CNS Senior Celebration 2020 FAQs

Graduates

For information about the UMass university-wide Commencement on Friday, May 8, please consult the University’s Commencement webpage, here. The College of Natural Sciences Senior Celebration is Saturday, May 9, 2020.

Who gets to walk in the University Commencement and the CNS Senior Celebration?

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 Senior Celebration, please contact Dean Elizabeth Connor (econnor@cns.umass.edu) as soon as possible.

How many guests is each student allowed to bring?

Tickets are not required; however, this event fills the Mullins Center! To guarantee a good seat for your guests, tell them to plan to arrive early. Doors open at 7:30 a.m.

What should students wear?

Students must dress in graduation caps and gowns.

Caps, gowns, and tassels (already paid for by your student fees) can be picked up on the following days at the times listed below*:

- **Grad Fair**
  - **Wednesday, April 29, 2020**
  - 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
  - Campus Center Auditorium

- **The week of Commencement**
  - **Monday, May 4 - Thursday, May 7, 2020**
  - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  - Campus Center, Room 165-69

*Please remember to bring your student ID.*

*Caps and gowns may also be picked up on Commencement Day (May 8) in Lot 11, at McGuirk Alumni Stadium, after 3 p.m.*
How should I plan for the weather?

Seniors will be gathering outside the Mullins Center under tents before the ceremony. If it should rain, your exposure time will be limited to a short walk from the tent to the North West entrance of the Mullins Center.

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

Students should arrive at the Mullins Center at 8:00 a.m. and descend the outside stairway leading to the back of Mullins. You will stop at the small tent at the base of the stairs to fill out a registration card, and then line up under the big tent by department. Because everyone will need to be screened by metal detectors, the line will begin entering the Mullins Center at 8:30 a.m. If students arrive late, they may be asked to sit at the back and join their department when it is called to the stage.

Further information will be sent by email, so students should check often and are advised to update changes of address with the Registrar’s Office as soon as possible.

Is there security at the venue?

There will be security guards on duty during the event. Upon entering the Mullins Center, you will pass through metal detectors. To expedite the process, we ask that you remove cell phones from your pockets. *There is no storage space available for seniors, so please do not bring bags to this event.*

I am a double major or am enrolled in another college and their ceremony is at the same time as the CNS Senior Celebration, what should I do?

If a senior is a double major or is enrolled in another college and the ceremonies conflict, the senior must choose which of the two ceremonies to attend. We encourage you to attend the CNS Senior Celebration!

Double majors within CNS should sit with only one of their two majors and go up to the stage only once during the ceremony.
I am unable to attend the ceremony; will I still be able to receive my commemorative medal and CNS gift?

Seniors may arrange to receive a medal and an event program by contacting the University Events Office (commencement@admin.umass.edu) or calling (413) 577-1101.

The College gives each graduating senior a small gift at the ceremony. If seniors would like to arrange receiving this, please contact the CNS Advising Center at (413) 545-1969. If leaving a message, please leave your name and phone number along with your reason for calling.

If you have any further questions regarding the celebration, please feel free to contact Jane Markarian (jilmarkar@cns.umass.edu) (413) 545-3056.