

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY INFORMATION

Congratulations Summer 2021 and Fall 2021 graduates!

UPDATED: October 11, 2021

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation! To ensure that your commencement ceremony is memorable, plan to arrive no later than 60 minutes (one hour) 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 the James A. Rhodes Arena. Please review the Important Information for Graduates provided below:



Ceremony dates and arrival times

Buchtel College of Arts & Sciences

U.S. Army ROTC Cadet Commissioning

Saturday, December 11, 2021 – **graduates must arrive no later than 8:00am**

College of Business Administration

College of Health & Human Sciences

College of Engineering & Polymer Science

Saturday, December 11, 2021 – **graduates must arrive no later than 12:00pm**

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 contain 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

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.

Honor Cords, Medallions and Recognition Symbols

All undergraduate summer and fall 2021 graduates who have qualified to graduate with honors will receive the appropriate honor cords or medallion 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.

Guest Tickets

Graduates will have access to five (5) guest tickets each. **There are NO extra tickets available.**

Each guest must have a ticket to enter, including infants and children in laps.

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 the [Graduation and Commencement](#) webpage.

Guest Information

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 the James A. Rhodes Arena for these ceremonies, they are encouraged to keep the following in mind:

Seating: Guests are advised that all seating in the venue is stadium seats/bleachers. The bleachers are not padded and do not have seatbacks. Seating is first-come, first-serve.

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. Wheelchair seating is available. Also, a sign language interpreter signs each ceremony.

Venue, Parking and Entry

Venue: Commencement ceremonies will be held at the James A. Rhodes Arena, 373 Carroll Street, Akron, 44325.

Parking: Guests are encouraged to park in the East Campus Parking Deck located at the intersection of Spicer and Carroll Streets. Surface lot parking is also available along Spicer Street.

Entry: All guests may enter the Arena through the main doors located along Carroll Street.

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.