



## Congratulations Class of 2022!

This is the third of several messages you will receive about Commencement 2022. Look for these emails every Friday. Please submit any questions you have to [graduation@rit.edu](mailto:graduation@rit.edu) and we will include responses in future messages. For the most up-to-date information, check the RIT [rit.edu/commencement](http://rit.edu/commencement), any time!

## Help Your Guests Plan Their Trip to RIT

### What should I do right now?

- Advise or help your guests to make their travel arrangements.
  - Make your hotel reservations ASAP! Information on places to stay can be found [here](#). There is also information on this site about things to do and places to eat while in Rochester.
  - The Rochester Lilac Festival kicks off the same weekend as RIT Commencement: May 6. This event draws more than 500,000 people annually, so rooms at hotels may be limited. Book your hotel rooms early to ensure you get a room at your preferred hotel.
  - The closest airport is the [Frederick Douglass Greater Rochester International Airport](#). The airport is about 15 minutes by car from campus.
  - Amtrak stops at the [Louise Slaughter Station](#); the [bus station](#) is right across the street. Both are about 20-25 minutes from campus.
  - The campus address for your GPS or phone is 1 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623.

### What if my guests are trying to come to campus from overseas?

Family or friends coming from overseas will need to **apply for B-1/B-2 Visitor Visas** unless their country of citizenship is listed as a participant in the [Visa Waiver Program](#). A short letter inviting your family member or friend can be helpful in explaining the reason for their

visit. This letter should come from you and be addressed separately to the individual. They should bring it with them to their visa interview, the Port of Entry, or elsewhere as needed. Each visitor should receive a separate letter. RIT does not issue these letters. Visit the [International Student Services website](#) for more information and a sample letter.

### How early should my guests arrive on campus for Commencement?

- Guests should plan to arrive to campus at least an hour prior to start of a college commencement ceremony, and at least 90 minutes prior to the start of the Academic Convocation. This will allow you and your guests time to park, walk or take a shuttle to the ceremony locations, and to have vaccination documentation reviewed.

### Speaking of parking, where should my guests park?

- Guests should follow the directions of Public Safety officers when they arrive on campus.
- There are [shuttles](#) running all day Friday and Saturday, May 6-7 between the [parking lots](#) and the ceremony locations. Please visit <https://www.rit.edu/commencement> and click on Parking and Shuttles for schedules and other important information.
- Download the [RIT Mobile App](#) to track the shuttles in real time. Look for “Graduation” within the app to view commencement buses.

**PLEASE NOTE** the graduation icon will not appear in the app until Commencement Weekend.

- If you or guests require disabled parking, please complete the [Accessible Parking Request Form](#) by May 1, even if you/they have a state-issued permit.
- A limited number of mobility carts will be available to help transport guests with mobility needs. Demand is very high right before and right after each ceremony; guests may have to wait 15 minutes or more for a cart at peak times. Look for blue disabled flags or request a cart at an information booth.

### What should my guests wear?

- There is no dress code. Some things to note:
  - The Gordon Field House and the Gene Polisseni Center are air-conditioned.
  - There is a lot of walking, so we highly recommend wearing comfortable shoes.

### Where can my guests eat during Commencement Weekend?

- Various RIT [dining locations](#) across campus will be open. Please visit [rit.edu/fa/diningservices/places-to-eat/hours](http://rit.edu/fa/diningservices/places-to-eat/hours) for hours, locations, and menus.
- RIT colleges host individual ceremonies and in some cases receptions for graduates and their guests; please visit the [schedule of events](#) for more information. To find out if your college is hosting a reception, check [www.rit.edu/commencement](http://www.rit.edu/commencement) often, because details about receptions will be posted soon.

## What are the current vaccination requirements?

At this time, graduates and their guests ages 5 and older are required to show proof of vaccination to enter the Gordon Field House. To expedite the process, current students should be prepared to show their [RIT SpiRIT pass](#) on their mobile device (although other forms of documentation noted below are acceptable). Please note that the pass must be retrieved on the day of the ceremony (screen shots or printed passes with past dates from the RIT SpiRIT site are not acceptable). Guests should be prepared to show their vaccination cards or NYS Excelsior pass along with a photo ID. Electronic cards/screen shots are acceptable (e.g. a picture of a vaccine card or the NYS Excelsior Pass). Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, and vaccinations approved by the World Health Organization (WHO) are accepted vaccines. The Pandemic Planning Group is closely monitoring the requirements for events and as such, requirements may change. We will inform you of any changes and update the website accordingly.

*Next update: April 8 – What do graduates need to know?*

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