



PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE



**STUDENT'S GUIDE TO
COMMENCEMENT**

**PROVIDENCE COLLEGE
COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND
MAY 15-17, 2026**

Dear Graduating Senior:

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from Providence College as a member of the class of 2026!

Information supplied in this guide should help answer the most frequently asked questions regarding your participation in 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 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 R. Baxter, CMP
Senior Director, College Events and Conference Services
Providence College

Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 14, 2026

**Graduate Programs 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.***

Friday, May 15, 2026

**ROTC Commissioning
2:00 p.m.
War Memorial Grotto
Contact Department of Military Science at 401.865.2471 for details**

Saturday, May 16, 2026

**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. The ceremony is approximately one and one-half hours in length.

- **Academic attire (cap and gown) is required.**
- Please wear your cap with tassel hanging in front of the cap on the 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.

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 who require accommodations.
- 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 out of Peterson Recreation Center and join 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 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 17, 2026

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, 1 LaSalle Square, Providence, RI 02903

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

Helpful Commencement Information

How do I know that I have fully satisfied my degree requirements?

All May 2026 degree candidates (both undergraduate and graduate) who have been pre-certified by the School Advising Deans to receive their degrees pending successful completion of spring courses will be awarded their degrees.

Any May 2026 candidates requiring additional course work after spring 2026 will be notified by their School Advising Dean that their degrees will be conferred upon completion of their outstanding degree requirements. For some candidates, this notification will come only after spring grading is completed, and therefore, will take place after the May 17 commencement.

When will I receive my diploma?

All graduates whose degrees are conferred will have their diplomas and associated academic award certificates presented by the Registrar's office at the commencement ceremony. Additionally, any/all outstanding holds must be resolved prior to the diploma being distributed. If you do not attend the ceremony, the Office of the Registrar will be in contact with you after the ceremony to make arrangements for you to pick up your diploma or have it mailed to you.

How do I order my attire?

All seniors are required to order their cap and gown online between December 15, 2025, and March 13, 2026, from 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 15, 2026, in Bouligny Lounge, Moore 125, The Center at Moore Hall from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 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 15 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. All guests need to be registered for a ticket by the graduate.

How will I know about graduation honors, class rank, and any other academic awards (undergraduates only)?

The Office of the Registrar will notify recipients of ceremonial (7 semesters) graduation honors – summa, magna, and cum laude honors, class rank, and other academic awards. Final graduation honors will include grading from all semesters of study at PC and will appear on the graduate's official transcript.

I am graduating with honors. How do I obtain my honor cords?

Students receiving honors, that were notified by the Registrar, will be able to obtain their honor cords (summa, magna, and cum laude honors) at Cap and Gown Day. Students with an unpaid balance may not be able to receive their honor cords 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.

<https://bursar.providence.edu/> or <https://bursar.providence.edu/student-loans/>

How do I request my PC transcript?

Information regarding transcripts is located on the Office of the Registrar's webpage.

<https://registrar.providence.edu/students/transcriptrequest/>

December 2026 Graduation Candidates

December 2026 candidates are included in all aspects of the May 2026 commencement. Candidates for December 2026 graduation participate in the May 2026 graduation ceremonies. December candidates will be included in the official commencement program, where they will be recognized as December 2026 graduation candidates. All December 2026 candidates will have their names read at the ceremony and will be eligible to walk on stage with the other graduates. If you would prefer to participate in the May 2027 commencement ceremony, you must send your request to Stefanie Calderon at friarsgraduation@providence.edu no later than February 2026.

Cap & Gown Day

April 15, 2026, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bouligny Lounge, Moore125

The Center at Moore Hall

Please 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. All guests need to be registered for a ticket by the graduate.

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 10, 2026, *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:

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 (5) guest tickets to the ceremony. **Graduates do not need a ticket for entry.** Tickets will be distributed to the graduates on Cap & Gown Day on April 15, 2026. All guests need to be registered for a ticket by the graduate.

How are guests registered for tickets?

Each graduate will receive an email to register their guests for Commencement. Only graduating students may register their guests and must utilize their PC student email when registering. Graduates will need your guest's full name, email, and cell phone number to complete registration and ensure their spot. Once the process is complete you will receive a confirmation email. If your guests change or you do not enter all their information, you will not be able to go back and edit your registration. Graduates will need to contact the office of college event management and planning, via email for any edits.

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 five guest tickets. If you do not require all five guest tickets, please return them to the Office of College Event Management and Planning, Harkins Hall 404.

Is attendance mandatory?

Those seeking to be excused from attendance must obtain the necessary permission from the Office of the Registrar. Please email friarsgraduation@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 your shoulders. The honors cord, if applicable, goes over the gown with the knot at back of neck. The only cords, sashes, or other accessories 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://www.herffjones.com/resources/graduation/cap-and-gown-tips/>

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 class of 2026 transportation. The buses will depart from Concannon Circle promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17 for graduates.

Registration is available December 15, 2025- May 1, 2026. 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.

Registration for the bus is **required** using the link: <https://events.blackthorn.io/3iofXW6/4a6XUT9tYL>

Photography

Professional photography is handled by an outside vendor. GradImages will photograph you as you receive your diploma, and after you leave the stage. Pre-registration with GradImages and a discount [link](#) can be found on the Commencement [webpage](#).

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 between 1- 1:15 p.m. (timing is approximate)

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:

Bachelor of Arts

- American Studies
- Art History
- Biology
- Biology/Optometry
- Biology/Secondary Education
- Black Studies
- Business Economics
- Catholic Studies
- Chemistry
- Chemistry/Secondary Education

- Classics
- Creative Writing
- Economics
- Elementary/Special Education
- English
- English/Secondary Education
- Global Studies
- History
- History/Secondary Education
- Humanities
- Liberal Arts
- Liturgical Music
- Mathematics
- Mathematics/Secondary Education
- Music
- Music Education
- Music Technology and Production
- Music: Musical Theatre Concentration
- Philosophy
- Physics/Secondary Education
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public and Community Service Studies
- Social Science
- Social Work
- Sociology
- Studio Art
- Theatre
- Theatre: Musical Theatre Concentration
- Theology
- Women's and Gender Studies
- World Languages and Cultures (Options: French, Italian, or Spanish)
- World Languages and Cultures/Secondary Education (Options: French/Secondary Education, Italian/Secondary Education, or Spanish/Secondary Education)

You are receiving a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree if you majored in one of the following programs:

Bachelor of Science

- Accountancy
- Biochemistry
- Biology
- Biology/Optometry
- Biology/Secondary Education
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Environmental Biology
- Finance
- Health Policy and Management
- Health Sciences (available to students in Fall 2023)
- Management

- Marketing
- Mathematics
- Neuroscience
- Physics
- Pre-Engineering
- Quantitative Economics

A full list can be found here: <https://catalog.providence.edu/content.php?catoid=34&navoid=1259>

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.

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 9:00 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 who require accommodations?

At Peterson Recreation Center:

Providence College Security will direct you to parking for all on-campus events. ADA parking spots are not reservable and are available on a first-come-first-serve basis, to those with disability placards. Guests may be dropped off in front of the main entrance of the Concannon Fitness Center. Once inside the building there is an elevator located just past the fitness center. Staff and Friars Club members will be on hand to direct guests.

At the Amica Mutual Pavilion:

There are several ADA/Accessible parking spaces in front of the AMP that are available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Guests may be dropped off in front of the main entrance at One LaSalle Square.

Guests who require accommodation 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 Guest Services. Wheelchair escorts are available for guests who may need assistance getting to and/or from their seat. Wheelchairs may not be reserved and are allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. For additional information or an escort, please call 401-331-6700.

Sections 101, 106, 110, 120, and 124 which are reserved for people who require accessible seating. 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. 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 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. We encourage individuals to take advantage of the doors opening at 9:00 a.m. to give you 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, detachable lenses or detachable flashes are prohibited from the Amica Mutual Pavilion. 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>

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 Engagement and 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/>

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 DATES AT A GLANCE

December 15: Opening Date for Cap and Gown Ordering from Herff Jones

March 13: Closing Date for Cap and Gown ordering from Herff Jones

April 15: 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 11-14: Senior Week- Please contact the Office of Student Engagement and Leadership with questions regarding activities.

May 15: 2:00 p.m. ROTC Commissioning, War Memorial Grotto

May 16: 11:00 a.m. Honors Awards Ceremony, Peterson Recreation

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

May 16: 4:00 p.m. Commencement Mass, Peterson Recreation Center

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

May 17: 11:00 a.m. Commencement, Amica Mutual Pavilion, Downtown Providence

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

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 colevents@providence.edu

Office of the Registrar

Harkins Hall 310
401.865.1033 or friarsgraduation@providence.edu

Bookstore Items

Barnes & Noble Bookstore, Providence College
401.865.2181 or 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

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 Public Safety
401.865.2391

Senior Week Activities

Student Engagement and 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 2026 Commencement weekend, check the website: <https://commencement.providence.edu/>

