

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

Graduate Hooding Ceremony Spring 2026

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I apply for graduation?

Visit <http://www.pointpark.edu/About/AdminDepts/RegistrarsOffice/StudentResources/Graduation>. The Office of the Registrar must determine your eligibility for degree conferral so that your diploma can be issued once you've successfully fulfilled your degree requirements. The application also ensures that your name will appear in the printed program booklet that will be distributed at the hooding ceremony. Applications are to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than:

Fall – July 31

Spring – September 30

Summer – March 31

Note: The graduation application pertains solely to degree conferral and diploma issuance, which are handled by the Office of the University Registrar. The application has nothing to do with participation in a ceremony.

What do I need to do to ensure that I graduate in May?

Submit your graduation application as indicated above. Then, review your advising worksheet with your advisor to make sure you have met all necessary degree requirements. Check the status of your application and official degree audit in PointWeb: *Students > Degree Information > Graduation Application Status > Procedure List > Procedure.*

What is the difference between the Commencement Ceremony and the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony – This is for individuals earning graduate-level degrees (master's and doctoral) and replaces the traditional commencement ceremony, which is for undergraduates.

Commencement – This ceremony is for individuals earning degrees at the undergraduate level. It is more traditional in nature, and the Dean of each program will present each graduate with a diploma cover.

Who is eligible to participate in the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

All Graduate degree candidates who expect to complete their degree requirements by the end of the Spring 2026 term are eligible to participate in the Spring Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony. Graduate students who will complete their degree requirements in Summer or Fall of 2026 are invited to walk in the December Hooding Ceremony.

When will I receive my diploma?

Although diplomas are not given to graduates at the ceremony, you will receive a leatherette cover that you may use to store/display your diploma once it is issued. After your degree has been conferred by

the Office of the Registrar, your diploma will be ordered from the Michael Sutter Company. You can expect delivery within 4-6 weeks after degree conferral.

📌 Am I required to attend the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

All Graduate Degree candidates are encouraged to attend, but attendance is not mandatory. The objective of the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony is to ceremoniously recognize, congratulate, and celebrate students who have worked hard to achieve a graduate-level degree.

📌 How long is the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

The Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony should last approximately 90 minutes.

📌 Is the venue for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony accessible to the disabled?

Yes, seating is available on all seating levels of the Petersen Events Center. Volunteers will be available at the Check-In table to assist individuals in need. *It is strongly recommended that individuals with physical limitations bring their own wheelchair.*

📌 Do I need to notify anyone if I plan to attend the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Yes, if you are planning to attend the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony, you must let us know by submitting an RSVP online. **The RSVP link will be published at a later date; both this document and the webpage will be updated when it is available.** *Note: this task is required for participation the ceremony and is completely unrelated to the graduation application in PointWeb.*

📌 Is there a rehearsal?

No, there will not be a rehearsal for this event. Your calling card will indicate your place in line, and staff members will assist with both the procession and seating.

📌 How will I know what to do when I arrive for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

“Day-of” instructions for arrival at Petersen Events Center and procedures for checking in and lining up will be published closer to the date of the event. Both this document and the webpage will be updated when this information becomes available.

📌 Do I need to check in upon arrival at Petersen Events Center?

Upon arrival at Petersen Events Center, you will check in at the registration table, receive your calling card, and then proceed to line-up by 8:30 am. Staff members will direct you to the appropriate line. You must have your calling card in hand before crossing the stage, so do not lose it! More specific information will be published closer to the date of the ceremony, so check back for updates.

📌 Where should my invited guests and I park?

Please visit <https://www.peterseneventscenter.com/plan-your-visit/directions-parking> for parking information.

📌 What time will my invited guests be able to enter Petersen Events Center for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Doors will open at 7:30 am. The ceremony will begin promptly at 9:00 am.

📌 How many family members and friends may attend?

This free event is open to all family members and friends who would like to attend. Tickets are not required.

📖 May children attend Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Yes, children are welcome to attend the Ceremony; however, childcare is not available and will not be provided at the ceremony venue. Children should be supervised and accompanied by family members during the ceremony.

📖 Where can I purchase my cap, gown and hood?

Caps, gowns, and hoods may be ordered at the Graduation Fair at Point Park University, March 3-4, 2026. If you are unable to attend the Graduation Fair, please visit or call the Point Park University Bookstore (412-392-3448) to order your cap and gown, or order online beginning 02/15/2026 (the portal will not open until that date): www.oakhallcg.com/pages/point-park-landing.

Master's candidates:

If you would like to have your items shipped to the bookstore for pickup, you must order by **03/29/2026**. Orders may be picked up beginning **05/01/2026**.

If you would like to have your items shipped directly to you, you must order by **04/12/2026**.

Doctoral candidates:

If you are planning to rent your regalia, you must order by **03/29/2026**. All rentals will be shipped to the bookstore. If you need to have your rental shipped to home, you must make special arrangements with the bookstore. Please call 412-392-3448.

If you intend to purchase your regalia, you must contact the bookstore no later than **03/09/2026** to ensure that the robes are manufactured and delivered in time for the ceremony.

📖 Must I wear a cap and gown?

Yes, participation in the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony requires that you wear the traditional cap and gown, which are the only appropriate and acceptable academic attire for such an event. The University will not provide these items for those who forget to bring their own.

📖 What should I wear under my cap and gown for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

In order to honor the dignity of the ceremony and maintain a professional atmosphere, it is expected that you wear appropriate business or dress clothing and shoes under your regalia.

📖 If I am a Graduate Degree candidate, is it correct to wear my tassel on the left?

Yes, Graduate Degree candidates should wear their tassels on the left. This signifies their conferral of any previous degree(s).

📖 May invited guests take pictures during the ceremony?

Yes, it is encouraged.

📖 Will I have my photograph taken by a professional photographer at the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Yes. Grad Images will be photographing each graduate as they cross the stage at the Ceremony. You will be contacted directly by Grad Images via email with an invitation to purchase your photos; however, there is no obligation to purchase these.

📖 I won't be attending the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony. How will I get my diploma?

All students who apply for graduation, regardless of attendance at the ceremony, will first be reviewed and verified as having fulfilled all requirements pertaining to their degree. Then, your diploma will be mailed to the address you provided in your graduation application. You can expect delivery 4-6 weeks after degree conferral.