UNDERSTANDING COMMENCEMENT

An Overview of Brown Commencement & Reunion Weekend

248TH COMMENCEMENT
SUNDAY, MAY 29, 2016
Discussion Topics

- IMPORTANT DATES
- DESCRIPTION OF WEEKEND EVENTS
- TIPS FOR FAMILIES & GUESTS
- FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
End of the Semester

- May 10: Last Day of Classes & Reading Period
- May 11-20: Final Exams
- May 27-29: Commencement & Reunion Weekend
  - Friday, May 27: Campus Dance
  - Saturday, May 28: Forums & Baccalaureate
  - Sunday, May 29: Procession & Ceremonies
- May 30: Seniors Move Out of Dorms by Noon
Campus Dance

Friday, May 27 from 9:00pm-1:00am

Sponsored by the Brown Alumni Association (BAA)

A tradition that dates back from 1868

A celebration that brings together Seniors, Reunion Classes & members of the Brown community

The Main Green is strung with the iconic white paper lanterns of the Brown Campus Dance
Campus Dance (continued)

All families & guests are welcome, but not required to attend

“Senior Sing” takes place at midnight on the steps of Sayles Hall

Tickets are required! Click here for more information:

Alumni Relations

Online ticket sales begin in mid-April, there is a discount for purchasing in advance.
**Commencement Forums**

Saturday, May 28

9:00am-9:50am
11:00am-11:50am
12:30pm-1:20pm

List of speakers, topics & locations announced in late April

A variety of topics presented in lecture halls across campus

No tickets required, but arrive early because all seating is first come/first served

Guests enjoy lectures from Brown faculty, alumni & Honorary Degree candidates
Baccalaureate Ceremony

Saturday, May 28

1:30pm Seniors Line-up
1:45pm Procession
2:30pm-4pm Ceremony

Multi-Faith ceremony held in the First Baptist Meeting House

Includes: Procession through Main Green, Dancing, Music, Readings & Keynote Address

Only Seniors at ceremony, guests view on Main Green

Simulcast available in Salomon & Sayles Halls

Brown Lion Dancers lead the Baccalaureate Procession down to First Baptist Meeting House
**Commencement Day**

- **9:45am**  Procession steps off from Faunce Arch
- **10:15am**  Graduate School Ceremony
- **10:15am**  Medical School Ceremony
- **11:55am**  College Ceremony at First Baptist Church
- **12:45pm**  University Ceremony on Main Green
- **2:00pm**  Diploma Ceremonies & Receptions
Procession

Sunday, May 29

9:30am Line-up
9:45am Step Off

Undergrads, Graduate & Medical School line up at Faunce Arch. Alumni line up at George Street and march through the Van Wickle Gates

The Chief Marshall, a member of the 50th reunion class, leads the procession

Gates open 2 times a year, inward at Convocation & outward at Commencement

Procession Route (Part 1) – Through the Main Green, the Van Wickle Gates & down College Hill
The College Ceremony

11:55pm – 12:05pm (approximate times)

Held on the grounds of the First Baptist Meeting House

Official Conferral of Undergraduate Degrees

Seniors ONLY

Families & Guests watch simulcast from the Main Green

An aerial view of seniors seated on the green for the College Ceremony at the First Baptist Meeting House
Procession (continued)

Procession resumes immediately following the College Ceremony

Seniors split and process in 2 groups back to Main Green

All guests should be seated on the Main Green at this time.

Procession Route (Part 2) – Return to Campus from the College Ceremony
The University Ceremony

12:45pm - 1:50pm (approximate times)

Takes place on the Main Green

Seniors, Graduate & Medical School Students all celebrate their accomplishments

Senior Orators speak

Presentation of Honorary Degrees

Presentation of Symbolic Degrees

The view from the University Ceremony stage.
Diploma Ceremonies

Begin immediately following the University Ceremony (approximately 2:00pm)

At various locations across campus – make sure all guests know senior’s concentration

Diplomas are awarded to graduates.

Refreshments & Food

All families and guests are invited
FAQ: Seating & Tickets

Tickets are required for Campus Dance

NO tickets needed for major ceremonies

NO tickets needed for Commencement seating

Seating is first come, first served on the Main Green

Plan a meeting place for family & student in advance (away from the Main Green is best)

Seniors take their seats for the University Ceremony
FAQ: Viewing & Photos

• The following events are live streamed:
  ▪ Baccalaureate (Saturday Afternoon)
  ▪ Procession (Sunday Morning)
  ▪ College Ceremony (Sunday Morning)
  ▪ University Ceremony (Sunday Afternoon)

• Simulcast can be viewed on the Main Green

• DVD sales are available from Collegiate Video, information will be sent to home address on file

• The Van Wickle Gates will remain open through Monday evening for more photo opportunities

• Diploma Ceremonies are the best opportunity for photos
FAQ: Storm Plans

- Dress for the weather! Be comfortable & safe
- Storm Plans will go into effect only in the case of SEVERE weather conditions
- Storm Plan Details
  - Announcement will be made on the home page of Brown.edu
  - Procession will be cancelled
  - University Ceremony in Pizzatola Sports Center for Seniors only
  - Guests can view ceremonies from Salomon Hall, Sayles Hall & Meehan Auditorium
  - Light Rain = You will be wet & no storm plan
FAQ: Housing & Dining

Most local hotels require a 2 night minimum

Resident Hall rooms can be booked through the Office of Residential Life. Reservations can be made on their website March-early May.

Make dinner reservations in advance!

Several “grab & go” locations are open on campus

Commencement Day is long – make sure to stay well fed, hydrated and take care of your guests!

Providence Waterfire traditionally takes place Saturday evening of Commencement Weekend
FAQ: Parking

Parking & driving around campus are challenging on Sunday, please plan accordingly.

All University Lots open at 5:00pm on Friday, remain open all weekend.

The University “borrows” extra lots for use on Commencement Day.

Several streets closed on both Saturday & Sunday.

Set realistic expectations with your guests.

Many streets surrounding the campus are blocked off to traffic for the Procession.
FAQ: Guests with Special Needs

• Handicapped Parking is available via online registration, starting in early spring
• Registration in advance is required
• Handicapped parking spaces are observed
• The University does not rent wheelchairs
• Most of campus is accessible, but consider your guests and the amount of travel during the day
• The Office of Student & Employee Accessibility Services (SEAS) offers shuttles and other assistance
FAQ: Academic Regalia

- Caps & Gowns can be purchased from the Brown Bookstore
  - Orders begin in May, pre-orders are not needed.
  - Cost is between $37.00-$39.00
  - Made from 100% recycled material
  - Required for Baccalaureate & Commencement

- Rings, Personalized Announcements & Diploma Frames are also available for purchase
FAQ: Tips for the Graduates

Bring your phone/camera, but please turn it off during the ceremonies.

Eat in the morning...it is a very long day!

Plan for your guests now, it is never to early to start.

Help your guests locate parking lots.

Establish a meeting place in advance.

Find out your diploma ceremony location in advance & advise your guests.

Enjoy your Day!
FAQ: More Information

- General Commencement Information:
  - www.brown.edu/commencement
- Campus Dance Information:
  - http://alumni.brown.edu/news_events/campus_dance
- Most communication is sent directly to SENIORS.
- For more information, contact the Office of University Event & Conference Services (UECS) at 401-863-3100 or universityevents@brown.edu
Any Questions?