

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INFORMATION

Congratulations Spring 2021 and Summer 2021 graduates!

UPDATED: March 31, 2021

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! To ensure that your commencement ceremony is memorable, plan to arrive no later than 90 minutes prior to the beginning of your ceremony and to remain throughout the entire ceremony. Please avoid carrying personal belongings during your ceremony processional.

All ceremonies will be held in InfoCision Stadium. Please review the Important Information for Graduates provided below:



Ceremony dates and arrival times

Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences (undergraduate students)

Saturday, May 8, 2021 – graduates must arrive no later than 8:30am

Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences (graduate students)

College of Business Administration

Saturday, May 8, 2021 – graduates must arrive no later than 1:30pm

College of Health & Human Sciences

Sunday, May 9, 2021 – graduates must arrive no later than 8:30am

College of Engineering & Polymer Science

Sunday, May 9, 2021 – graduates must arrive no later than 1:30pm

The commencement ceremony in which you participate depends upon the academic college from which you expect to earn your degree. *If you are earning multiple degrees, you are required to march with the highest degree and may only march once.*



How to RSVP to your Ceremony

Once logistics are finalized, all 2021 candidates for graduation will receive communication from the Office of the University Registrar (registrar@uakron.edu) to their UA email address that will include details on how to RSVP for their ceremony.

During the RSVP process, graduates will have the opportunity to upload a headshot and a brief thank-you message, which will be displayed along with their degree(s) and Latin honors earned while they walk across the stage.

Graduates will also be asked to provide a name pronunciation as part of the RSVP process, in order to ensure that each graduate's name is called correctly.



GradPass

After the RSVP process is completed, each graduate will be emailed a GradPass that is unique to them. In addition to indicating their degree information (including college, major, and Latin honors), the GradPass will also contain a Zone # for check-in and a QR code for use during the ceremony.

Graduates must bring their GradPass with them to their ceremony, in either paper or electronic form (preferably both, to be safe). The GradPass will guide both the graduate check-in process prior to the ceremony and each graduate's participation during the ceremony.

During the degree conferral portion of the ceremony, immediately prior to receiving a diploma cover and crossing the stage, each graduate will scan the QR code on their GradPass, which will trigger both the display of their information (name, headshot, degree, Latin honors, and thank-you message) and the announcement of their name.

Caps and Gowns, Hoods and Tassels

Caps and Gowns: In order to participate in the ceremony, you must wear the appropriate cap and gown for the highest degree for which you applied. Caps and gowns are available for purchase [online](#) as well as at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore in the Student Union and in the Polsky Building.

Hoods: Hoods for doctoral degree candidates will be presented on stage. Hoods for master's degree candidates are to be worn throughout the ceremony. Baccalaureate and associate degree candidates do not wear hoods.

Tassels: All spring and summer 2021 graduates will be provided with a tassel upon graduate check-in on the day of the ceremony. If a tassel has already been purchased, graduates may return their purchased tassel to the bookstore for a refund. Doctoral and master's degree candidates wear the tassel on the left throughout the ceremony. Baccalaureate and associate degree candidates wear the tassel on the right.

Honor Cords, Medallions and Recognition Symbols

All undergraduate spring and summer 2021 graduates who have qualified to graduate with honors will receive the appropriate honor cords or medallion upon graduate check-in on the day of the ceremony.

If you are a member of a registered university organization which selects students from the entire University student body for membership and/or of a departmental or college honor society, you may wear appropriate recognition symbols. You may not wear any other insignias of affiliation or recognition during the ceremony.

Footwear

The field surface in InfoCision Stadium is artificial turf. To ensure safety, **all graduates MUST wear flat shoes.** No heeled shoes will be permitted on the field.

Guest Tickets

Graduates will have access to four (4) guest tickets each. The number of tickets is a hard cap, in order to comply with Summit County Public Health guidelines. **There are NO extra tickets available.**

Each guest must have a ticket to enter, including infants and children in laps. Per Health Department guidelines, guests for each graduate will be seated together in pods in order to maintain social distancing, therefore **tickets cannot be traded between graduates.**

Guests must plan to arrive and be seated no later than one hour prior to the ceremony. For the comfort and safety of all guests, please plan to remain seated until the conclusion of the commencement ceremony.

Once guest tickets are available, all 2021 graduates will receive communication via their UA email address that will include details on how to claim their guest tickets. Details will also be posted on this page.

Guest Information and Attire

Commencement is a formal celebration of each graduate's accomplishments, and appropriate attire is encouraged as part of the celebration. As guests plan their trip to InfoCision Stadium for these ceremonies, they are encouraged to keep the following in mind:

Seating: Guests are advised that all seating in the venue is on bleachers. The bleachers are not padded, and do not have seatbacks.

Footwear: Guests are *strongly* encouraged to wear comfortable, flat shoes. Some parking locations are up to a ten-minute walk from the stadium. Also, once in the stadium, most guests will need to navigate stairs to reach their seats.

Weather: All planned ceremonies will take place rain or shine. If rain is forecast, guests are encouraged to wear suitable clothing. Provisions are in place, and will be communicated, in the event of forecasted severe inclement weather.

For a printable overview of guest information, please review our [Ceremony Guest Information](#) document.



Accommodations for Guests With Special Needs

Accessible seating will be available for those guests that require it. Information on how to claim accessible seating for guests will be provided at the time graduates are able to claim their guest tickets.

Guests are asked to arrive no later than one hour prior to the ceremony to ensure that their needs are comfortably accommodated. Ushers are available to provide any needed assistance. Please be advised that wheelchair seating is available but may not be located near the graduate's guest pod seating. Also note that a sign language interpreter signs each ceremony.

Additional accessibility details will be provided in this space as they are finalized.



Venue, Parking and Gate Entry

Venue: Commencement ceremonies will be held at InfoCision Stadium, 375 E. Exchange St., Akron, 44304, located at the intersection of E. Exchange St. and S. Union St. on the south side of campus. Additional pertinent venue information will be posted here as the event date nears.

Parking: Details about parking for the event, including designated areas for guest drop-off close to the venue, are currently under review, and will be posted here once finalized.

Gate Entry: Each guest ticket will indicate the appropriate gate for entering the venue. Access to the field by guests is prohibited during these ceremonies, so, it is essential that guests enter the venue at the gate indicated on their ticket.



Live Webcast

Plans are being made to allow family and friends to watch the commencement ceremony online. Additional details will be forthcoming.



Questions?

Contact the Office of the University Registrar at either registrar@uakron.edu or 330-972-8300.