UNDERSTANDING
COMMENCEMENT

An Overview of Brown Commencement & Reunion Weekend

250TH COMMENCEMENT
SUNDAY, MAY 27, 2018
Helpful Hints

- Reserve your hotel rooms as early as possible.
- Check the Brown Commencement website early and often.
- Arrive early and plan for a long day.
- Plan your driving route and parking plan before arriving.
- Plan for elderly attendees and other accommodations.
- Pack snacks, water, umbrellas, hats, etc.
- Understand there will be large chunks of time when your student will be processing and you will not see them.
- Your student will be part of at least 3 ceremonies and 1 procession on Sunday. Encourage them to rest up!
- Make your dinner reservations after 4:00pm on Sunday.
# End of the Semester

## Important 2018 Dates

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<td>Seniors Move Out of Dorms by Noon</td>
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Campus Dance

Friday, May 25
9pm-1am

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 set with a dance floor, tables and white paper lanterns for Brown Campus Dance
Campus Dance

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 visit brunonia.brown.edu/alumni

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

Thousands of alumni, students and guests attended Friday night’s Campus Dance, an annual extravaganza in which the College Green is transformed by strings of paper lanterns into a garden party with a swing band, dance floor and more.
Commencement Forums
Saturday, May 26

9:00am-9:50am
11:00am-11:50am
12:30pm-1:20pm
3:30pm – 4:20pm

List of speakers, topics & locations will be announced in late April

A variety of topics presented in buildings across campus

No tickets required! Arrive early. All seating is on a first come, first served basis.

Guests enjoy a variety of lectures from Brown faculty, alumni & Honorary Degree candidates on Saturday of Commencement Weekend.
Baccalaureate Ceremony
Saturday, May 26
1:30pm Seniors Line-up
1:45pm Procession
2:30pm-4pm Ceremony

Only Seniors attend the multi-faith ceremony at the First Baptist Meeting House

Baccalaureate includes a procession, dancing, music, readings & keynote address

Guests watch from the Main Green

Brown Lion Dancers lead the Baccalaureate Procession through the Main Green and down Waterman Street to the First Baptist Meeting House.
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<td>9:45am</td>
<td>Procession steps off from Faunce Arch</td>
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<td>10:15am</td>
<td>Graduate School Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:15am</td>
<td>Medical School Ceremony</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15pm</td>
<td>College Ceremony at First Baptist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:15pm</td>
<td>University Ceremony on Main Green</td>
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<td>2:30pm</td>
<td>Diploma Ceremonies &amp; Receptions</td>
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*all times are approximate*
Procession

Sunday, May 27

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

Participants line up at the Faunce Arch.

Led by the Chief Marshal, a member of the 50th reunion class.

Gates open twice a year, inward at Convocation and outward at Commencement.

Procession Route – Seniors march through the Faunce arch, through the Main Green seating area to the Van Wickle Gates and then down College Hill to the First Baptist Meeting House for the College Ceremony.
The College Ceremony
12:15pm – 12:35pm (approximate times)

Held on the grounds of the First Baptist Meeting House

The official conferral of undergraduate degrees

Seniors ONLY

Families & Guests watch simulcast from the Main Green

The Rev. Janet Cooper Nelson addresses the graduates on the lawn of the First Baptist Meeting House during the College Ceremony.
Procession (continued)

Procession resumes immediately following the College Ceremony.

Seniors split and process in 2 groups and walk up the hill back to Main Green.

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

Procession Route – Seniors return to the main green from the College Ceremony.
The University Ceremony
1:15pm - 2:15pm (approximate times)
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 podium on the stage located on the main green. President Paxson addresses the seniors and guests gathered for the University Ceremony.
Diploma Ceremonies

Immediately following University Ceremony (approx. 2:30pm)

Diplomas are awarded at various locations across campus.

Make sure you know senior’s concentration

Refreshments & food are served at most ceremonies

No tickets required

All families and guests are invited to attend the diploma ceremonies. Check the back of the Commencement program for a map of ceremony locations.
FAQ: Seating & Tickets

Tickets *are* required for Campus Dance

NO tickets required for major ceremonies

NO tickets required for Commencement seating

Plan a meeting place (away from the main green) for students & family to meet after the University Ceremony.

Seniors are seated in the center section on the main green to watch the University Ceremony.
Seating on the Main Green

The center section is reserved for students.

The rest of the seating is open to all guests.

The best place to enter the main green is AWAY from the Faunce arch and the Waterman & Brown intersection.

Simulcast available in Salomon & Sayles.
Seating on the Main Green

You must be present and seated to hold seats for other guests in your party.

All seats have a view of the jumbotrons.

Concessions and water stations are located on the green.
The Van Wickle Gates remain open through Monday evening for more photo opportunities. No photos during the Procession.

FAQ: Photos & Viewing

Diploma Ceremonies are the best opportunity for photos of students

Live streamed events:
• Baccalaureate
• Procession
• College Ceremony
• University Ceremony

Simulcasts can be viewed on Main Green

DVD sales are available from Collegiate Video, information will be sent to home address on file
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 during Commencement Weekend.

Resident Hall rooms can be booked through the Office of Residential Life beginning in March.

Make dinner reservations in advance, after 4pm on Commencement Day.

Several “grab & go” retail food locations are open throughout campus.

Commencement Day is long, stay hydrated and take care of your guests!

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

Parking & driving around campus is challenging, plan for roadblocks and traffic.

All University lots open at 5:00pm on Friday and remain open all weekend.

Several streets closed on Saturday & Sunday.

Consider a “drop off pass” for guests.

Many streets surrounding the campus are blocked off to traffic for the Baccalaureate procession on Saturday and the Commencement procession on Sunday.
FAQ: Guests with Special Needs

- Handicapped Parking is available via online registration, starting in late February - advance registration is required
- Handicapped parking spaces are observed
- The University does not rent or provide storage for 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 rented or purchased from the Brown Bookstore
  • Orders begin in March, pre-orders are not needed.
  • Made from 100% recycled material
• Rings, personalized announcements, diploma frames and regalia sashes are also available for purchase
• Regalia is required for students participating in the Baccalaureate & Commencement ceremonies
FAQ: Tips for Graduates

Prepare for a long day

Eat in the morning and bring a refillable water bottle.

Help your guests locate parking lots

Establish a meeting place in advance

Find out your diploma ceremony location and advise your guests – listed in early spring on the Commencement website

Enjoy your Day!
FAQ: More Information

- Download the Commencement Guidebook App
- General Commencement Information can be found at www.brown.edu/commencement
- Campus Dance Information: brunonia.brown.edu/alumni/events/info/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?