



PROVIDENCE COLLEGE



PARENT AND FAMILY GUIDE TO COMMENCEMENT

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

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 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 colevents@providence.edu.

Also be sure to visit the College's website www.providence.edu/commencement 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 R. Baxter, CMP
Senior Director, College Events and
Conferences 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 for graduates.**
- They will wear their 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 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 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 for graduates, they will wear cap with tassel, gown, hood, and honors cord, if applicable.

Helpful Commencement Information

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

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. Emails will be sent to seniors, weekly beginning December 15, 2025, directing them to the website. Cap & Gown Day will be held on April 15, 2026, in The Center at Moore Hall, Bouligny Lounge 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. Orders must be made by the graduating student with their providence.edu email. All guests need to be registered for a ticket by the graduate.

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. Graduates who prefer to participate in the May 2027 commencement ceremony, must send their request to Stefanie Calderon at friarsgraduation@providence.edu no later than February 2026.

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 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.

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 Commencement. Graduates do not need a ticket for entry. Tickets will be distributed to the graduates at 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 the PC student email when registering. Graduates will need their guest's full name, email, and cell phone number to complete registration and ensure their spot. Once the process is complete graduates will receive a confirmation email. If guests change or all their information is not entered, graduates will not be able to go back and edit their registration. Graduates will need to contact the Office of College Event Management and Planning, via email.

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.

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 graduate** transportation. The buses will depart from Concannon Circle promptly at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, May 17 for graduates, seating is limited to members of the class of 2026. Registration is available December 15, 2025- May 1, 2026. Seating is limited and cannot be guaranteed unless your student has received an email confirmation. Graduates will need to present email confirmation upon arrival as this will be their '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 provided to graduates.

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., and Honorary Degrees.
- The ceremony ends between 1-1:15 p.m., approximately.

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.

Will refreshments be available?

Light refreshments 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.

Seating:

Commencement Seating

Apart from a few reserved sections, seating is unassigned. Seats will be filled on a first come, first served basis. Families should plan to arrive at the Amica Mutual Pavilion 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 Amica Mutual Pavilion floor: you will not know until the morning of graduation 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 we meet our graduate after the ceremony?

With thousands of people exiting the arena, plan to join your PC graduate outside the Amica Mutual Pavilion 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 Amica Mutual Pavilion. For a map of available parking locations, please visit: <https://www.amicamutualpavilion.com/guest-services/directions-parking>

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, 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, and any updates, can be found here: <https://www.amicamutualpavilion.com/guest-services/building-policies>

General Information

Restaurant Reservations

We suggest either Saturday reservation 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 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 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

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/>

A [campus map](#) with walking and driving instructions is also available for guests attending events at Providence College.



Campus Map Key

1. River Avenue Entrance (Phelan Gates)	12. Meagher Hall	22. St. Joseph Hall	33. Mondor Center for Nursing and Health Sciences (2025)	43. Eaton Street Café	53. Concannon Fitness Center
2. Priory of St. Thomas Aquinas	13. McVINNEY Hall	23. Acciino Hall	34. Ceramics Building	44. Huxley Avenue Entrance	54. Taylor Natatorium
3. Harkins Hall	14. Aquinas Hall	24. Guzman Hall	35. Physical Plant	45. Public Safety	55. Peterson Recreation Center
4. Science Complex	15. Center for Catholic and Dominican Studies	25. Cunningham Hall	36. Sullivan Hall	46. Raymond Dining II	56. Alumni Hall
5. Albertus Magnus Hall	16. Martin Hall	26. Shanley Hall	37. Koffler Hall	47. Raymond Hall	57. Alumni Hall Cafeteria II
6. Sowa Hall	17. St. Dominic Chapel	27. Glay Field	38. Howley Hall	48. Center at Moore Hall	58. Slavin Center
7. Hickey Hall	18. Mal Brown Hall	28. Davis Hall	39. Service Building	49. Chapex Field at Anderson Stadium	59. Dunkin'
8. Ruane Center for the Humanities	19. DiTraglia Hall	29. Bedford Hall	40. Hunt-Cavanagh Hall	50. Schneider Arena	60. Barnes & Noble Bookstore
9. Ruane Café	20. Dominic House	30. McCarthy Hall	41. St. Catherine of Siena Hall	51. Power Plant	61. Ruane Friar Development Center
10. Phillips Memorial Library	21. Feinstein Academic Center	31. Smith Center for the Arts	42. Ryan Center for Business Studies	52. Lennon Family Field	62. Ray Tracy Track & Field
11. McDermott Hall		32. Eaton Street Entrance			