Please visit [http://nhs.georgetown.edu/students/events/commencement](http://nhs.georgetown.edu/students/events/commencement) for comprehensive information about Commencement Weekend.

**What is the structure of the Commencement ceremony? How long does it last?**

In good weather, the ceremony takes place outside on Healy Lawn. Seniors report to the second floor of White-Gravenor Hall by 11 a.m. Students are placed in alphabetical order and given name cards and then led to the White-Gravenor patio to begin the procession promptly at 11:40 a.m. The University Registrar, followed by the Color Guard and the Class Marshals carrying banners for the school, leads the student procession. The faculty process behind the students. Dean Cloonan conducts the Commencement Ceremony, which includes a Commencement Address from the Honorary Degree Recipient. The graduates cross the stage while their names are read. Following the *Alma Mater* and the Benediction, the faculty and students recess to conclude the formal ceremony, which lasts approximately two hours.

After the recessional, students, families and guests proceed to the Leavey Esplanade where a reception will be held and diplomas distributed.

In the event of inclement weather, the same ceremony takes place in the Leavey Center Ballroom. The indoor ceremony, which also takes place at noon, is similar to the outdoor ceremony. Students are given their name cards and line up in the Leavey Hotel and Conference Center Hallway and placed in proper order for the procession. A reception is still held and diplomas are still distributed on the Leavey Esplanade under tents.

**Are tickets required for the Commencement Ceremony?**

If Commencement is held outside on Healy Lawn, the Ceremony will start at noon and no tickets are needed. Seating is open and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

If Commencement is held in the Leavey Center Ballroom due to inclement weather, tickets will be required. All seniors will be instructed to pick up packets from the NHS Academic Affairs office in March, which will contain full instructions for Commencement and a total of six rain-site tickets. Replacement tickets will not be issued.

If it rains and Commencement is in the Leavey Ballroom, can I get more than six rain-site tickets? May guests enter the Ballroom without tickets?

The Leavey Ballroom will be filled to capacity, so additional rain-site tickets will not be issued under any circumstance. Seating will occur as follows:

1.) There will be a line for ticketed guests and for non-ticketed guests outside of Leavey Center Ballroom.
2.) Ticketed guests will be seated by ushers during a set timeframe that will be communicated prior to commencement. Ticketed guests who arrive after this time will not be guaranteed a seat in the Ballroom but will be seated where seats are available (either in the Ballroom or in Lohrfink Auditorium).
3.) After the set timeframe for ticketed seating, any remaining seats (if open) will be filled by non-ticketed guests, who will also be seated by ushers.
4.) When seats in the Ballroom are filled, all remaining guests will be directed to Lohrfink Auditorium in the Hariri Building for overflow seating. The ceremony will be live-streamed in the auditorium.
5.) Saving seats will not be permitted in the Leavey Center Ballroom.
6.) Children age 3 and younger may be held and do not require a ticket. Children age 4 and older do require a ticket and must be seated during the ceremony.

**How will I know if Commencement is on Healy Lawn or in the Leavey Center?**

If rain threatens the ceremony, a “rain call” is made three hours in advance and the ceremony is reconfigured in the Leavey Ballroom.

Once the rain call is made, the University’s Inclement Weather telephone message will be updated with the ceremony location. The telephone number is (202) 687-SNOW / (202) 687-7669. You may also check the University’s Commencement website for this information.

**Who is the NHS Commencement Speaker?**

The Office of Communications will announce the names of the speakers for all Georgetown University ceremonies in early May.

**Where do I get my cap and gown?**

If you did not purchase your cap, gown and hood from the Bookstore during Senior Salute (Senior Parents Weekend), you will need to do so by the week before Commencement. Caps, gowns, and hoods must be purchased from Jostens at the Georgetown University Bookstore from February 3 - May 20. Please note that there are the special bookstore hours during Commencement week. Contact the bookstore for hours and pricing. The university offers eco-friendly gowns and hoods. Some seniors may still have the gowns that they wore during New Student Convocation. If so, they may elect to purchase only the cap, tassel, and hood for graduation.

**Is there a rehearsal for graduation?**

No. Students who have questions should email NHSevents@georgetown.edu.

**What is Tropaia?**
All seniors and their families are invited to attend Tropaia, the NHS Awards Ceremony, on the Friday of Commencement Weekend in Lohrfink Auditorium in the Hariri Building. The Ceremony will begin at 2 p.m. Students do not wear academic regalia to this event or process into the auditorium. Attire for the Ceremony is business casual. Students and families are asked to arrive and be seated by 1:45 p.m. Tickets are not required and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Tropaia is the plural of an ancient Greek word that refers to a monument celebrating a military victory. The word in the context of our Tropaia Exercises means “trophies” or “awards.” This is the main NHS awards ceremony, at which the deans and faculty mark the accomplishments and glories of members of the Senior Class.

Faculty select outstanding seniors to receive a variety of NHS awards. Some of these medals and awards are historic, given every year to an NHS senior. Additionally, a member of the senior class will be selected by the faculty to give a Commencement Address to be delivered at Tropaia.

What is Phi Beta Kappa? Do I need to apply?

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and largest academic honors society. Generally, the top 10 percent of the NHS upper-class student body are evaluated for membership. There is no application process; all candidates deemed eligible are invited in mid-March. The induction ceremony is a non-ticketed event open to the public. Inductees receive instructions for the ceremony in May.

Someone in my family requires special accommodations for Commencement or Tropaia. What should I do?

Students with family members who require special accommodations should contact NHSEvents@georgetown.edu before April 14, 2017. Guests who are granted special accommodations will receive confirmation via their student around May 1.

What happens if I owe the University money? Can I still graduate?

Students with an unpaid balance may participate in Commencement activities, but University policy states that any student with an unpaid balance will not receive a diploma or transcript until the account is settled. For seniors, there will be special billings in March and April. Please check the status of your account in early May to ensure that your account is clear. All outstanding balances (library fines, room damage charges, parking tickets, etc.) must be paid before Commencement. The Office of Student Accounts will not be open Commencement Weekend, so accounts must be cleared in advance of the weekend. Student Accounts can be reached at (202) 687-7100.

Will graduation photos be taken, and will I be able to purchase them?

Yes. Commencement photos are taken by GradImages. They will be contacting you directly by mail. If you have any questions, please contact them directly at (800) 261-2576.

Where can I get invitations and announcements?

Personalized announcements can be purchased from the bookstore at http://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1037616/-Information.

Where can I find hotel and lodging information for out-of-town guests?

Lodging and accommodation information is available at http://www.georgetown.edu/area-hotels-and-visitor-housing.

Where can visitors park on campus?

For Commencement Weekend events, we strongly urge families and visitors to travel to campus by cab and leave ample travel time to campus as other universities are also holding Commencement on the same day. Please refer to the University Commencement website for a full description of parking options, cost, etc., at: http://commencement.georgetown.edu. Please also check the GUTS schedule, as shuttle service may not be running or may be on an alternate schedule when you plan to travel: http://transportation.georgetown.edu/guts.

What GPA do I need to have to graduate with honors?

Degrees are conferred with honors based on the student's final cumulative grade point average. Honors are conferred as follows:

- **Summa cum laude**: 3.910 and above
- **Magna cum laude**: 3.797 and above
- **Cum laude**: 3.742 and above

Please note: GPAs are calculated to three decimal places and are not rounded up.

Students completing their degree requirements in May will have their tentative graduation honors listed in the Commencement book based on their cumulative GPA at press time. Honors on diplomas and final transcripts, as well as the rank in class, will include spring grades.

Are majors, minors, certificates and honors indicated on the diploma?

Your diploma will indicate your name, date of graduation, degree earned; and, if you graduate with honors, whether your degree was conferred *cum laude*, *magna cum laude*, or *summa cum laude*. Majors, minors, certificates and departmental honors are not marked on the diploma but do appear on your official transcript.

What is the size of the diploma? Where can I buy a frame for it?

The Georgetown diploma measures 17" (43 cm) wide by 14" (35.5 cm) high. Diploma frames are available at the Georgetown University Bookstore.

Where can I find out more about the Senior Ball?

Contact Senior Class Committee at (202) 687-4093 or visit http://scc.georgetown.edu/senior-ball/.