



Commencement Day Schedule

- 6:15am Bagpiper alert
- 6:30am Senior Class Champagne Breakfast! *Dining Hall*. Arrive in regalia and enjoy a hot breakfast with the deans, tutors and SCR members. Bring your HUID for your security pass -- it's required. Everyone expected.
- 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 with Harvard Chaplains
- 8:45am Seniors will be seated with their House in Tercentenary Theater for Yard Exercises
- 12:15pm Yard Exercises end, Seniors process back from the Yard to Lowell House
- 12:15-1:30pm Lunch for Seniors and their guests, *The Class of 1992 Courtyard and Dining Hall*
- 1:30-2:30pm Presentation of diplomas by Faculty Deans, *The Class of 1992 Courtyard*

Not Attending the Commencement Ceremony on May 25th, for any reason?

If you do *not* want to participate in Commencement on campus on May 25 **please email Liam in 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 Yard Exercises (that's the big shebang in the morning 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 -- please 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> There are no tickets needed for the afternoon Lowell House diploma ceremony.

What if I have more people coming than 4? What do I do about the morning?

The Yard 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 over here, sit comfortably in our JCR, surrounded by coffee and lemonade, and watch everything there. [Fun fact: former FD, Diana Eck, is the broadcast commentator and she is great at it: there will no doubt be all sorts of Lowell lore embedded in her commentary.]

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

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", customarily 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.

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 in Lowell House. Cap and gowns are available for purchase between May 18-25th at the [Coop](#), 10am – 8pm, Sunday only until 6pm. NO reservations or pre-orders are required for college seniors! Cost is \$55.00 for bachelor gown, \$99 for master's gown with hood. 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 physical 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 listed 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 [Lowell Senior Survey](#) (Keep in mind we cannot list all prizes and will exercise discretion in this matter.)

Do term bills affect my graduation?

If you have any outstanding bills or fees, or financial holds, you must settle them by May 23rd with Student Receivables (i.e. the Term Bill Office) <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. Maybe with a little smiley face inside.

What is this Commencement Lunch and who is invited?

It 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. **You will automatically receive 1 ticket for your own lunch and 2 free guest tickets.** Any other tickets are considered 'extra' and you will need to purchase them for c. \$19 each at the Senior Desk in mid- May (final price has not been set yet by HUDS).

About Kosher lunches: If you need a kosher lunch for you or your family you may order them directly via Lou Maurer by May 12th. 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 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 14th. Events include the Senior Soiree, Senior Olympics, and Senior BBQ (and more). 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 AJ Dilts; he can help answer specific Senior Week questions.

Are the Dining Halls open during Senior Week and Commencement?

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 various College events that offer food during this last week.

Is there a Lowell House reception for Seniors?

But of *course*! A reception for Lowell seniors and their families will be held on Wednesday, May 24th 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 actual Diploma Ceremony?

Seniors should plan to line up alphabetically in the main courtyard by AA entry steps around 1:20 pm or so, 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:

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: we don't have enough chairs for everyone for all of it. Families can remain indoors in the public areas of the House.

For this ceremony, 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 nor the accessible ramp)

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 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 26, 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 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 26. (But you are always welcomed back for your future reunions 😊!)