

Commencement

Bookstore/Food Service/Starbucks Hours on Commencement Day

Those planning to participate in commencement were encouraged to stop by the UIS Bookstore (located in Founders Hall, Room 154). The Bookstore was open on the days of commencement as follows:

- Friday, May 9 - 12:30 - 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday, May 10 - Noon - 3 p.m.

The Food Studio and Starbucks also had special hours on the days of commencement. Both are located within the Student Union. Hours on those days were as follows:

- Friday, May 9 - Food Studio: 8:00 a.m. - 6 :00 p.m.; Starbucks: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 10 - Food Studio: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.; Starbucks: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Meet Up for Graduates/Faculty

As we prepared to celebrate our graduates, we were excited to introduce "The Meet Up" - a designated space for students and faculty to connect and celebrate before each commencement ceremony began. This was an effort co-sponsored by the divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs and was a relaxed and meaningful moment to honor relationships formed throughout the academic journey, before the formality of each ceremony began. Light refreshments (water and lemonade) were provided, along with an open space for photos/mingling. Staff were available to answer questions and offer assistance.

- **Event Location:** Campus Central Quad / Tent at the Student Union
- **Rain Location:** Public Affairs Center, Room 3B

- **Times:**

- Friday, May 9 - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, May 10 - 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
- Saturday, May 10 - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Photo Opportunities and Graduate Activities

There were a number of photo ops on campus during the days of commencement, May 9 and 10, both before and after each ceremony. Locations included the Student Union, Colonnade, Lincoln Statue, and University entrance. There were a number of graduate activities held during the week of commencement. We encouraged graduates to take photos and participate in activities to help celebrate their achievement!

Commencement News

Student Commencement Speaker Auditions

Our student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS. Information regarding the auditions was provided on the online application. All graduating students were eligible to audition. Representatives of the faculty select the speaker. Please see the important notes below:

- Application forms were due by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 21, 2025 (note: late submissions cannot be accepted).
- The chosen speaker's speech was pre-recorded and broadcast to graduates and attendees during all three commencement ceremonies.

Events

No upcoming events at this time. Check back soon!

Department News



May 12, 2025



[ement with more than 1,000 graduates](#)

eld its 54th annual Commencement ceremony
aturday, May 10, 2025, in Sangamon...

May 12, 2025



[Graduates](#)

ees from the University of Illinois Springfield at
r on May 10, 2025, pending...

May 08, 2025

[Graduation Guide: How to make the most of Graduation](#)

Graduation is an exciting time and you deserve to celebrate! However, with large crowds, coordinating with families from out of town, and trying to celebrate...



Apr 28, 2025

[UIS to celebrate commencement during three ceremonies on May 9 and 10](#)

The University of Illinois Springfield will hold its 54th annual commencement during three ceremonies in the UIS Performing Arts Center's Sangamon Auditorium...

Apr 14, 2025

[Faculty and Staff Awareness - Important Commencement Information Update 4.14.25](#)

Dear Faculty and Staff: The communication below was just sent to all graduates participating in the upcoming commencement ceremonies. ...

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Commencement FAQs

Who can participate in commencement?

The following three groups of individuals may be eligible to participate in the upcoming commencement ceremonies if they meet all of the listed guidelines.

There will be **NO** exceptions to the criteria listed below. Please note that students can only participate in the commencement ceremony in which they are **FIRST** eligible (based upon the term for which the student submitted an online graduation application). Students cannot participate in more than one ceremony for the same degree program. Therefore, if the student already participated in or was eligible to participate in a **PREVIOUS** ceremony, participation in the upcoming ceremonies is not possible.

Summer 2024 and Fall 2024 Graduates:

These graduates are automatically eligible to participate.

Spring 2025 Candidates:

A Spring 2025 graduation application must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 14, 2025**.

Summer 2025 Candidates:

A Summer 2025 graduation application must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 14, 2025**. In addition, an approved Student Petition requesting to participate in commencement must also be on file in the Office of Records and Registration by **Feb. 14, 2025**.

How do I register for commencement?

Each student must complete a graduation application by **Feb. 14, 2025**.

Additionally, graduates must complete an online Intent to Participate form. This form will be live on the commencement website and eligible graduates will receive an email communication when the form is available.

What happens before and during each commencement ceremony?

Graduates will check in within the lobby outside of Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center prior to their ceremony. Staff will then escort graduates to their seats. Once the ceremony begins, the processional will begin (consisting of the platform party and faculty). After several ceremonial pieces, students will walk across the stage, have their name announced, receive a UIS diploma cover, and have their photo taken by a professional photographer with the Chancellor.

Which ceremony do I attend?

A list of academic programs by ceremony and college is listed on the "Graduates" page of the [commencement website](#).

How long will the ceremony last?

The ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes to two hours.

Do I have to wear a cap and gown?

Academic regalia is required, including a black cap and gown. It is suggested that you wear lightweight clothing and dark shoes under your cap and gown. Items such as purses should not be brought.

When will I be able to purchase a cap and gown?

Upon completion of the online Intent to Participate form, graduates will receive a link to purchase their regalia and other items (such as invitations) through Herff Jones.

When and where are diplomas mailed?

At commencement, diploma covers are presented to students by the Chancellor. Official diplomas are 8.5×11 inches and are sent by first-class mail to each student's

diploma address approximately nine weeks after your conferral date. Check your address by logging into [Student Self-Service](#) to ensure your correct address is on file.

My guests or I will require assistance/accommodations for accessibility so who should I contact?

Graduates or **Guests** with an assistance/accommodation request should contact the Office of Records and Registration (217-206-7730 or registrar@uis.edu).

Tickets, Ticket Distribution, and Accessible Seating Tickets

Tickets will be required for admission into each ceremony. A notice will be sent to students when tickets are available. Students may print or email tickets to their guests. Tickets will be general admission by section (orchestra, loge, mezzanine or balcony). A student's entire group of tickets will be general admission in the same section. Once accessible seating is assigned to those guests, their general admission tickets will be placed back in the pool for reassignment.

Overflow Seating for Those Without a Ticket

Overflow seating with livestreaming will be available in the lower level of the UIS Performing Arts Center for those without a ticket. Signs will be in place noting the designated locations for overflow seating.

Commencement Livestream

Access a livestream of each ceremony at uis.edu/uislive. The livestream will be broadcast on screens across campus and will be accessible on personal devices.

Student Speaker

The student commencement speaker is an important tradition for UIS. All graduating students are invited to audition for this honor and responsibility. Speeches for the audition should be no longer than five minutes and should be presented in their

entirety. Speeches will be evaluated by a faculty/student committee for clarity of expression, delivery, timing, appropriateness, and relevance of the topic as representative of the graduating class. Application and audition information will be forthcoming.

Stoles/Cords

Program marshals have the responsibility of representing their fellow graduates. Because of this responsibility, it is essential that these individuals can be identified and therefore, they wear gold stoles during commencement.

Some departments, associations and groups recognize their students with colored cords or non-gold stoles. Those seeking approval to distribute cords or non-gold stoles to their students must do so by submitting a formal request to the Registrar in the Office of Records and Registration. The request is considered, the Registrar communicates a decision to the appropriate parties, and updates the master list of approved cords, stoles, and miscellaneous items worn at commencement.

Program marshals receive gold stoles from the Office of Records and Registration on commencement day. Non-gold cords and stoles are provided by the department, association, or group that requested the recognition.

Photographs

Graduates will receive professional photo proofs in the mail. There is no obligation to purchase, and they will have the option of ordering several enlargement packages. Questions regarding photographs following commencement should be addressed to GradImages (www.gradimages.com/)

Bookstore Info

Be sure to visit the UIS Bookstore to purchase commencement-related items. Bookstore hours are posted online at:
<https://www.bkstr.com/illinoisspringfieldstore/home>.

iCard for Commencement Check In

If you have an iCard, please bring it to Commencement to expedite check in. If you do not have an iCard, you can check in using your UIN and NetID.

Etiquette

Want to know the proper etiquette for Commencement? [Download the guide here](#). (pdf)

NetID Access

Your NetID will remain active for three (3) semesters after graduation. After that time, you will no longer be able to use your NetID to access email, Blackboard, or other campus services such as Box, lynda, Office 365, etc. Please see the [User Account Lifecycle for NetIDs](#) policy for more information.

First Destination Survey (FDS)

The First Destination Survey (FDS) is a national survey that is meant to gain knowledge about what activities students are engaging in after graduation from college. The information gained from the survey helps to determine institution effectiveness and provide data for reporting needs, to enhance UIS academic offerings, and support career exploration for current and future students. Prior to graduation day, you will receive emails with additional information and be asked to complete the Outcomes Survey. By completing the survey, you will qualify to win a variety of prizes including iPads and gift cards. For further information, you may visit the [UIS Career Development](#) website.

Directions/Maps

The University of Illinois Springfield is located at One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703. Please view the helpful information below:

[Driving Directions to UIS](#)

[Campus Maps of UIS](#)

Parking

Parking will be available during the commencement ceremonies in campus parking lots. No parking hang tags or parking fees will be required.

Special Events Related to Commencement

Numerous events are being planned to help graduates celebrate. Special events will be scheduled for certain groups. Please be sure to check our website (www.uis.edu/commencement) for more information.

Graduates

Eligibility

The following three groups of individuals may have been eligible to participate in the upcoming commencement ceremonies if they met all of the listed guidelines. There were NO exceptions to the criteria listed below. Please note that students can only participate in the commencement ceremony in which they are FIRST eligible (based upon the term for which the student submitted an online graduation application).

Students cannot participate in more than one ceremony for the same degree program. Therefore, if the student already participated in or was eligible to participate in a PREVIOUS ceremony, participation in upcoming ceremonies is not possible.

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- **DPA Students:**

You must be deemed eligible to participate by **April 1**. Please contact your advisor for additional information.

How to Participate

Those planning to participate in commencement were required to complete the following two steps:

1. **Confirm participation:** Graduates confirmed participation by submitting an online intent to participate between **March 10 and 24**. A communication was

sent on March 10 once the form was live. Only those students who were eligible were able to submit their intent to participate. This step was required, even for students who were making special cap and gown arrangements (e.g., borrowing a black cap and gown).

2. **Purchase Regalia (Cap and Gown):** After clicking submit on the online intent to participate, a screen appeared with information about purchasing regalia. Graduates were to screen grab this information or be prepared to immediately follow the prompts to purchase regalia. Orders could be mailed to the graduate's home or to the UIS Bookstore for pick up. **Note: The UIS Bookstore has temporarily moved into Founder's Hall and because of their reduced space, they did not have any caps or gowns on site for purchase; therefore, participating graduates who needed to purchase regalia MUST have done so online.**

Participation

Graduates are responsible for knowing and adhering to all University of Illinois Springfield policies, deadlines, and procedures. Specific graduation and commencement-related information is available in the current catalog and must be followed. Also, please note the [Visitor Behavior Policy of the UIS Performing Arts Center](#). Any questions related to participation should be directed to commencement@uis.edu.

Programs by Ceremony and College

FRIDAY, MAY 9 CEREMONY - 7:00 P.M.

College of Health, Science, & Technology

Athletic Training
Biochemistry
Biology
Chemistry
Clinical Laboratory Science
Computer Science
Data Analytics
Environmental Health

Environmental Sciences
Environmental Studies
Exercise Science
Information Systems Security
Mathematical Sciences
Medical Laboratory Science
Philosophy
Psychology
Public Health

SATURDAY, MAY 10 CEREMONY - 10:00 A.M.

College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Art (Visual Arts)
Criminal Justice
Criminology and Criminal Justice
English
History
Human Development Counseling
Liberal & Integrative Studies
Liberal Studies
Social Work
Sociology/Anthropology
Theatre

College of Public Affairs & Education

Communication
Education
Educational Leadership
Educational Studies
Elementary Education
Global Studies
Human Services
International and Global Studies
Legal Studies
Middle Grades Education

Political Science
Public Administration
Public Affairs Reporting
Public Policy
Public and Nonprofit Administration
Secondary English Education
Secondary History Education
Secondary Mathematics Education
Teacher Leadership

SATURDAY, MAY 10 CEREMONY - 3:00 P.M.

College of Business & Management

Accountancy
Accounting
Business Administration
Cybersecurity Management
Economics
Finance
Healthcare Informatics
Human Resource Management
Management
Management Information Systems

Special Instructions for International Students

Commencement information for international students (including information for inviting guests) can be found on the [International Student Services](#) website.

[FAQs](#)

Online Graduate Salute 2025

Congratulations Graduates!

UIS Online grads, we are proud of you -- of your achievements, of your resilience, of your tenacity. Earning your degree online requires tremendous self-discipline and determination: juggling schedules, keeping organized, studying late into the night, and rising early to make deadlines.

Enjoy this day. Be proud. You've worked hard to earn it, and **we salute you!**

Virtual Gifts for the Class of 2025

To help you virtually celebrate, UIS has created multiple AR effects available on [TikTok](#). Take your photo in front of the colonnade or try on a graduation cap, UIS baseball cap, or UIS beanie and share your photos or videos with **#UISedu**. Check out all of the UIS [Augmented Reality \(AR\) Effects](#).

[@uisedu](#) Did you know we have a [#UISedu](#) TikTok filter that puts you right in front of the colonnade? It's perfect for [#Classof2023](#) photos!
[#graduation](#) [#commencement](#) 🎵 [Pomp and Circumstance - Sir Edward Elgar](#)

Join the #UISedu Commencement Celebration

Join the [Commencement Celebration](#) and use #UISedu when posting photos or congratulatory messages on social media and remember to follow on your favorite social channel TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook!

The Online Graduating Class of 2025

Search for graduate names below and select to see their details.

Faculty

- If you submitted the online Faculty Participation and Regalia form indicating that you would be participating, commencement information was sent to you prior to the ceremonies.
- If you were participating and had special needs/accommodation requests, you were asked to email commencement@uis.edu.
- If you ordered regalia as part of the Faculty Participation and Regalia form submission, items were delivered to your college office in late April/early May.
- If your participation plans changed after your submission, you were asked to email commencement@uis.edu. Please be aware that, while it may be possible to submit late regalia orders after the final deadline date, only the home ship option was then available and the cost for home shipping was the responsibility of the faculty member.

Meet Up for Graduates/Faculty

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- **Event Location:** Campus Central Quad / Tent at the Student Union
- **Rain Location:** Public Affairs Center, Room 3B
- **Times:**
 - Friday, May 9 - 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, May 10 - 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
 - Saturday, May 10 - 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Parking

If you were a platform party or faculty member participating in the 2025 commencement ceremonies, you needed to arrive extra early, as parking was on a first come, first served basis. Hang tags were not required during the commencement ceremonies.

Ceremony Information

The Faculty Robing Room was located in the UIS Performing Arts Center. You were asked to look for room signs on the day of the ceremonies.

Guests and Visitors

Special Needs

Wheelchairs for transport are not available at Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center. **Graduates** or **Guests** with an assistance/accommodation were asked to contact the Office of Records and Registration (217-206-7730 or registrar@uis.edu).

Springfield Information

For information related to Springfield, visit: [Springfield Convention and Visitors Bureau](#). They have created a landing page devoted specifically to UIS family and friends.

Directions/Maps

The University of Illinois Springfield is located at One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703. Please view the helpful information below:

[Driving Directions to UIS](#)

[Campus Maps of UIS](#)

Gifts for Graduates

If you would like to purchase gifts for your graduate, the [UIS Bookstore](#) has a number of items for sale. In addition, the [Commencement Group](#) offers a variety of items, including t-shirts and flowers.

Parking

Parking was available during the commencement ceremonies in campus parking lots. No parking hang tags or parking fees were required.

Venue (UIS Performing Arts Center) Information

Guests may visit the information desk in the lobby for questions and assistance. In addition, please note the following:

- Accessible seating is available on main and mezzanine levels.
- Assisted listening devices and sensory bags are available from the Guest Services Office in the lobby.
- Elevators are located on all levels of the Auditorium in each tower.
- Lactation facilities are located in PAC rooms 491 and 492.
- Medical assistance is available by request.
- No smoking is allowed anywhere on the grounds. UIS is a smoke-free and vape-free campus.
- Overflow seating with livestream is available on the lower level of the UIS Performing Arts Center.
- Restrooms are located on all levels of the Auditorium and in each tower.
- Stroller parking is available in the lobby.

Hotels

The following hotels may extend discounted rates to family members and friends attending the UIS Commencement Ceremonies. Please mention “UIS Commencement” when calling to make reservations.

Candlewood Suites

2501 Sunrise Dr.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-522-5100

[Candlewood Suites Hotel Information/Rates](#)

Carpenter Street Hotel

525 N 6th St.
Springfield, IL 62702
217-789-9100

[Carpenter Street Hotel Information/Rates](#)

Comfort Suites

2620 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62703
217-615-4445

[Comfort Suites Hotel Information/Rates](#)

Holiday Inn Express

3050 South Dirksen Pkwy
Springfield, IL 62703
888-465-4329

[Holiday Inn Express Room Information/Rates](#)

President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

701 E Adams St
Springfield, IL 62701
217-544-8800

[President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Room Information/Rates](#)

Residence Inn

2915 Stanford Ave.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-527-1100

[Residence Inn Room Information/Rates](#)

SpringHill Suites

3921 MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, IL 62711
217-789-0000

[SpringHill Suites Room Information/Rates](#)

Wyndham Springfield City Centre

700 East Adams St
Springfield, IL 62701
217-789-1530

[Wyndham Springfield City Centre Room Information/Rates](#)

Restaurants

- For detailed information about **restaurants** in Springfield please contact the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau at (800) 545-7300.