



Countdown to Commencement: 14 days!

Hello graduates!

It's almost time to walk across the stage. After many years of hard work, tests, projects and probably an all-nighter or two (!!), the time has come for you and your guests to celebrate

your achievements. This email has many hints and tips for them to get the most out of their visit to campus for this very special occasion and to celebrate you!

Remember: please submit graduation-related questions to graduation@rit.edu and we will include responses to frequently asked questions in future messages. For the most up-to-date information, or to find previously sent RIT Commencement 2023 emails, visit rit.edu/commencement, anytime! Please share this website with your family and friends so they have all the current information, too.

What is Academic Convocation? Who should attend?

The Academic Convocation ceremony is literally a “calling together” of all students and is open to everyone. The ceremony will be held on Friday, May 12, at 10 a.m. in the Gordon Field House, and will include the following:

- A procession of the graduates wearing their caps and gowns
- The official conferral of degrees by President Munson*
- The address by the 2023 Commencement Speaker
- The awarding of honorary degrees
- Remarks by the chair, RIT Board of Trustees
- Remarks by RIT's undergraduate delegate and graduate delegate
- A rousing group recognition and celebration of all of RIT's graduates

* Graduates are NOT individually recognized and do not cross the stage at this ceremony. That occurs at the individual college ceremonies and the Doctoral Hooding Ceremony.



When do I walk across the stage to accept my diploma?

You will walk across the stage at your individual college ceremony or departmental ceremony on either Friday, May 12 or Saturday, May 13. Find a complete list of these ceremonies under the [Schedule](#) tab on the RIT Commencement website.



Are the Commencement Ceremonies ASL Interpreted and Real-Time Captioned?

Yes, all ceremonies are ASL interpreted. All ceremonies are also real-time captioned.

Are the Commencement Ceremonies Live-streamed?

All of the ceremonies will be live-streamed via the [RIT Commencement website](#). The links for the live streams will be available on the day of the event, **shortly before the ceremony start time**. Ceremony digital downloads are also available for purchase. Visit <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/rit2023> to purchase RIT Convocation and college ceremony downloads. Digital downloads will be available on May 31.

Entering the Facilities

Each college ceremony will have security checkpoints. To get through security efficiently, carry handbags that can be easily searched, empty your pockets and be prepared to have metal items scanned with a wand. This is for our collective safety. There is no place to leave belongings at the ceremony. Anything you bring needs to stay with you. Your patience is appreciated.

Please remind your guests that campus will be very busy and to plan extra time for parking, getting to the facilities, clearing security and finding seats. Review the [Plan Your Visit](#) section of the Commencement website for more details.

Parking & Shuttle Bus Info

Special Commencement shuttle bus service will be available Friday, 7 a.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday, 6:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. to transport guests from parking lots to the Academic Convocation, doctoral hooding ceremony, and college ceremonies.

All RIT buses meet ADA regulations for those with mobility needs and can board passengers in wheelchairs. Get up-to-date bus information with the RIT Mobile App and track your bus in real time! Look for “Graduation” within the app to view commencement buses. Visit the [Parking and Shuttles](#) tab on the Commencement website for more information.

My Guests Need Assistance Getting Around Campus. What’s Available?

Our campus is large and there is considerable walking involved from all locations to shuttle stops. We encourage you to consider the distances you may have to walk and to wear comfortable shoes. A limited number of golf carts operated by staff will be available to help elderly guests or guests with special needs. Carts can be requested from any of the information booths, ceremony locations, or the main shuttle drop-off at Parking Lot D. Wheelchair users can be seated with family. Please ask an usher inside each location for assistance.

Will Food be Available for Purchase During Commencement Weekend?

Yes, RIT Dining Services facilities and concessions stands will be open throughout the day on Friday and Saturday. Hours, location and menu information will be available online at [RIT Dining](#) during the weekend.

Many colleges or departments host commencement receptions that include refreshments, too. [Check with the Commencement Liaison](#) from your college to see what events are happening in your college and department or, view the [college receptions and special departmental ceremonies](#) on the RIT Commencement website.

Be sure to take part in the Grad Week [events leading up to graduation](#), too.



Share your Posts on Social Media and Tag them with #RITGrad.

This is a special time to remember. Take lots of pictures to remember your time at RIT fondly.

ICYMI: Be prepared to share your posts on social media and tag them with #RITGrad during the weekend. We will share them on the screens in the arenas before and during the weekend's ceremonies, as well as on the [RIT Commencement website](#).

Consider following these accounts today:

- RIT Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RITTigers>
- RIT Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RITfb>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/rittigiers>



REMINDER: 2023 Class Gift Challenge for Graduating Students

Suggested Gift: \$20.23

Date: Deadline to give is Friday, May 5th, 2023.

Location: Make your gift online at rit.edu/giving/classgift

Graduate, it's your year to shine across the big stage. So, why not add to your adornments? Though your current chapter at RIT may be coming to a close, you can still make an impact on the RIT community and show off your Tiger pride at Commencement.

From now until May 5, 2023, we challenge you, and the rest of the Class of 2023, to make a BIG IMPACT with a gift of \$20.23.

Graduating students who make a gift of that size or more will receive an **ORANGE & BLACK PHILANTHROPY CORD** to wear during Commencement. Philanthropy cords may be picked-up at The Last Bash (May 10, 2023) or from the Alumni Relations Office in the Crossroads building / room 1332 (May 11-12, 2023).

Visit rit.edu/giving/classgift to learn more about why you should give, where you can support, and what you will receive in return.



Cap & Gown Info

All graduates will pick up their regalia on campus at 175 Jefferson Rd. (This is the former Radisson Hotel).

Regalia-Pick Up schedule:

- Tues, May 9, 2023: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Wed, May 10, 2023: 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- Thurs, May 11, 2023: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m

RIT buses stop of 175 Jefferson Road. Board the bus at the stop in F Lot.

Bus Schedule on May 9 and 10:

- 3 Park Point - 175 Jefferson 7:00:00 AM 6:20:00 PM
- 10 175 Jeff-Perkins-Park Point 6:30:00 PM 7:57:00 PM

Bus Schedule on May 11:

- 17 Summer Campus Shuttle Full day

Other Regalia Arrangements

Undergraduate and Graduate (other than Ph.D.) candidates:

If you will not be in Rochester to pick up your regalia on campus, a friend or relative can pick up your regalia for you. They will need to know the following information:

- Your First Name
- Your Last Name
- Your Height
- Your Approximate Weight
- College you are graduating from (e.g. CET, CLA, GCCIS, etc.)
- If you are graduating with Academic Honors. NOTE: This is different than being in the RIT Honors Program.
- Cum Laude is equal to a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or greater (*)
- Magna Cum Laude is equal to a cumulative GPA of 3.60 - 3.79 or greater (**)
- Summa Cum Laude is equal to a cumulative GPA of 3.80 - 4.00 or greater (***)
- Type of degree(s) you are receiving:

- **Undergraduate** (certificate, associate and/or bachelor's)
- BS/MS degrees
- **Graduate** (advanced certificate and/or master's degree).

Staff members from Balfour's regalia team will be at every ceremony line up in the Gordon Field House and the Gene Polissen Center to supply undergraduates cap and gown, master's hoods, replace lost tassels, honor cords, etc.

Regalia "Ship to Your Location" Option

This option is for graduates who are not planning to attend their ceremony, but would like to have their regalia.

- Your regalia is free, but you will need to pay the shipping fee (\$11.45).
- **NOTE: The vendor cannot guarantee delivery to your location in time for the May 12 & 13 ceremonies. If you are attending your graduation ceremony, you must pick up your regalia during the times stated above.**
- The **order site** will close on Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. No orders can be placed after this date.
- You must use your RIT email address to access the site. Do not use your RIT gmail alias. Use this format **wtp1234@rit.edu** (not wtp1234@g.rit.edu).

Next update: Your Ultimate RIT Graduation Checklist!