

Congratulations, graduates! You have accomplished so much!

All information is current as of February 18, 2026.

We use your **Ursuline email** exclusively for Commencement event communications. This sheet, as well as other Commencement information can be found [here](#).

Registration is required to participate in Commencement and Baccalaureate. This is a completely separate process than applying to graduate with the Registrar. Please read this entire document carefully and discuss your plans with family and friends prior to registering. Registration is due March 25, 2026.

It is time to start planning for the Commencement 2026 events where you will celebrate and be celebrated by your friends and family.

In this document you will find:

- Key dates to note to stay on schedule
- Descriptions, as well as addresses and times, of the 3 events that comprise Commencement 2026
- Where to get tickets (You must have registered for Commencement and/ or Baccalaureate through [Forms](#) to pick up tickets.)
- Information on livestreaming, photos, regalia, what to wear and more!

Note: Information on gates to enter, parking, a Wolstein map, what can and cannot be brought into Wolstein, and other details will be sent in early April.

KEY DATES TO NOTE

March 19, 2026	Deadline to order regalia from Jostens . <i>There are no rush orders – you must order by this date.</i>
March 25, 2026	Deadline for requesting tickets and invites be mailed to you. You must live at least a minimum of one hour drive from campus and not attend classes on campus. Email Marie at marie.herlevi@ursuline.edu
March 25, 2026 (8am)	Deadline to register for Commencement (Graduation) and Baccalaureate (Prayer Service and Academic Hooding). Register Here
March 26, 2026	Commencement Countdown in the Pilla Atrium, 11am to 1pm and 5 pm to 7pm (Where you can pick up tickets and invites)
May 1, 2026	Baccalaureate (Prayer Service and Academic Hooding) and Nursing Convocation (Pinning) at the Sr. Diana Stano Athletic Center
May 3, 2026	Commencement (Graduation) at Wolstein

COMMENCEMENT 2026 INCLUDES 3 EVENTS:

- **Baccalaureate (Prayer Service and Academic Hooding)** is May 1st at 1:45pm at the Sr. Diana Stano Athletic Center – Campus Ministry presents this event. If you have questions about the content of the prayer service or about academic hooding, please contact Sr. Nicole Varnerin at nicole.varnerin@ursuline.edu. If your question is ticket related, please read this document. If this document does not answer your questions, please contact Marie Herlevi at marie.herlevi@ursuline.edu
- **Commencement (Graduation)** is May 3rd at 1:30pm at the Wolstein Center (Graduates arrive at 12pm, Doors open for guests at 12pm) – Contact is Marie Herlevi at marie.herlevi@ursuline.edu
- **Nursing Convocation (Pinning)** is May 1st at 10:30am at the Sr. Diana Stano Athletic Center – This is for BSN students only. **Nursing will reach out to graduates this spring.** If you have questions that require an immediate response, please contact Dr. Dillon-Bleich at kdillon@ursuline.edu

BACCALAUREATE: PRAYER SERVICE & BLESSING OF ACADEMIC HOODS aka HOODING

On Friday, May 1, 2026, we will gather at the Sr. Diana Stano Athletic Center at 1:45pm for a Baccalaureate prayer service and blessing and conferring of academic hoods. Rooted in spirituality, one of our core values, and guided by our Ursuline mission and heritage, we will reflect on our Ursuline experiences and ask God's blessings on our graduates and guests. Graduates receiving bachelor's and master's degrees wear academic regalia and academic hoods are conferred. The service is optional for graduates and is open to all regardless of their faith or beliefs. We expect the service will last approximately 45 minutes. The Director of Campus Ministry, Sr. Nicole Varnerin, is coordinating the service. **Hood and gown are required for this ceremony. Caps are not worn at Baccalaureate.**

- Baccalaureate tickets are for your guests only. Graduating students do not need a ticket for themselves for Baccalaureate. Each student is guaranteed 4 Baccalaureate tickets.
- Tickets equal seats. Except for held infants, every guest needs a ticket.
- Space is limited for this event. If you would like to request extra tickets in addition to the 4 you receive, you can request this when completing the online registration and we will do our best to provide tickets, as available.

COMMENCEMENT 2026 (Graduation)

Commencement 2026 will be held on **Sunday, May 3, 2026**, at Cleveland State's Wolstein Center located at 2000 Prospect E, Cleveland, Ohio.

Ursuline has one commencement per year. Graduates celebrated at Commencement 2026 include those graduating in December 2025, May 2026, and August 2026.

Commencement will begin at 1:30pm on May 3rd. Graduates can enter the Wolstein Center at **12pm**, and all graduates must register at **Check In by 12:45pm**. Doors will open for guests at 12:00pm. All seating is general seating, first come first serve. Accessible seating is within general seating. The ceremony will last approximately two hours.

- **Hood, gown and cap are required to be worn to participate in Commencement.**
- Each graduate is guaranteed 10 guest tickets for the May 3rd ceremony.
- Commencement tickets are for your guests only. Graduating students do not need a ticket for themselves for Commencement.
- Tickets equal seats. Except for held infants, everyone needs a ticket. Guests will be asked for their tickets when they enter the Wolstein Center. They will be scanned, but guests can keep the actual ticket.
- **If you would like to request extra tickets in addition to the 10 you receive**, you can request them when you complete your online registration for Commencement.

WHERE DO I GET MY TICKETS FOR COMMENCEMENT AND BACCALUAREATE?

Please read this entire document for full details on tickets.

- **Commencement Countdown on March 26, 2026.** This event is to celebrate graduates! It is also where you will pick up your Commencement tickets, Baccalaureate tickets, and your 5 Commencement invites with envelopes. **It will be in the Pilla Atrium from 11am to 1pm and from 5pm to 7pm.** Representatives from many departments across campus will be there to help guide and celebrate graduates. Treats will be had by all, and there will be raffles, too. A photographer will be available from 11am to 1pm and 5pm to 7pm, and you can register to have a professional headshot taken. More information to come.
- **Can't attend Commencement Countdown on March 26th between 11am to 1pm and 5pm to 7pm?** Contact Marie at marie.herlevi@ursuline.edu **after March 26th** to arrange a time to pick them up on campus (Student Affairs). Please list "Ticket Pick Up" in your subject.
- **Do you live a minimum of one hour from campus and do not come on campus for classes?** Please email Marie at marie.herlevi@ursuline.edu by March 25th to request that your tickets and invites be mailed to you. Please indicate "mail tickets" in the subject line and list your mailing address in the body of the email. ***Due to issues with delivery in the past, we will not mail tickets after April 1, 2026.***

NOTE: For Nursing Convocation for BSN graduates, please see the emails from Nursing regarding tickets.

ACCOMMODATIONS

If you, as a **graduate**, need **accommodations** for Baccalaureate and Commencement, please include your request when doing your online registration for the events. You will work with Beth Thompson, Director of Disability Services.

For guests who are wheelchair users or who require other assistance, additional information will be sent out in April. There is accessible parking right outside the entrance doors, and there is accessible parking in the garage. All accessible seating is located on the same level as the entrance.

CHILDREN AT COMMENCEMENT (GRADUATION)

Children are welcome at Commencement. Please keep in mind that the Commencement ceremony is approximately 2 hours in length.

Except for infants being held, all children need a ticket as tickets equal seats. Let's make sure they are very comfortable in their own seats. If you need additional tickets, please request them when you register for the event.

For those in the audience who need to use their voices or get out their wiggles, the Concourse area is a great place for an adult to take them to get a break. Concessions will also be open and can be a great treat to reward a tired guest.

LIVESTREAMING OF COMMENCEMENT ON MAY 3rd

The College has arranged for livestreaming of Commencement (Graduation). The link will be available on Ursuline's Commencement 2026 webpage the day of the event.

<https://www.ursuline.edu/student-life/commencement>

PHOTOS OF COMMENCEMENT

The College has contracted with GradImages for Commencement. Photographers from GradImages will take photos of all graduates as they receive their diploma and as they leave the ramp from the stage. GradImages will contact you by email within 2 to 3 weeks of the event. Images can be purchased on the GradImages site for up to two years after the event date.

College staff and a professional photographer will take photos of Commencement. Graduates and their families will be able to view photos at the College's flickr account.

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ursulinecollege/albums/>

While guests will be able to take photos of their graduates from their seats, no other photo opportunities will be available inside the Wolstein. Graduates will march out of Wolstein at the end of Commencement followed by guests. Weather permitting, we will have at least one area set up outside for photos. Last year, we had a wall of balloons and hope to expand on that this year. There are great opportunities for photos outside the Wolstein, around downtown Cleveland, and University Circle.

REGALIA (CAP, GOWN, HOOD, ETC) FOR COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

Graduates must wear the cap, gown, and hood to be able to participate in Baccalaureate and Commencement. (Well, no cap for Baccalaureate.) You will purchase your regalia online through Josten's. It will be mailed directly to you at the address you provide. Regalia must be purchased online by **March 19, 2026**, to guarantee delivery in time for Commencement 2026 events. **Regalia will not be available for purchase on campus. Purchase your regalia by March 19th via the “student ship to home” option at**

https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/productBrowse/1049891/Ursuline-College/Graduation-Caps-and-Gowns/col_greg_1049891/CATALOG_COLLEGE?subCatalog=true

WHAT TO WEAR (FAQs) FOR COMMENCEMENT EVENTS

May I wear a stole?

Personalized stoles are not worn at Commencement. Commencement is a time where we celebrate our connection with the Ursuline community. Some academic groups and student organizations, recognized as formal parts of the Ursuline community, do wear stoles. If you have questions, please contact [Yolanda King](#), Assistant Vice President of Student Experience and Community Belonging.

To personalize your regalia, please consider decorating the top of your cap to showcase your personality, successes, and ties to the Ursuline community. We only ask that the content be appropriate and respectful.

Are there honor cords for GPA?

There are no honor cords from the College for cum laude, magna cum laude or summa cum laude. Such honors will be recorded on your diploma. You may receive honors from your department, and that department may provide you with a cord.

Can I decorate my cap?

Yes, you may decorate your cap provided it is done in an appropriate manner. Commencement is a day where the Ursuline College community comes together as one to celebrate the success of the graduates.

What type of clothes do I wear under my gown?

This is your personal choice, and we only ask that it be appropriate. Keep in mind that the graduation gown material does not breathe. A pocket is helpful if you wish to keep your phone with you. (Phones must be off and out of sight the entire length of the ceremony.)

What type of shoes should I wear?

There will be multiple sets of stairs and significant standing, so please wear what will be best for you.