

## **Spring 2024 Department of Communication Commencement**

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025

Time: 8:30 am

Location: XFINITY Center ([Campus Map](#))

#### **When should I arrive for the Department of Communication Commencement Ceremony?**

Graduating students should report to the Pavillion Gym of the Xfinity Center at **7:30 am**. (Use gates C or D to enter).

Doors will open for guests beginning around 7:30 am. No food or drink is allowed. Security measures, such as wand and/or bag checks, will be in place for entrance into XFINITY. Backpacks and bags larger than 6"x12"x12" are prohibited.

#### **How many tickets do I receive for commencement?**

**Department of Communication Commencement:** We will not need tickets for the Departmental ceremony. You are welcome to invite as many guests as you would like!

**University Wide Commencement:** All graduates were given 6 guest tickets to the main commencement ceremony. Tickets for the University wide ceremony were distributed electronically to your university email address. Details on tickets for the campus wide ceremony can be found [here](#).

#### **How long will the ceremony last?**

The Department of Communication's commencement ceremony will last approximately 2 hours.

#### **Are masks required?**

We will be following University guidelines on masking requirements. Please see <https://umd.edu/4Maryland> for current details.

#### **What time is the Campus Wide ceremony?**

The University of Maryland Campus Wide Commencement ceremony will be held on Wednesday, May 21st, 2025 with the processional beginning at 6:00 pm in

SECU Stadium. For more information, please see the University's official Commencement website, <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

### **How do I get my cap and gown?**

If you have not already purchased your regalia, you can purchase it from the University Book Center. Additional information is available on the University's official Commencement website, <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

If you are a student in the Shady Grove program, and you preordered at the Shady Grove bookstore you will be notified when you can pick it up.

### **Where can I get my graduation pictures?**

GradImages will be at the ceremony taking pictures of graduates. They will follow up with graduates approximately 2 weeks after the ceremony. Additional information is available on the University's official Commencement website, <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

### **How do I know if I have earned Commencement (Latin) Honors?**

Summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude are the highest commencement honors that the university bestows for sustained excellence in scholarship. They are awarded to the top 10% of all students graduating in the College of Arts and Humanities over the course of a year. Summa cum laude is awarded to students with a GPA in the highest two percent of all college graduates, magna cum laude to the next highest three percent, and cum laude to the following five percent. Latin Honors will be conferred based on all coursework applied towards the degree, including courses taken during the student's final semester at UMD (for most students, this will be the semester in which they graduate). As such, Latin Honors standing will be preliminary until the point at which final grades have been submitted and the student is cleared to graduate. The estimated cutoff for each of these levels of honors are:

- Summa            4.000 - 4.000
- Magna           3.999 - 3.984
- Cum Laude     3.983 - 3.900

### **Are there any restrictions on what I or my guests can bring to the ceremony?**

All bags are subject to search upon entry and are subject to additional searches within the venue. Backpacks and bags larger than 6" x 12" x 12" are prohibited as are umbrellas, balloons, food and drinks. Guests are encouraged to return unauthorized items to their vehicles. The University of Maryland cannot safeguard items which are not permitted into the venue.

**I have a guest that is disabled/wheelchair bound/cannot walk far distances. What sort of seating accommodations do you have?**

There will be seating for guests in wheelchairs available at the ceremony in section 120. Due to the limited availability of accessible seating in this area, Xfinity staff may limit the number of guests that will be able to sit with the individual in a wheelchair, so the rest of your guests may need to sit elsewhere. Please advise any guests requiring special assistance or accommodations to arrive early to make sure they have time to get seated before the ceremony begins.

Guests needing accessible seating and parking are encouraged to park in the Terrapin Trail Garage where an elevator can take them to an accessible entrance.

**Where should I park for the Department of Communication ceremony? Is there handicap parking available?**

Parking for you and your guests is available in any lot or parking garage on campus free of charge on commencement days. However, the best parking is available in 9B, and the Terrapin Trail Garage (for accessible seating, please use the Terrapin Trail Garage entrance to the XFINITY Center).

We recommend guests utilize public transportation as much as possible to help reduce the amount of vehicle traffic on campus. To this end, Transportation Services will be running shuttles between the Metro and Campus along with routes throughout the campus to get people to the different ceremonies. Detailed information is available on the main commencement website (<http://commencement.umd.edu/>) under the Frequently Asked Questions.