



PROVIDENCE  
COLLEGE



**STUDENT'S GUIDE TO  
COMMENCEMENT**

**PROVIDENCE COLLEGE  
COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND  
MAY 19-21, 2023**

**Dear Graduating Senior:**

**Congratulations** on your upcoming graduation from Providence College as a member of the class of 2023!

Information supplied in this guide should help answer the most frequently asked questions regarding your participation at commencement activities. If you have further questions after reading this guide, please call the Division of College Event Management and Planning at 401.865.2344 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or come to Harkins Hall, Room 404.

Visit the website at [www.providence.edu/commencement](http://www.providence.edu/commencement) and download the PC Event app Commencement 2023 Guide on your Smartphone for updated information.


A Parent and Family Guide has been emailed to assist families in planning efforts.

We wish you the best of luck as you prepare for this special occasion.

Sincerely,



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



Tara Baxter, CMP  
Senior Director, College Events and Conference Services  
Providence College

## Schedule of Events

### Sunday, May 7, 2023

#### **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 19, 2023

#### **ROTC Commissioning**

**2:00 p.m.**

**War Memorial Grotto**

Contact the Department of Military Science at 401.865.2471 for details.

#### **Graduate School and The School of Continuing Education Commencement Exercises**

**6:30 p.m.**

Peterson Recreation Center

***Doors open at 5:30 p.m. • Procession begins at 6:20 p.m.***

***Commencement Exercises begin at 6:30 p.m.***

### Saturday, May 20, 2023

#### **Academic Awards Ceremony**

**11:00 a.m. (*Doors open at 10:00 a.m.*)**

**Peterson Recreation Center**

(enter via the Concannon Fitness Center)

Graduates receiving honors or awards are expected to attend the ceremony. Graduates should assemble in Mullaney Gymnasium by 10:15 a.m. Families are invited to attend, and tickets are not required.

**Academic attire (cap and gown) is required. Please wear your cap with tassel hanging in front of the cap on right side. The hood is not worn at this ceremony. Bring your cord (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, place the cord around your 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. (*Doors open at 3:00 p.m.*)**

**Peterson Recreation Center**

(enter via the Concannon Fitness Center)

All graduates are invited to attend with their guests. Tickets are not required.

Graduates should assemble in Mullaney Gymnasium by 3:00 p.m.

**Academic attire is required for graduates; attire is carried: cap with tassel, gown, and honors cords, if applicable. The hood is not worn at this ceremony.** The procession will begin at 3:40 p.m. 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, but additional seating with a livestream of the event will be available in Mullaney Gymnasium. After Mass, students will process back to Mullaney Gymnasium in Alumni Hall before joining their families at the Family Reception on Slavin Center Lawn. Please designate a specific rendezvous site outdoors where your family can plan to meet after Mass.

### **Family Reception**

**5:30 to 6:30 p.m. (following the 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 21, 2023**

#### **Commencement Exercises**

**11:00 a.m.**

***Doors open at 9:00 a.m. • Procession begins at 10:30 a.m.***

***Commencement Exercises begin at 11:00 a.m.***

**Amica Mutual Pavilion, Downtown Providence**

**Academic attire is required, wear cap with tassel, gown, hood, and honors cord, if applicable.**

## **Helpful Commencement Information**

### **Tickets and Attire:**

#### **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 19, 2023.

#### **Why is there a limit to Commencement tickets?**

The technological projection requirements necessary to execute this ceremony at the Amica Mutual Pavilion 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, via an email lottery. Students will be notified via email that 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.

### **How do I order my attire?**

All seniors are required to order their cap and gown online between December 1, 2022, and March 1, 2023, from [www.HerffJones.com/college/graduation](http://www.HerffJones.com/college/graduation). All graduates receive a cap, gown, hood, and tassel with their order. Please note, the attire order has already been paid for by your graduation fees.

Additional items that are available for purchase, such as the Stole of Gratitude, may be made on the Herff Jones website. The Stole of Gratitude offers an opportunity for graduates to thank people who have helped them in their educational journey. The stole is worn by the student during the commencement ceremony. After the ceremony, the new graduate presents the Stole of Gratitude to a person who provided support and turned a dream into reality.

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

Cap & Gown Day will be held on April 19, 2023, in Slavin Center, '64 Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Seniors will pick up their pre-ordered cap, gown, and honors cord (if applicable). Information will be available for alumni regional clubs. Tickets to the Commencement exercises are included in the envelope with your number in line. Education majors who are unable to come on April 19 may pick up their attire, etc. the following week in Harkins Hall, Room 404, between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Please bring your PC ID.

### **December 2023 Graduation Candidates**

December 2023 candidates are included in all aspects of the May 2023 commencement. Candidates for December 2023 graduation participate in the May 2023 graduation ceremonies. December candidates will be included in the official commencement program, where they will be recognized as December 2023 graduation candidates. All December 2023 candidates will have their names read at the ceremony and will be eligible to walk on stage with the other graduates.

### **Cap & Gown Day**

**April 19, 2023, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**'64 Hall, Slavin Center**

#### **Bring your PC ID**

One stop for all your Commencement needs! Seniors will pick up their pre-ordered cap, gown, and honors cord (if applicable). Information will be available regarding alumni regional clubs. Tickets to the Commencement exercises are included in the envelope with your number in line.

### **Are there invitations or announcements for 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 with an unpaid balance as of April 14, 2023, *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.

## **On the Day of Commencement:**

### **Is attendance mandatory?**

Those seeking to be excused from attendance must obtain the necessary permission from the Office of the Registrar. Please email [graduate@providence.edu](mailto:graduate@providence.edu).

### **What about academic attire?**

Wear your cap and gown; the tassel should hang from the front, right-hand side. Academic hood is placed over your head, around your neck, draping over shoulders. The honors cord, if applicable, goes over the gown with the knot at back of neck. The only cords, sashes, or other accessory that is permitted are those issued by the National Honor Societies. Please see this helpful link for a video that shows the proper way to wear your cap and gown and hood:

<https://academicregalia.herffjones.com/go/howtowear>

### **What time should I report to the Amica Mutual Pavilion and where do I go?**

All graduates should report to the Exhibition Hall on the ground level of the Amica Mutual Pavilion no later than 9:15 a.m. Signage in the building will assist in directing you to the location.

### **Will student transportation be provided to and from the Amica Mutual Pavilion?**

While most graduates live off campus, there has been some inquiry regarding bus transport to the Amica Mutual Pavilion. 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 21 for graduates. Registration for the bus is **required** using the link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/commencement-2023-bus-transportation-tickets-470577799867>

Registration is available February 10– May 5, 2023. Seating is limited and cannot be guaranteed unless you have received an email confirmation. Please present your email confirmation upon arrival as this will be your 'ticket' to board the bus to the Amica Mutual Pavilion. The bus will be on the Sabin Street side of the Amica Mutual Pavilion for return after the ceremony.

### **Photography**

An envelope from GradImages will be on your chair during the ceremony. Complete the information and take the envelope with you as you approach the stage. GradImages will photograph you as you receive your diploma.

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

All doors at the Amica Mutual Pavilion 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; Honorary Degrees.

The ceremony ends at approximately 1:00 p.m.

### **Lining up for the procession**

Staff and volunteers will line up graduates at 9:25 a.m. Bring your number in line with you and identify whether you are receiving a B.A. or B.S. Your number in line is printed next to your name on the envelope you received at Cap & Gown Day. Once assigned a place in line, it is imperative that you stay in it for the procession. When you reach your seat, remain standing until after the Invocation.

It takes over an hour to assemble this part of the procession. The procession will begin promptly at 10:30 a.m. It will be unlikely for late arrivals to march or sit in their assigned seat.

**What type of degree am I receiving: Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science?**

You are receiving a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree if you majored in one of the following programs: American studies, art history, biology, biology/optometry (3/4 combined program), biology/secondary education, chemistry, chemistry/secondary education, classics, creative writing, economics (including business economics and quantitative economics), elementary/special education, world languages and cultures, & world languages and cultures/secondary education, english, english/secondary education, French, French/secondary education, global studies, history, history/secondary education, humanities, Italian, Italian/secondary education, mathematics, mathematics/secondary education, music, music education, philosophy, physics/secondary education, political science, psychology, public and community service studies, social science, sociology, Spanish, Spanish/secondary education, studio art, theatre, theology, and women's studies. You are receiving a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree if you majored in one of the following programs: accountancy, applied physics, biochemistry, biology, biology/optometry (3/4 combined program), biology/secondary education, chemistry, computer science, finance, health sciences management, marketing, and pre-engineering (3/2 combined program). A full list can be found here:

<https://catalog.providence.edu/content.php?catoid=31&navoid=1093>

**Receiving your diploma**

Stop at the top of the stairs on the stage. Listen for your name to be read, and then proceed to the center of the stage, where you will shake hands with the President and the Chairman of the PC Corporation. Your tassel should be moved from the front, right-hand side, to the left-hand side of your cap to signify the recognition of earning your degree. GradImages will photograph you as you receive your diploma and will also take another photo of you with your diploma cover when you leave the stage. The last stop is at the Registrar's office table where your official diploma will be issued. Following the issue of your diploma, you must return to your original seat for the remainder of the ceremony.

**Will refreshments be available?**

Light refreshments (coffee, juice, breakfast, pastries, soda) will be available for purchase in the Amica Mutual Pavilion vending area prior to the ceremony. Please refrain from eating and/or drinking in the main arena during the ceremony. Graduates are not allowed to take food or drink into the arena. Water will be placed at each graduate's chair prior to the start of the ceremony.

**Seating:****Commencement Seating for families**

With the exception of a few reserved sections, seating is open and will be filled on a first come, first-served basis. To obtain the best possible seating, families should plan to arrive at the Amica Mutual Pavilion by 9:15 a.m. Candidates for B.A. and B.S. degrees sit on both sides of the Amica Mutual Pavilion 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. These sections 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 you meet your family after the ceremony?**

With thousands of people exiting the arena, please plan to join your family or guests outside the Amica Mutual Pavilion at a predetermined meeting spot.

**Amica Mutual Pavilion General Information**

**Security at the Amica Mutual Pavilion:**

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 (unless it is necessary for you to carry them with you).

Bags that are larger than 13 5/8" x 15 1/4" 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. Clear bags or small wristlets (4x6) are **strongly encouraged** for all events as of 9/16/2021 at the AMP. Baggage such as bags, briefcases, backpacks, and luggage are prohibited. Guests entering the arena are subject to search at the discretion of Management. The arena does not provide storage for any confiscated baggage.

This is true of events at both the Amica Mutual Pavilion 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 Amica Mutual Pavilion. Use of video cameras, audio recording devices and digital cameras in video mode are prohibited in the arena. The use of any of these items will result in disciplinary action and possible ejection from the arena.

**Prohibited Items:**

Drugs, weapons of any kind, baggage, noisemakers, or laser pointers are prohibited at the arena. The Amica Mutual Pavilion 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 Amica Mutual Pavilion.

All policies can be found here: <https://www.amicamutualpavilion.com/guest-services/building-policies>

**Covid Protocols:**

**On campus:**

Public health guidance has provided the foundation for PC's 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. We will keep graduates and families apprised of any specific protocols, if necessary.



### **At the Amica Mutual Pavilion:**

Guidelines for the Amica Mutual Pavilion can be found here:

<https://www.amicamutualpavilion.com/guest-services/building-policies>

## **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 Amica Mutual Pavilion and the downtown city area. For more information, visit the Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor's Bureau website at <http://www.goprovidence.com/>

### **What about senior week activities?**

Questions should be directed to the Student Activities- Involvement-Leadership office at 401.865.2211.

### **What about hotel reservations?**

Hotel information is available on either of these sites:

<https://commencement.providence.edu/>

<http://www.goprovidence.com/>

### **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 19:** 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. Please remember to bring your PC ID.

**May 15-19:** Senior Week- Please contact the Office of Student Activities with questions regarding activities.

**May 19:** 2 p.m. ROTC Commissioning, War Memorial Grotto

**May 20:** 11 a.m. Honors Awards Ceremony, Peterson Recreation Center

Doors open at 10:00 a.m., procession begins at 10:50 a.m.

**May 20:** 4 p.m. Commencement Mass, Peterson Recreation Center

Doors open at 3:00 p.m., procession begins at 3:40 p.m.

**May 21:** 11 a.m. Commencement, Amica Mutual Pavilion, Downtown Providence

Doors open at 9:00 a.m., procession begins at 10:30 a.m.

*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 (401.865.1040; M-F 8:30 a.m. – 4:30p.m.) well in advance of this event.*

## **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](mailto:colevent@providence.edu)

### **Office of the Registrar**

Harkins Hall 310  
401.865.1033 or [records@providence.edu](mailto:records@providence.edu)

### **Bookstore Items**

Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Providence College  
401.865.2181 or [pcbook@providence.edu](mailto:pcbook@providence.edu)

### **Amica Mutual Pavilion**

1 LaSalle Square, Providence, RI 02903  
401.331.0700 or <https://www.amicamutualpavilion.com/>

### **Financial Obligations**

Office of Student Accounts  
401.865.2284

### **Herff Jones**

Customer Service  
1.800.837.4235 or [www.Herffjones.com/college/graduation](http://www.Herffjones.com/college/graduation)

### **Highway Construction**

R.I. Department of Transportation  
401.222.2450 or [www.dot.ri.gov](http://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](http://www.gradimages.com)

### **Safety and Security at Providence College**

The Office of Public Safety  
401.865.2391

**Senior Week Activities**

Student Activities- Involvement-Leadership office  
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 2023 Commencement weekend, check the website: <https://commencement.providence.edu/>**



- C2 1 Anderson Stadium Garage
- C2 2 Conannon Parking
- E4 3 Fennel and Smith Center Lots
- D4 4 Glay Field Lot
- A3 5 Hickey/Sowa Lot
- C2 6 Lennon Field Parking Garage
- C4 7 Martin Hall Lot
- B1 8 Peterson Recreation Center
- B3 9 Ruane Center Lot
- C1 10 Schneider Arena Lot
- B2 11 Slavin Center
- B2 12 Slavin Lawn
- C3 13 War Memorial Grotto
- B1 14 Wardlaw Lot