

## Commencement Day Schedule – May 23, 2024

6:15am

Bagpiper alert.

6:30am

Senior Class Breakfast, *Dining Hall*. Arrive in regalia and enjoy breakfast with the deans, tutors, and SCR members. Bring your HUID for your security pass -- it's required. (Everyone is expected at breakfast!)

7:25am

Senior procession forms at the front gate of Lowell House to proceed to the Plaza, led by bagpipers and Faculty Deans.

8:00am

Senior Service in Harvard Yard with Harvard Chaplains.

8:45am

Seniors will be seated with their House in Tercentenary Theater for Morning Commencement Exercises.

12:15pm

Morning Commencement Exercises end.

12:15-1:30pm

Commencement Lunch for Seniors and their guests, *Lowell Courtyard and Dining Hall*.

1:30-2:45pm

Presentation of diplomas by Faculty Deans, *Lowell Courtyard*.

### **Not Attending Commencement on May 23rd, for any reason?**

If you do *not* want to participate in Commencement on campus on May 23 please e-mail Liam in the House Office right away: [lowell@fas.harvard.edu](mailto: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 guest tickets per student** for the morning Commencement Exercises (that's the big shebang in Harvard Yard). You can give them to any friend or family member you choose. However, keep in mind two important points: they do not *guarantee* any seats, and selling these tickets is forbidden by the university. Please do *not* advertise to sell them. If you would like to request extra Commencement Exercises tickets, you will need to contact the Commencement Office. <https://commencement.harvard.edu/>

#### What if I have more people coming? What do I do?

The morning Commencement Exercises are broadcast in many places on campus. Your family and friends are welcome to view it in multiple places. One of those designated places is the Lowell JCR so I recommend that any extra family members come here, sit comfortably in our JCR, surrounded by coffee and lemonade, and watch everything in Lowell House.

#### Where do I get tickets for senior week stuff, and everything else?

Senior Week events, Class Day, Commencement Exercises, and Senior Lunch tickets are to be picked up by Seniors (and walkers) in person at the "Senior Desk" located at 124 Mount Auburn Street. This Senior Desk is run by the Harvard Alumni Association and is the central point for *\*all\** major ticketing for senior week and commencement

events. It will open up in early May. We will post updates on our website and send you a reminder email when it is open. **IMPORTANT:** there are no tickets required for the Lowell House Diploma Ceremony. 😊

### Where do I get my cap and gown?

You are required to wear customized academic caps and gowns, aka "regalia", for Commencement Exercises Harvard Yard and the Diploma Ceremony in Lowell House. Cap and gowns are available for purchase between May 14-23<sup>rd</sup> at the [Coop](#), 10am – 8pm, Sunday only until 6pm. Robe reservations or pre-orders are NOT required for college seniors and walkers! Cost is \$57.00 for bachelor gown, \$105 for master's gown with hood. NB - The Coop is also open early on Commencement Day (6:15am) for regalia pickup. Cash, check, credit card, or Crimson Cash accepted.

### What is the "Diploma Ceremony?"

The Lowell House diploma ceremony is where you receive your actual diploma. It is given to you by the Faculty Deans and the Resident Dean. The ceremony occurs at midday, after all the morning excitement and lunch. You will be in cap and gown for this important event.

### What happens at the Diploma Ceremony?

Seniors will be called to line up near the AA entry steps around 1:20 pm, 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 between A and B entries ready to call your name and give you your diploma. You should wait until you hear Annie announce your name before you start walking. The professional photographer\* will snap a picture of you receiving your diploma, and then you will follow the receiving line of the Senior Common Room members congratulating you. Please follow the receiving line all the way to the end! And please remember to be courteous and refrain from celebrating with friends or departing from the ceremony until all diplomas are awarded.

### Rain plan:

*If rain is called, an announcement will be made at breakfast, on email, 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. Families can remain indoors in the public areas of the House. For this Rain Ceremony, Seniors would line up under the archway near J entryway at 1:20pm (first batch) and 2:00pm (second batch). There will be Commencement workers to help you get in order and monitor the line formation.*

### What is listed on the Diploma Ceremony Program?

All degree candidates and participants are listed in the Diploma Ceremony program even if they cannot attend. As space permits, we list as many College prizes and awards as possible. Because we rely on you for information about your awards please report any prizes and awards you have won on the [Senior Survey](#) (Keep in mind we cannot list all prizes and will exercise discretion in this matter.) This survey will remain open until May 17th.

### Do term bills affect my graduation or my diploma?

If you have any outstanding bills or fees, or financial holds, you must settle them by May 20th with Student Receivables (i.e. the Term Bill Office) <https://sfs.harvard.edu/student-accounts>. Make sure all university bills are paid on time otherwise you will not receive your actual diploma at Commencement: all you will get is a empty, white envelope. The diploma would have to be mailed to you later.

### What is Commencement Lunch and who is invited?

Lunch is a ticketed event but anyone is welcome. 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. Tickets for the lunch will be distributed at the Senior Desk on Mt Auburn Street when you get the rest of your tickets.

**You will automatically be given 1 ticket for your own lunch and 2 free guest tickets;** any more lunch tickets are considered 'extra' and you will need to purchase them for c. \$20 each at the Senior Desk.

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](mailto: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 your family wishes to keep Kosher!

#### What is 'Senior Week' and what really happens?

Senior Week is a fun, traditional week of all-Class events that takes place after the underclassmen move out on May 12th. Events include the Senior Soiree, Senior Olympics, and Senior BBQ (and more). It's planned by your Senior Class Committee. Your Lowell SCC representative is Zach Lech; he can help answer specific Senior Week questions.

#### Are the Dining Halls open during Senior Week and Commencement?

One or two dining halls are kept open for limited meals during Senior/Commencement Week. Keep in mind there will be a lot of gatherings and College events that will feature food during this time.

#### Is there a Lowell House reception for families?

A reception for Lowell seniors and their families will be held the night before Commencement Day: **Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5 to 6:30 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. There will be aides and staff around to direct you every step of the way. Regarding security: you must have your Harvard ID in hand at the Senior Breakfast on Commencement Day. 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. Also please be sure NOT to bring extra bags or purses with you to Morning Commencement Exercises.

#### Is the Diploma Ceremony going to be recorded?

Harvard ESS will be managing the videography. They will caption the video and upload a link to the recording within about 3 days. We will then post it on our Lowell 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 24, by 5:00pm**. It is a hard deadline since the cleaning/move in for Harvard Reunions occurs right away. Do not plan on staying late or planning for plane flights that do not correspond to this move out date. You have to leave campus by 5pm on May 24. Please plan ahead!

\*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 nor the accessible ramp)