The 143rd Commencement of Boston College will be held rain or shine on Monday, May 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. in Alumni Stadium.

Commencement Exercises are a two-part ceremony. **All graduates should be in assembly areas by 8:15 a.m.** The academic procession into Alumni Stadium for the University Commencement will begin at 9:05 a.m.

At the conclusion of the University Commencement, graduates and their guests will go to the assigned locations for the individual **College Diploma Ceremonies** at which diplomas are awarded.

*Tickets are not required for admission to the Main Commencement Ceremony nor the Woods College Commencement Diploma Ceremony.*

---

**Sunday, May 19, 2019**

**Baccalaureate Mass**

12:00 p.m.

*Conte Forum*

All graduating students and their families are encouraged to participate in the Baccalaureate Mass.

*Graduating students should be attired in gown but without cap and hood.*

Graduates may sit with family and friends during the Mass. All should be seated by 11:45 a.m. Seating will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are not necessary.

Reception for Parents, Graduates, and Guests will be held in O’Neill Plaza, at 1:30 p.m. In the event of rain, this reception will be cancelled. No tickets are necessary.

For the Baccalaureate Mass on Sunday, guests of the graduates will have **parking** available on Lower Campus, including in both garages.
Commencement Day - Monday, May 20, 2019

**Timeline**

- **8:15 a.m.**  All graduates should be in the assembly areas as indicated
- **9:05 a.m.**  Family and guests should be seated in Alumni Stadium
- **9:05 a.m.**  The academic procession for the University Commencement will begin
- **10:00 a.m.** The University Commencement begins, Alumni Stadium
- **11:45 a.m.** Students MUST Check-in - St. Ignatius lawn.
- **11:45 a.m.** Family and guests should be seated - St. Ignatius Church.
- **11:55 a.m.** The Academic Procession for Woods College Diploma Ceremony will begin
- **12:00 noon** Woods College Diploma Ceremony begins, St. Ignatius Church
- **1:15 p.m.**  Reception at St. Ignatius Church lawn

**Map of Activities**

- Undergraduate/BA Assembly point
- Graduate/MS Assembly point
- Main Ceremony
- Diploma Ceremony
**Arrival and Assembly – 8:15 a.m.**

All graduating students **must** be in the assembly areas by 8:15 a.m.

**Undergraduate/Bachelors Assembly point** - Middle Campus, Linden Lane in front of Gasson Hall.

**Graduate/Masters Assembly point** – Conte Forum, North Stands (Rec Plex side).
The academic procession will begin at 9:05 a.m. Graduating students should wear cap and gown and carry the hood over the left arm. Gowns should be closed in front. Decorative jewelry and flowers should never be worn on the academic gown.

Woods College of Advancing Studies will be leading the Undergraduate Procession through the front of the West and North Stands (Rec Plex end) and down the side aisle to their assigned seats.

Security Policies

The Boston College Police Department has issued the following guidelines to enhance security and to facilitate the quick entrance of all guests for our Commencement Exercises on May 20th.

Luggage, backpacks, briefcases, large bags, and wrapped gifts will not be allowed into or stored at Alumni Stadium or at the respective school graduation sites. We suggest that you leave these items in your car or the student’s room. Normal-sized handbags, purses, clear bags and camera bags will be allowed but will be subject to inspection prior to entry. Those without bags may enter Alumni Stadium in separate lines.

These policies are consistent with security plans at colleges and universities throughout the region and are meant solely to expedite entry into our venues and provide security and comfort for those who will be in attendance. Additional security personnel will also be on hand as a precaution.
**Boston College Main Ceremony, Alumni Stadium – 10:00 a.m.**

The Commencement Exercises are held outdoors in Alumni Stadium **rain or shine**. There is open seating, no limit to the number of guests, and **no tickets necessary**.

The ceremony begins when all members of the President's party have reached the stage. Graduating students must be seated until the President's entrance is announced. Everyone will stand and men must remove their caps. *Sit only after the President sits.*

**Hooding of Graduates:**
When the representative of the Woods College goes to the stage to receive the degree, **everyone from the Woods College will stand**. After receiving the degree, the representative is hooded by the President. Candidates from that division will then put on their hoods. Male students will then replace their caps.
Alumni Stadium Seating Plan
Woods College Seating Area: in front of the stage, between the 20 and 40-yard lines.

Immediately after the University Commencement Main Ceremony, please walk to St. Ignatius Church lawn, right side facing the main entrance. All graduates MUST check-in and will be asked to line up for the procession.
St. Ignatius Church is located at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Fr. Heilighy Drive, directly across from the Boston College Green Line T stop.

**Timeline**

- **11:45 a.m.** Students MUST Check-in - St. Ignatius lawn.
- **11:45 a.m.** Family and guests should be seated
- **11:55 a.m.** The Academic Procession for Woods College Diploma Ceremony will begin
- **12:00 noon** Woods College Diploma Ceremony begins
- **1:15 p.m.** Reception at St. Ignatius Church lawn

**Procession**

**Check-in and Line up – 11:45 a.m. - Tent at St. Ignatius Church lawn.**
Graduating students must check-in and will be requested to line up **alphabetically by degree program**.

**Procession begins 12:00 noon**
**Diploma Ceremony - 12:00 noon**

Formal distribution of Woods College of Advancing Studies diplomas will take place in St. Ignatius Church. *Graduating students should wear academic regalia—cap, gown, and hood.*

**Seating**
There are no reserved seats, except for the graduates and special commencement guests. Commencement seating for families is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Students will be seated **alphabetically** within their degree program in the front pews.

- Undergraduate/Bachelors will be seated on the left-hand side facing the altar
- Graduate/Masters will be seated on the right-hand side facing the altar

**Conferral of Awards**

1. The reader will call every award recipient one by one

2. Awardees will proceed to the center where the Dean will hand them their award and the Commencement photographer will take their picture.

3. All awardees must return to their seats after picking up their diplomas and must remain seated until the close of the ceremony out of respect for classmates and families.
Conferral of Diplomas

1. As names are announced, graduating students will approach by row, single file.

2. Graduating students will proceed to the center where the Dean will hand them their diploma and the official Commencement photographer will take their picture.

3. All graduates must return to their seats after picking up their diplomas and must remain seated until the end of the ceremony out of respect for classmates and families.

Honorary Degrees (Certificates of appreciation) will be delivered at the end of the Ceremony.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Commencement Fair

In March 2019, the Boston College Bookstore will host the Commencement Fair, where graduating students will have the opportunity to order their caps and gowns, shop for class rings, purchase personalized graduation announcements, and more.

McElroy Commons Bookstore
Tuesday, March 12  11:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 13  10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cap and Gown

Graduates must order and pick up academic regalia before Commencement Day. Cap and Gown Headquarters will be in the lobby/bookstore in McElroy Commons will be open on the following days:

- Wednesday, May 15, 2019
- Thursday, May 16, 2019
- Friday, May 17, 2019

**Cap and gown distribution will NOT be available on Saturday and Sunday.**

For detailed information visit Cap and Gown official page [https://www.bc.edu/offices/commencement/preparing/cap-gown.html](https://www.bc.edu/offices/commencement/preparing/cap-gown.html)
Parking and Transportation

Travel to the University on Commencement morning is extremely slow because of heavy traffic. Ample time should be allowed to reach the Campus, especially from the Massachusetts Turnpike at Newton (Exit 17).

Satellite Parking
Due to the large number of people attending the University Commencement Ceremony, there will be a shortage of parking space on campus. Shuttle transportation will be provided throughout the day, from 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., to and from satellite parking sites which are located at:

1. The Brighton Campus
2. The Newton Campus
3. The Chestnut Hill Mall
4. 300 Hammond Pond Parkway

Satellite parking locations 1, 3, and 4 are recommended for guests attending the Woods College of Advancing Studies Diploma Ceremony.

- Satellite Parking location maps [https://goo.gl/JQDUwH](https://goo.gl/JQDUwH)
- Shuttle stops and individual ceremonies map [https://goo.gl/mvwmJi](https://goo.gl/mvwmJi)

Rideshare Services
Designated taxi, livery car, and rideshare service (Uber-Lift) providers are to drop off at the following locations only:

- **St. Ignatius Church** (in front)
  - Father Herlihy Drive
  - Chestnut Hill, MA 02467
  - Adjacent to the **St. Thomas More Apartments** on Commonwealth Ave.
  - 2150 Commonwealth Ave.
  - Boston, MA 02135

- **McGuinn Gate**
  - 140 Beacon Street
  - Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

For information about Campus Parking please visit: [http://www.bc.edu/offices/commencement/transportation/parking.html](http://www.bc.edu/offices/commencement/transportation/parking.html)

Information for People with Disabilities and Mobility Issues

**Parking for the Main Ceremony, Alumni Stadium**
Reserved parking is in the Beacon Street Garage which is attached to the stadium. Golf carts will be available to transport to the stadium or to the Diploma Ceremony. Please do not request parking if you have a State Issued Plate or placard as that is sufficient to access the parking area.
Seating at Alumni Stadium
Will be assigned in each end zone, attempting to seat your guest closest to the school of the graduate. Seating will be assigned on a first come first serve basis by the date the request was received. To request parking and seating at Alumni Stadium please fill out the Parking & Seating Request Form here: https://htmldbprod.bc.edu/prd/f?p=651:1:::.

To request parking and seating at the Woods College Diploma Ceremony, St. Ignatius Church please contact Marisol Godinez, our Commencement Coordinator via email marisol.godinez@bc.edu. Accessibility ramps are located to the left side of the Church facing the main entrance, close to the parking lot.

Detailed information about Transportation, Parking, and Information for People with Disabilities can be found at http://www.bc.edu/offices/commencement/transportation.html

Professional Photos
A professional photographer will take pictures of each graduating student receiving his or her diploma. You will receive information about placing orders from the photographer Commencement Photos, Inc. In the event you do not receive an order form, you may contact the photographer.

Commencement Photos, Inc.
1348 Main St. Tewksbury, MA 01876
(978) 851-5924
http://www.commencementphotos.com

Dining Services
For your convenience, Dining Services will have some food services available Monday, May 20

- Corcoran Commons (Lower) - 6:30 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
- Hillside Café at Maloney Hall - 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- Stokes Hall Café - 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Live webcast of Commencement
To view the live webcast of Commencement, please access the following link to the Commencement home page at www.bc.edu/commencement