



The Commencement ceremonies will be held on Monday, May 5th, 2025, at the Minnesota Orchestra Hall located at 1111 Nicollet Mall, (zip 55403) between Nicollet and Marquette at Peavey Plaza in downtown Minneapolis. The times of the ceremonies are listed below.

Is Commencement the same as Graduation?

No, Commencement is a formal event, held twice annually (spring and fall), to celebrate and recognize the milestone of completing (or the anticipated completion of) a program or degree. Participation in commencement is optional and does not confirm completion of degree requirements. Commencement activities (Commencement Expo, President’s Outstanding Student Awards, and Commencement) are facilitated by Student Life & Leadership Development.

Graduation is the official confirmation of the completion of all degree requirements, and is recorded on your official transcript, both of which are administered by the Registrar's Office.

Livestreaming

Livestreaming will be available the day of Commencement. Viewers can access the livestream by going to: www.metrostate.edu. You will also be able to view on our YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MetropolitanStateLive/videos> Please note that the videos will not appear (go live) until about 15 minutes prior to the ceremony start.

Ceremony Information

In an effort to provide a better experience for all graduates and their guests, we have split Commencement into two ceremonies. Please be sure you attend the correct ceremony – **this is particularly important if you are “double-majoring”** (see the FAQs below for more information on this). Your major or area of study determines which College or School with which you should Commence.

The following table includes information about Commencement ceremony times.

<p>1st Ceremony May 5th, 2025 begins at 11:00 am., arrive no later than 10:15 am.</p>	<p>2nd Ceremony May 5th, 2025 begins at 3:00 pm., arrive no later than 2:15 pm.</p>
<p>Participants include the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral graduates from the following college:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School of Urban Education • College of Community Studies and Public Affairs • College of Sciences • College of Liberal Arts 	<p>Participants include the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degree graduates from the following colleges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College of Business & Management • College of Nursing and Health Sciences • College of Individualized Studies

If you are not sure about your College or School you can find all the majors at this web page: <https://www.metrostate.edu/academics> .

Arrival Process and lead up to Day of Commencement

- Rehearsal? We do not do a rehearsal, staff will guide you on what to do at the venue.
- Graduates and guests should arrive about 1 hour prior to start time. Graduates need to make their way to the line up room (signage and staff will direct students).
- Doors for seating will open about 45 minutes prior to ceremony start time for guests. All guest seating is by reserved seating. Students will be provided codes for a number of tickets (we believe that number will be either 4 or 5 guaranteed per student) and will then select seats for their guests. Electronic tickets will then be distributed.
- **We will be setting deadlines for students to select seats.** This will be done so that we can "pull back" unused seats and redistribute. More information will be coming out later. **If you do NOT need all of your seat codes please do not use them as we will be able to give them to another student who has extra guest requests.**
- Children aged 2 and under who will be sitting on an adult's lap will **NOT** need a ticket. **All other** guests will require a ticket for admittance.
- The ceremonies will run for about 90 minutes.
- Ushers will help seat late guest arrivals at an appropriate time. Please have guests keep their voices to a low level out of respect for the graduates.
- The University has hired photographers and videographers to document the event, so please refrain from moving around to take your own photos.

Graduation Workshop and Commencement Workshop in D2L

For most students, your registration into the Graduation Requirements Workshop (WKSP GRAD) and selecting "yes" for participation in the Commencement Quiz has put you into the Spring 2025 Commencement D2L Workshop. If you see the "Spring 2025 Commencement" workshop you are RSVP'd to attend Commencement. If you cannot attend, please email student.life@metrostate.edu.

Students graduating in Summer:

If you are a student graduating in summer that would like to participate in Commencement you will need to decide if you want to "walk early" (Spring) or wait until the December Commencement. If you wish to wait until December then sign up for the Summer Graduation workshop and select "yes" in the Commencement Participation Quiz - that will add you to the Fall (December) Commencement. If want to "walk early", do NOT sign up for the Spring Grad Workshop (still do the Summer Workshop) but e-mail student.life@metrostate.edu to let us know you wish to walk early in the Spring. We will add you to the Commencement Workshop in D2L. Please know that students who walk early do not have their name in the program. Instead, it will appear in the Fall Semester program. You can request a Fall Program after that Commencement takes place. If you would like to walk early, give us:

1. Your name
2. Student ID number or STAR ID
3. College/Program you are in
4. That you wish to participate in the Spring Ceremony (again, this is only for Summer Graduates)
5. Remember that you will still need to sign up for the Summer Grad Requirements Workshop to complete the graduation process



Guest Seating

All guest seating will be by reserved seating. Students will be provided codes for a number of tickets (we believe that number will be 4 guaranteed per student and we will message out that number later). You will then be able to go into Minnesota Orchestra Hall's system and select your guest seats - much like going to a concert or sporting event and using Ticketmaster. You will be provided electronic tickets to distribute to your guests.

We know that some students have additional guests that would like to attend the ceremony. And, we know that not everyone will need four tickets. To help with redistributing unused tickets we will be setting deadlines for students to select seats. At the deadline we will "pull back" unused seats and we will be developing a process to get those seats out to students who desire extras. **If you do NOT need all of your seat codes please do not use them** as we will be able to give them to another student who has extra guest requests.

Please note that children aged 2 and under who will be sitting on an adult's lap will NOT need a ticket. All other guests will require a ticket for admittance. This is a ticketed event and there will be no late/general seating. Additionally, we will not have seating in the lobby. Please have your additional guests watch the Livestream of the Commencement.

International Guests Invitations

The Registrar's Office no longer provides letters for students with international guests.

Instead, please log in to D2L Brightspace and go to the Commencement Workshop. Once you have logged in, click the "Commencement Participation Certificate" tab and you will be able to download a certificate verifying that you are participating in commencement. Your international guest(s) may submit this certificate as part of their VISA/International Guest Application with their respective embassy.

Graduate Line Up

Graduates will line up in designated spaces at the Minnesota Orchestra Hall according to their college/school. Graduates will line up as per the listings below. Signage and staff will guide students to the designated line up space.

We ask that families and guests remain in the lobby or takes their seats. If a graduate has children or minors with them, we ask that they work to secure childcare for their children during the ceremony.

Each graduate will receive a name card in the Graduate Line Up room. This name card is handed to the speaker, who will read your name as you walk across the stage. These will be pre-printed and you can make corrections as/if needed. You can use Namecoach to record your name in advance and give our name readers a better chance of pronouncing your name correctly.



- **Doctoral and Masters** graduates will line up by their degree name posted on the wall.
- **Bachelor's** graduates will line up with the college/school they are receiving their degree from.
 - If you are not sure which college you are receiving your degree from, contact your academic advisor, see the FAQs below or visit this Metro State webpage: <https://www.metrostate.edu/academics>

Regalia information

Regalia (caps, gowns, tassels, stoles, honor cords, invitations, etc.) can be purchased at:

Commencement Expo

Saturday, March 29, 2025

9:30am-1:30pm

New Main Great Hall

Please go to the D2L Commencement Workshop in early March to pre-complete the PDF ordering forms and to get information regarding regalia pricing and ordering. Our vendor is Herff Jones (<https://gradmidwestmetrostate.square.site/>). Online ordering will NOT go live until the week of March 31 at the Herff Jones website above. We recommend you attend the Expo if you are able to do so as you will receive the lowest pricing and also save on shipping costs.

Questions about regalia, purchases, returns or exchanges:

If you have questions about regalia, including returns/exchanges, please contact gradmidwest@gmail.com and Herff Jones will help you with your questions/inquiries.

Custom stoles and caps:

A couple of varieties of stoles can be purchased through Herff Jones - those are pre-approved. Some students like to customize their caps or get a custom stole. If you have a custom stole or cap please contact: student.life@metrostate.edu for approval. Decorated caps or other stoles are generally approved so long as they are not offensive or distracting.

How to wear your regalia:

Tassels should be worn as follows:

- Doctoral and Masters graduates: Left shoulder side
- Undergraduate graduates: Right shoulder side

Stoles should be worn over your gown. You may wear as many stoles as you would like. Doctoral graduate hoods should not be worn until a student is hooded on stage.



Processional

A University staff member will lead graduates into the hall at the beginning of the ceremony. Graduates will follow the person in front of them in a single line. Once in the Hall, additional staff members will help direct graduates into the proper row to be seated.

During the processional, we ask that guests stay at their seats. We also ask guests to keep walkways clear in case of emergency. This allows for a smooth and safe ceremony for all participants.

While graduates are entering the Hall, ticketed guests not already seated will be asked to remain outside the Hall until all graduates and University staff have been seated. Guests may need to wait until about 10 minutes after the ceremony has begun. Guests without tickets will not be admitted/seated and there is no designated waiting space. Please give additional guests the Livestream information for them to view remotely.

Graduates are expected to stay until the end of the ceremony.

Accessibility at Commencement

Commencement has accessibility services to ensure that all participants are able to celebrate with their loved ones. Reservations are recommended for accessible seating. Some accessible seating will be available for self-selection with the codes you will receive. We will also be able to switch out your seats on site for accessible seating if necessary.

Please arrive to your designated Commencement Ceremony at least 30 minutes before the start to ensure accommodations are met. For accessibility-related accommodations and reservations please contact: accessibility.resources@metrostate.edu

Frequently asked questions/Additional guest information

- **Colleges and Schools:** Metropolitan State University is comprised of six (6) colleges and one School. So, while you are graduating from Metropolitan State University you have also completed your degree in the College of Liberal Arts, College of Business and Management, School of Urban Education, etc. This is important to know as we conduct two Commencement ceremonies and only have certain Colleges at each one. See the chart on page 1 for the ceremony split.
- **What does "Arts" or "Science" mean in your degree??** These designations have almost nothing to do with your college/school. The difference between "Arts" and "Science" tends to signify whether there was a greater concentration of coursework focus on arts and humanities or toward scientific and technical fields. Again, it does **NOT** signify what college under which you should commence. As examples, a Bachelor of Science in Accounting falls under the College of Business and Management (**not** the College of Sciences) and a Bachelor of Arts in Individualized Studies falls under the College of Individualized Studies (**not** the College of Liberal Arts). You need to know/double check what College your degree falls under. This is easily done by clicking the "Academics" choice on Metro's Home Page and selecting "Colleges, Schools and departments".

FAQs (con't)

- **Double Major:** If you will be receiving a double major you will need to decide which major (and, therefore, which college) you would like to Commence with and then sit with that college at their ceremony time. For guest ticketing purposes email student.life@metrostate.edu with your preference if your majors are in colleges that commence at different times.
- **Parking:** There are several pay parking lots near Orchestra Hall. For convenience, guests are encouraged to park at the Ramp at 1111 S. Marquette Ave. If any guests are not able to walk, please drop them off and have them check in with Accessibility Services.
- **Balloons/Flowers:** Balloons and flowers are welcome (please no helium ballons), but they must be checked in at the "Audience Services Office" at MN Orchestra Hall. There is a monitored room there for these items.
- **Photography and videography:** Metro State University has hired photographers and videographers to capture the Commencement Ceremonies. Please do not leave your seats to take photos or videos.
- **Please stay in your seats:** We ask that guests stay at their seats during the processing, ceremony, and recession. Please do not stand in walkways or enter/exit the Auditorium repeatedly, unless you need to access the bathroom. This movement and noise can be distracting to graduates, their guests, and can be heard on the livestream.
- **Lost and found:** Any lost items will be turned in to the Orchestra Hall Info/Security Desk.
- **Strollers and carriers:** Must be checked in at the "Audience Services Office" at MN Orchestra Hall. There is a monitored room there for these items.
- **Purses/Cell Phones/Jackets, etc:** You can NOT check these items with Audience Services. Please give them to one of your guests to hold for you.
- **Additional Tickets:** See "Guest Seating" on page 3 for ticketing information.
- **"Honors":** Honors designation is for Undergraduate students only and based on a cumulative GPA of 3.70 or higher. If you graduate with honors you can purchase/wear an optional honors cord.
- **Rehearsal:** We do not conduct any rehearsals for Commencement. Staff will be on site to guide you and once we start the ceremony you will simply follow the person in front of you.

Questions

For questions regarding Commencement, contact Student Life & Leadership Development at: student.life@metrostate.edu