

CNS Senior Celebration FAQs

Who gets to walk?

Any senior who is graduating in May, September, or February of the current academic year will be allowed to participate. More information will be mailed to seniors over the course of the semester. If you have not received any information regarding the College of Natural Sciences Graduation Celebration, please contact Dean Martha Baker (mbaker@cns.umass.edu) as soon as possible.

How many guests will each student be allowed to bring?

No tickets are required. You may bring an unlimited number of guests to the UMass Commencement in McGuirk Stadium. However, for the CNS Senior Celebration in the Mullins Center, space is limited, and graduating seniors are requested to limit their number of guests to four, if possible.

What should participants wear?

Students must dress in commencement caps and gowns. Families should dress comfortably, wearing shoes appropriate for walking.

How should I plan for the weather?

The ceremony will take place, rain or shine. McGuirk Stadium is not covered, so guests should dress for the climate and bring umbrellas or other protection from sun or rain. The Mullins Center is covered and air-conditioned. Restrooms, public telephones, and a first-aid station will be available at both venues.

Is parking available?

On Saturday, free parking is available in any numbered parking lot on campus. Free shuttle buses will operate between parking lots and the Mullins Center. Parking and shuttle buses are free.

Guests are advised to arrive on campus early, as traffic in, around, and out of the campus will be heavy.

What is the shuttle bus schedule?

Buses will circulate around campus between 7:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., with a bus every 12 minutes, stopping at the locations of the School and College Senior Recognition Ceremonies.

I have relatives who have never been to the campus before. How do they get directions?

[Driving directions to UMass Amherst.](#)

Someone in our party is hearing impaired. What should we do?

Captioning will be projected on the big screens in the Mullins Center during the ceremony. Sign language or oral interpreters are also available upon request. Call (413) 545-0892 V/TTY **no later than April 14.**

Someone in our party is handicapped. What should we do?

All Senior Recognition Ceremony venues are held in accessible locations. If you or your guests require the services of a sign language interpreter or captioning, please contact Disability Services via email at aduchon@admin.umass.edu with "Recognition Ceremony Communications Request" in the subject line. The deadline for requesting such accommodations is Friday, April 14, 2017.

Any guest who does not have a handicap placard or plate but will be transporting an elderly or disabled guest may sign up for a [handicap accessible parking form](#) which can be used in Lot 26 for the main UMass Commencement on Friday, May 12th and in any handicap parking spot near any of the senior recognition ceremony venues on Friday, May 12th or Saturday, May 13th.

Please visit [Disability Services](#) to request accommodations that are not addressed above.

I want to watch my son/daughter process. Where should I go?

You will be able to see your son/daughter from your seats when the students enter the stadium and the Mullins Center. Students will then be seated in groups according to major. As your child's name is read, a large video screen will capture the moments when he or she receives a medal and shakes hands with various College officials. Your child will return to sit with fellow majors for the duration of the ceremony.

When and where do graduating seniors meet on the day of the College of Natural Sciences Celebration? How do we line up?

Students will gather under the large tents behind the Mullins Center at 4:00 p.m. More information will follow. Students should check email often and are advised to update changes of address with the Registrar's Office as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding the celebration, please feel free to contact Jane Markarian (jlmarkar@cns.umass.edu).

If your questions aren't addressed here, please go to the [UMass Amherst Commencement website](#).