic Honors are as follows: Summa: 3.85, gold cord; Magna: 3.70, silver cord; Cum: 3.55 white cord. When instructed, students place the cord around their neck with the knot at the back and tassels hanging down the front. The ceremony is approximately one and one-half hours in length.

Commencement Mass
4:00 p.m.
Peterson Recreation Center
(enter via the Concannon Fitness Center)
All graduates must attend; guests are welcome. Graduates should plan to assemble in Mullaney Gymnasium by 3:00 p.m. Academic attire is required; graduates carry cap with tassel, gown and honors cords, if applicable. The hood is not worn at this ceremony. Doors open at 3:00 p.m.; the procession begins at 3:40 p.m. After Mass, students will process back to Mullaney Gymnasium in Alumni Hall before joining their families at the Family Reception on Slavin Center Lawn. It is best to designate a specific rendezvous site outdoors where your family can plan to reunite with your graduate after Mass. Late arriving guests will not be seated until after the processional is completed. An elevator is located in the lobby area of Peterson Recreation Center for guests with disabilities. Seating is limited in Peterson Recreation Center. Additional seating and livestreaming of the event will be available in Mullaney Gymnasium.

Family Reception
5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (immediately following Mass)
Slavin Center Lawn
All guests attending the Commencement Mass are invited to attend this reception. No tickets are required. Refreshments and light snacks will be available.
Sunday, May 22, 2022
Commencement Exercises
11:00 a.m. Procession begins at 10:30 a.m.
Dunkin’ Donuts Center
1 La Salle Square, Providence, RI 02903
All Guests require a ticket for entry, graduates do not need a ticket for entry. Please enter through the main doors of the Dunkin Donuts Center. Additional Parking information is available in this guide and on our website.

Helpful Commencement Information

Covid Protocols:
On campus:
As conditions change the College will continue to adjust its policies and practices, but the guiding principle remains the same as it has been since the beginning of the pandemic: the health and safety of all members of our community takes priority.

Public health guidance has provided the foundation for PC’s spring semester planning, and the College will continue to rely on the Centers for Disease Control and Rhode Island Department of Health to provide the necessary information allowing us to make informed decisions as pandemic conditions evolve. We will keep graduates and families apprised as we get closer to Commencement.

At the Dunkin’ Donuts Center:
Guidelines for the Dunkin’ Donuts Center can be found here: COVID-19 Updates Dunkin’ Donuts Center and RI Convention Center | Dunkin’ Donuts Center (dunkindonutscenter.com)

Tickets:

Does each guest in my party need a ticket, and is there a limit to the number of guests?
Yes, every guest needs a ticket. Graduates will receive (6) guest tickets to Commencement, graduates do not need a ticket for entry. Tickets will be distributed to the graduates at Cap & Gown Day on April 8, 2022.

Why is there a limit to Commencement tickets?
The technological projection requirements necessary to execute this ceremony at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center result in a loss of approximately one-third of the arena seats. The screens ensure that all in the arena have an opportunity to get a close-up view of their graduate at the milestone moment when they approach the stage to receive their degree.

Will additional tickets be available?
Students who may require additional guest tickets are encouraged to check with classmates. Many families will not use all six guest tickets. If you do not require all six guest tickets, please return them to the Office of College Event Management and Planning, Harkins Hall 404. Any returned tickets will be made available after May 1. Students will be notified via email a limited number of tickets are available.
Have your graduate submit a request to receive an additional ticket. We ask that only students submit requests and only student requests will be honored and fulfilled.

**When do students order and receive their Commencement tickets and caps and gowns?**

All seniors are required to order their cap and gown online between December 1, 2021, and March 1, 2022, from www.HerffJones.com/college/graduation. Emails have been sent to seniors, weekly since December 1, 2021, directing them to the website. Cap & Gown Day will be held on April 8, 2022, in Slavin Center, ‘64 Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Seniors will pick up their pre-ordered cap, gown, and honors cord (if applicable), as well as tickets to the Commencement exercises.

**December 2022 Graduation Candidates**

December 2022 candidates are included in all aspects of the May 2022 commencement. Candidates for December 2022 graduation participate in the May 2022 graduation ceremonies. December candidates will be included in the official commencement program, where they will be recognized as December 2022 graduation candidates. All December 2022 candidates will have their names read at the ceremony and will be eligible to walk on stage with the other graduates.

**Are there invitations or announcements to Commencement?**

Personalized announcements for family and friends are available for purchase from Herff Jones at College Graduation Products by Herff Jones. Please note that announcements/invitations to Commencement will not serve as Commencement tickets.

**Indebtedness to the College: What if there are unpaid bills?**

Any student that has an unpaid balance as of April 1, 2022, will not be able to receive their cap and gown, or tickets to the Commencement exercises, until the balance is paid in full. Account balances may be viewed online using your Cyberfriar login or by calling the Student Accounts office at 401.865.2284.

**Additional Helpful Commencement Information**

**Day of Commencement:**

**Will student transportation be provided to and from the Dunkin’ Donuts Center?**

While most graduates live off campus, there has been inquiry regarding bus transport to the Dunkin’ Donuts Center. A limited number of buses will be available for student transportation. The buses will depart from Concannon Circle promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 22 for graduates. Registration for the bus is required using the link https://ppcommencement-2022-bus-transportation-tickets.eventbrite.com.

Registration is available February 11 – May 6, 2022, for graduates. Seating is limited and cannot be guaranteed unless your graduate has received an email confirmation. Graduates will present their email confirmation upon arrival as this will be their ‘ticket’ to board the bus to the Dunkin’ Donuts Center. The bus will be on the Sabin Street side of the Dunkin’ Donuts Center for return after the ceremony.

**What is the timing of the ceremony?**

- All doors at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center open at 9:00 a.m.
- The procession begins at 10:30 a.m.
- The ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m.
• The sequence of the conferral of degrees is as follows: undergraduate B.A., B.S., and Honorary Degrees.
• The ceremony ends at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Where may I take photos during the ceremony?
Each graduate will be professionally photographed by GradImages. GradImages will send graduates a color digital image; orders may then be placed directly with GradImages. Section 109 will have space available to photograph your graduate after they leave the stage. Please be considerate of others waiting to access this area.

Will refreshments be available?
Light refreshments (coffee, juice, breakfast, pastries, soda) will be available for purchase in the Dunkin’ Donuts Center vending area prior to the ceremony. Please refrain from eating and/or drinking in the main arena during the ceremony.

Seating:

Commencement Seating
With the exception of a few reserved sections, seating is general admission and are free to choose open seats. Seats will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Families should plan to arrive at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center by 9:00 a.m. to obtain the best possible seating. Candidates for B.A. and B.S. degrees sit on both sides of the Dunkin’ Donuts Center floor; you won’t know until the morning of graduation on which side your student will be seated. Large video screens on either side of the stage will broadcast the entire ceremony.

Are there special arrangements for persons with special needs?
Guests with special needs may access the lobby by using the ramp located on the Hilton Providence side of the building (left of the main entrance). Once inside the lobby, proceed to the main concourse area towards Sections 101, 106, 110, 120, and 124 which are reserved for persons with disabilities. Supplemental sections 104 and 126 have also been added. Members of the Friars Club (wearing white blazers and black slacks/skirts) will be posted at these sections to assist guests with special needs. Only one escort is permitted to remain with a special needs guest or guest seated in a wheelchair. Fire laws are strictly enforced and do not permit leaving wheelchairs in the aisles. A sign-language interpreter will sign the entire Commencement Exercise.

Where should we meet our graduate after the ceremony?
With thousands of people exiting the arena, plan to join your PC graduate outside the Dunkin’ Donuts Center at a predetermined meeting spot.

Parking:
Providence College Security will direct you to parking for all on-campus events. Event parking for the commencement ceremony is available at various privately owned lots around the city, as well as in the garage adjacent to the Dunkin’ Donuts Center. For a map of available parking locations, please visit: http://www.dunkindonutscenter.com/guest-services/directions-parking

Dunkin’ Donuts Center General Information

Security at the Dunkin’ Donuts Center
All individuals will have to pass through metal detectors before entering the arena. Large bags of all kinds can be problematic, so we ask both graduates and guests alike to consider leaving bags at home or in your car. Bags that are larger than 13 5/8” x 15 ¼” will not be permitted through the security zone. Under some circumstances, security personnel will deem it necessary to search a bag before allowing its owner admittance to an event. This is true of events at both the Dunkin' Donuts Center and Peterson Recreation Center on campus. We encourage individuals to take advantage of the doors opening at 9:00 a.m. to give yourself plenty of time to get to your seats.

All camera policies are event specific. Small, personal, digital point and shoot cameras are acceptable, however, cameras with professional lenses, or detachable flashes are prohibited from the Dunkin’ Donuts Center. Use of video cameras, audio recording devices and digital cameras in video mode are strictly prohibited in the arena. The use of any of these items will result in disciplinary action and possible ejection from the arena.

The Dunkin' Donuts Center has a no-smoking policy, and smoking is limited to outdoor spaces on the Providence College campus. Visitors are not allowed to bring food or beverages into the Dunkin' Donuts Center.

**General Information**

**Restaurant Reservations**
We suggest either Saturday reservations after 6:00 p.m., Mass ends at approximately 5:30 p.m. or Sunday dinner reservations after 2:00 p.m. to allow time to exit the Dunkin’ Donuts Center and the downtown city area. For more information, visit the Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor’s Bureau website at [http://www.goprovindence.com/](http://www.goprovindence.com/)

**What about senior week activities?**
Questions should be directed to the Student Activities and Cultural Programing Office, 401.865.2211.

**What about hotel reservations?**
Hotel information is available on either of these sites:

*If you are a person with a disability and require an assistive device, service, or other accommodation to participate in this event, please contact the Central Reservations Manager at 401-865-1040; M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., well in advance of this event.*
IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE

December 1: Opening Date for Cap and Gown Ordering from Herff Jones

March 1: Closing Date for Cap and Gown ordering from Herff Jones

April 8: Cap and Gown Day- All tickets, informational materials, graduate number in line for Commencement will be distributed. Those on financial hold will not be given graduation materials until the hold is removed. Students will need to show their PC ID to pick-up materials.

May 16-20: Senior Week- Please contact the Office of Student Activities with questions regarding activities.

May 20: 2 p.m. ROTC Commissioning, War Memorial Grotto

May 21: 11 a.m. Honors Awards Ceremony, Peterson Recreation Center

May 21: 4 p.m. Commencement Mass, Peterson Recreation Center

May 22: 11 a.m. Commencement, Procession begins at 10:30 a.m., Dunkin Donuts Center, Downtown Providence

Important Phone Numbers

Important phone numbers you may need for questions related to:

Commencement Weekend
College Events, Office of College Event management and Planning
401.865.2344 or colevent@providence.edu

Office of the Dean of Undergraduate and Graduate Studies
Harkins Hall 213
401.865.2495 or academicdean@providence.edu

Bookstore Items
Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Providence College
401.865.2181 or pcbook@providence.edu

Dunkin’ Donuts Center
1 LaSalle Square, Providence, RI 02903
401.331.0700 or www.dunkindonutscenter.com

Financial Obligations
Office of Student Accounts
401.865.2284
Herff Jones
Customer Service
1.800.837.4235 or www.HerffJones.com/college/graduation

Highway Construction
R.I. Department of Transportation
401.222.2450 or www.dot.ri.gov

On-Campus Housing
Office of Residence Life
401.865.2392

Photography – Commencement Day
GradImages
1.800.261.2576 or www.gradimages.com

Safety and Security at Providence College
The Office of Safety and Security
401.865.2391

Senior Week Activities
Student Activities and Cultural Programing
401.865.2211

Veritas Yearbook
401.865.2605

Media and Publications – Student Activities at Providence College

For updates and current information on Providence College’s 2022 Commencement weekend, check the website: https://commencement.providence.edu/
Dunkin’ Donuts Center Map
Commencement Ceremony Location
Sunday, May 22, 2022