

Commencement 2018

Frequently Asked Questions

Undergraduate Students

WHAT DAY IS COMMENCEMENT? Sunday, May 27, 2018

WHAT TIME DOES COMMENCEMENT START?

The procession steps off promptly at 9:45 a.m., but seniors must line up on Waterman St. no later than 9:30 a.m. Seniors, medical students, and graduate students process through the Van Wickle Gates and split off to their separate ceremony locations. Seniors proceeding down the hill to the First Baptist Church in America which will begin at 12:15 p.m. During the senior ceremony in the church, families and friends are encouraged to find seats on the College Green, where large video screens will broadcast the proceedings. All degree recipients return to the College Green for the University ceremony, which will begin at approximately 1:15 p.m.

WHERE AND WHAT TIME DOES THE ENGINEERING UNDERGRADUATE DIPLOMA CEREMONY BEGIN?

The University Ceremony ends on the College Green around 2:00 p.m. School of Engineering students and families will then proceed to the First Baptist Church, 75 North Main Street, located at the foot of College Hill. The engineering undergraduate ceremony will begin around 2:45 p.m. Students will line up for the procession beginning at 2:30 in the basement of the church. Please note that times are approximate and are only an estimate.

WHERE CAN I AND MY FAMILY HAVE LUNCH?

Lunch will be served for School of Engineering graduates and their families, beginning at 2:00 p.m. on the lawn of the First Baptist Church.

MAY I BRING FOOD OR WATER INTO THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH?

No. There is no food or water allowed in the church. There will be sufficient time for seniors and their families to enjoy lunch on the lawn before the ceremony begins.

IS THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE?

Please contact SEAS (Student Employee Accessibility Services) shuttle dispatcher at 401-225-9572 in advance to make arrangements for shuttle transportation to and wheelchair access through the rear of the church. SEAS can also assist with other arrangements throughout Commencement Weekend. Please visit <https://www.brown.edu/commencement/plan/accessibility-accommodations> for additional accessibility information or call SEAS at 401-863-9588.

Please note that if you wish to drop a family member who needs assistance entering the church, please use 11 Thomas Street, Providence in your GPS as the drop off address. This is the only entrance to the church that is accessible. All other entrances require climbing stairs.

ARE THERE BATHROOM FACILITIES AT THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH?

Due to the historic nature of the First Baptist Church in America, the bathroom facilities are very limited and not easily accessible by wheelchair. There are accessible portable bathrooms located throughout campus for the weekend.

IS THERE A LIMIT TO HOW MANY TICKETS I CAN GET?

There are no tickets for Commencement. Seating is first come, first served on the College Green and at the First Baptist Church. *There is sufficient seating at the church to accommodate all guests.*

WHAT TIME DOES COMMENCEMENT END?

In general, the University Ceremony ends on the College Green around 2:15 p.m. with individual departmental diploma ceremonies occurring afterward. The School of Engineering will hold a brief lunch from approximately 2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., and the diploma ceremony will run from approximately 2:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

WHAT DAY/TIME IS REHEARSAL FOR SENIORS?

The senior rehearsal for the School of Engineering will be held on Friday, May 25 from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in America. Graduating seniors are required to attend and a pizza lunch is served. The rehearsal is designed to give graduates an overview of the Commencement procession in the Meeting House and answer any questions. There will be a walk through of the ceremony.

For additional information, please visit: <https://www.brown.edu/commencement/>