

Lowell House Commencement Day Schedule

- 6:15 am** Bagpiper alert
- 6:30 am** Senior Class Breakfast! Come dressed in regalia and enjoy a hot breakfast with deans and SCR members. Bring your HUID
- 7:30 am** Senior procession forms in front of Lowell House to proceed to the Yard
- 8:00 am** Senior Service with Harvard chaplains (Old Yard)
- 9:00am** Yard Exercises (Tercentenary Theater)
- Noon** Buffet Luncheon for Seniors & Families (Dining Hall & Courtyards)
- 1:00-2:15pm** Lowell House Diploma Ceremony (Class of 1992 Courtyard)

Not Attending the Commencement Ceremony on May 26th?

If you do *not* want to participate in Commencement on campus on May 26 **please email the House Office right away:** lowell@fas.harvard.edu. If you are unsure due to athletic competitions, please alert us that your attendance is “pending”. If for any reason you prefer to have your diploma [mailed](#) to you instead of given to you in person, please visit the Registrar’s page and follow the shipment prompts.

FAQs:

How many Commencement tickets do I get?

Harvard issues only 4 tickets per student for the Morning Yard Exercises (that’s the big shebang in the Yard) You can give them to any friend or family member you choose. However, selling Morning Exercises tickets is forbidden by the university so do not advertise to sell them. If you would like to request extra Morning Exercises tickets, you will need to contact the commencement office directly. Visit their website at <https://commencement.harvard.edu/ticket-information>
NB: There are no tickets needed for the afternoon Lowell House diploma ceremony.

Where do I get tickets for everything?

Senior Week events, Class Day, Morning Exercises, and Senior Lunch tickets all be picked up by Seniors and walkers in person at the “Senior Desk”, location TBD. This Senior Desk is run by the Harvard Alumni Association and is the central point for all major ticketing for commencement events. It will open up in mid-May. We will post updates on our website and send a reminder email when it is open.

Where do I get my cap and gown?

You are required to wear customized academic caps and gowns for Commencement exercises Harvard Yard and in Lowell House. Cap and gowns are available for purchase between May 19-26th at the Coop, 10am – 8pm, Sunday only until 6pm. NO reservations or pre-orders are required for college seniors! Cost is \$50.00 for bachelor gown, \$94 for master’s gown with hood. The Coop is also open early on Commencement Day (6:15am) for regalia pickup. Cash, check, charge or Crimson Cash accepted.

What is the Diploma Ceremony?

The Lowell House diploma ceremony is where you actually receive your Harvard diploma! It is given to you by the Faculty Deans and the Resident Dean. The ceremony occurs mid-day, after all the morning excitement and lunch. You will remain in cap and gown for this important event (more details at the end)

What is on the Lowell House Commencement Program?

All degree candidates and participants are listed in the Lowell House commencement program, even if they cannot attend. As space permits, we list as many College prizes and awards as possible, too. Because we rely on you for information about your awards, please report any prizes and awards you have won during all your years at Harvard on our [Senior Survey](#). (Keep in mind we cannot list all prizes and will exercise discretion in this matter.)

Wait, what about Term Bills?

If you have any outstanding bills, you must settle them by May 23rd with Student Receivables (i.e. the Term Bill Office, 617 495-2739) <https://sfs.harvard.edu/student-accounts>. Make sure all university bills are paid on time or you will not receive your actual diploma at Commencement! All you will get is a big, empty, white envelope.

What is the Senior Lunch like?

It will be a large buffet lunch of vegetarian and chicken options, pastas, fruit, desserts and the all-important “H” specialty ice cream! You can take your plate out to the courtyard or sit somewhere inside any of our public spaces. You will receive 1 ticket for your own lunch and 2 guest tickets, *gratis*. Any other tickets are considered ‘extra’ and you will need to purchase them for \$18 each at the Senior Desk in mid-May.

About Kosher lunches: If you need a kosher lunch for you or your family you may order them directly via Lou Maurer by May 10th. His email is louis_maurer@harvard.edu. Extra Kosher lunches will **not** be readily available on Commencement Day so please do be sure to **order in advance** if you or your family wish to keep Kosher!

What’s Senior Week and what happens?

Senior Week is a fun, traditional week of all-Class events like the Senior Soiree, Senior Olympics, and Senior BBQ. It’s a packed week! It’s planned by your Senior Class Committee and the website will be live in a few weeks. Your Lowell senior class committee representative is Ishaan Prasad; he can help answer specific Senior Week questions.

Are the Dining Halls open?

Mostly not. One or two dining halls are kept open for limited meals during Senior Week but they all close for Commencement Week. Keep in mind there will be a lot of gatherings and other events across campus that offer food during this time.

Is there a Lowell House reception for Seniors?

Yes! A reception for Lowell seniors and their families will be held on Wednesday, May 25th from 5 to 7 pm in the Faculty Deans’ residence and back yard. Light appetizers and drinks will be available; please plan on coming! Everyone is welcome.

Commencement Rehearsals & Security

There are no actual rehearsals for the big day; Commencement Aides and staff will be around to guide you every step of the way. Regarding security: you must have your Harvard ID in hand at the Senior Breakfast--we will be giving each of you a special security lanyard into which you will insert your ID as you line up to march to the Yard. This is how you gain access to the Yard without being searched. So don’t forget your ID! Also please be sure NOT to bring extra bags or purses with you to morning exercises.

What happens at the Diploma Ceremony?

Seniors should plan to line up alphabetically in the main courtyard by AA entry steps around 12:50pm after lunch. There will be Commencement workers and aides to help you get in order and monitor the line formation. David, Nina and Annie will be standing on the patio ready to call your

name and give you your diploma. (You should wait until you hear Annie announce your name before you start walking, please) The professional photographer* will snap a picture of you receiving your diploma, and then you will follow the receiving line as members of the Senior Common Room congratulate you. Please follow the receiving line all the way to the end. Please remember to be courteous and refrain from celebrating with friends or departing the ceremony until all diplomas are awarded.

Rain plan:

An announcement will be made early in the day and again during lunch. We will move the ceremony to underneath the tent in the Small Courtyard where we will run two consecutive ceremonies, first for seniors A-M and second for seniors N-Z. Family members would be expected to sit and watch only the ceremony relevant to their graduating senior: we don't have enough chairs for everyone for all of it. Families can remain indoors in the public areas of the House.

Seniors would line up under the archways near J entryway at 12:45pm (first batch) and 1:30pm (second batch). There will be Commencement workers to help you get in order and monitor the line formation.

*Photos: Arrangements have been made for [GradImages Inc.](#) to photograph each Senior as the diplomas are presented. Photos will be available for purchase, and information about them will be sent to your email address in late April. The information will also be available on our website, too. You are under no obligation to buy any photos but they will be available to you for one year post-Commencement. (If your family wants to do its own photography, please ask them not to interfere with the professional photographers and not block anyone else's viewing)

Is the Diploma Ceremony going to be recorded?

This year, Harvard ESS will be taking the lead and managing all recordings of House ceremonies. They will caption them and upload a link to the recording within about 48 hours. We will then post it on our website. We do not plan on livestreaming the House ceremonies.

How long can I stay in the House after graduation?

Sorry, but seniors are expected to move out the day after Commencement, May 27, by 5:00pm. It is a hard deadline since the cleaning/move in for the special commencements of the Classes of 2020 and 2021 starts right away! Do not plan on staying late, or getting extra housing, or planning for plane flights that do not correspond to this move out date. You have to leave campus by 5pm on May 27. (But you are always welcomed back for reunions!! 😊)