RIT | Rochester Institute of Technology

Commencement

Planning Your Graduation Weekend

RIT Commencement Weekend
Friday and Saturday, May 8-9, 2026

Greetings from the Office of the Provost!

We know you are busy with projects and assignments; but if you have a moment, we thought it might be helpful for you to have answers to some of the frequently asked questions we get from students. Read below and check out the FAQ page.

Is there a limit to how many people can come to graduation?
There is no limit to the number of guests who can attend each ceremony. However, for the Academic Convocation, on Friday, May 8, at 10 a.m., guest seating is limited and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis in the Gordon Field House. Overflow seating will be available in the Gene Polisseni Center, where the ceremony will be streamed live. All other ceremonies have ample guest seating. Don't worry, there will be plenty of RIT staff and volunteers onsite to assist your guests with finding a ceremony and finding a seat.

Do I need to get tickets for my guests?
No, tickets are not needed for any of our ceremonies. However, it's good for your guests to know where they are going since they may not know campus as well as you do.

Helpful Hint: Tell your guests the name of *your program and your college*. Trust us, it will help them get to the right place more quickly if they are armed with that simple information! (Ex. Mechanical Engineering | Kate Gleason College of Engineering).

How do I know where I need to go, and when?
Check in with your college commencement liaison and review the schedule for the weekend to familiarize yourself, and your guests,

on where to be and when throughout the weekend. There are line-up times and locations listed on the schedule. There are also special departmental receptions with your favorite faculty and staff you may want to attend.

What should I wear on graduation day?

Dress for comfort – business casual is most common. Both the Gordon Field House and Gene Polsseni Center are air-conditioned. RIT is a large campus, so be prepared to do a lot of walking. Our best advice? Wear comfortable walking shoes!

Where should we take pictures on campus?

There are quite a few picturesque places on campus to take pictures, but we suggest finding the places that mean the most to you and your guests. The Tiger Statue, Eastman Quad, and out in front of the Gordon Field House lawn seem to be the most popular every year. Remember, if you want to make it professional, you can **Sign Up for GradImages!** Graduating students have the option to **sign up now for individual portraits with GradImages®**. Portraits will be taken on **Monday, April 13 and Tuesday, April 14 between 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** in the Student Alumni Union | 1829 Room. Details about how to prepare for the portrait session are available on the sign-up links for each date. For

more information, please call GradImages®: 1 (800) 261-2576 (US).

Who is the 2026 Commencement Speaker?

Keep an eye on RIT News & Events, as well as the Commencement website and these emails, as RIT will be announcing the 2026 Commencement Speaker very soon! Until then, consider taking a look back into RIT history to see some of RIT's past commencement speakers. There are prominent names on that list. Maybe one day, it will be you!

We hope this information has been helpful. If you have any questions, please visit the FAQ page. If you can't find the answer, email graduation@rit.edu. We are counting down the days until we can celebrate this exciting event with you!

Thank you,
The Graduation/Events Team
www.rit.edu/commencement