

Commencement FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions)

When is Commencement?

Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. **Students must arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m.**

Where will the Commencement ceremony be held?

The ceremony will be held on the Simon Green behind the Simon Center. In preparation, you can [view our campus map](#).

When should I arrive and where do I go?

Students must arrive between 8:30 and 9:00 a.m. to check in at the Covered Bridge (located on the river behind West Residence Hall). Students must be checked in **and** on the Bridge **no later** than 9:30 a.m. Students who arrive late may not be able to participate in the ceremony.

How will I know where to line up on the Bridge?

In the week prior to the ceremony, the Registrar's Office will email a unique number to each attending student. This number will be used for check-in and line-up on the Bridge. Please save this email and know your number for a smooth check-in process.

Are tickets required?

Commencement will be held outdoors, and tickets are not required for the outdoor ceremony. If severe weather requires us to move to an indoor ceremony, students will be notified with instructions via their NEC email and should look for updates in the days prior to the ceremony.

Is there a guest limit?

No, there will not be a limit to the number of guests each student can invite to the outdoor ceremony.

How long does the Commencement ceremony last?

The ceremony will last approximately two to two-and-a-half hours.

Will NEC issue a Commencement Invitation Letter for Visa purposes?

New England College **does not** issue individualized Commencement invitation letters. According to the [US. State Department](#): *A letter of invitation or Affidavit of Support is not needed to apply for a visitor visa*. However, if you are eligible to attend Commencement, you will be able to provide evidence of your anticipated graduation and your intention to participate in the ceremony to help support your family's visa applications. To provide evidence of your eligibility, you could submit the following with your visa application:

- A copy of your degree audit from DegreeWorks showing your progress toward your degree. The link to DegreeWorks can be found in MyNEC.
- A transcript showing your conferral date within the date range listed. Transcripts can be found in MyNEC.

- The automatic email you received after filling out your Intent to Graduate form, which outlines the steps for degree conferral.

What if I can no longer attend the Commencement ceremony?

If you are no longer able to attend commencement, please email registrarsoffice@nec.edu as soon as possible. Seating is extremely limited, and your attendance has been taken into consideration. You may tell us at any time if your plans have changed, but the sooner the better!

Where do I park?

We will have volunteers directing traffic on the day of Commencement. Please look for signage when you arrive.

What if my family cannot attend the ceremony in person?

There will be a livestream link available for those who cannot attend the ceremony.

Where do I get regalia?

Regalia can be purchased through The Pilgrim Shop. The deadline to purchase regalia is March 31, 2024. If you have not yet purchased regalia, please visit nec.edu/commencement for ordering information.

What should I wear?

Please arrive dressed in your NEC cap and gown (regalia). This is a formal ceremony, and attire should reflect the occasion. Note: the weather can vary widely in May, so please keep this in mind when dressing for the ceremony. Also, guests may be most comfortable in shoes with low or flat heels due to uneven ground.

Which side of my cap should the tassel be draped on?

The tassel should be draped to the right side of the cap, changing to the left side when indicated by the Master of Ceremonies.

What should I bring with me to the Commencement ceremony?

Please arrive dressed in regalia and DO NOT bring any valuables with you. There will not be a place to store personal belongings during the ceremony.

Will I receive a cord?

If you are eligible for an honors cord, you will receive an email from the Registrar's Office with pick-up instructions prior to the ceremony. Cords will also be available for pick-up on the Bridge the day of Commencement if you cannot pick them up in advance. Cords for national honor societies are distributed by each society. Please expect to hear from an advisor regarding when cords will be available. Note: graduate students DO NOT generally receive cords.

When and how do I find out about Latin Praise (*Cum Laude*, *Magna Cum Laude*, and *Summa Cum Laude*)?

Latin Praise is awarded for bachelor degree students only. Please keep in mind that the requirements for Latin Praise will be recalculated and officially awarded at the time of degree conferral. Recognition of Latin Praise in the Commencement ceremony is based on final grades of previously completed terms.

Can I sit with my friends during the Commencement ceremony?

Undergraduate students will be seated alphabetically by division, then degree—the same order as the processional line-up. Graduate students will be seated alphabetically by degree.

Will I receive my diploma during the ceremony?

No. You will receive a diploma cover only. Your diploma will be mailed to you approximately two weeks after your final audit and degree conferral. Please monitor your NEC email for diploma mailing timeline.

Is there a cost for the RSVP events?

Yes—Breakfast in Gilmore is \$7.00 per person, pay at the door.

No—Graduate Celebration and BFA Exhibition is at 5:00 p.m. at the Art Village at 39 Main Street in Henniker.

Can I defer my attendance to the May 2025 Commencement ceremony?

Students are only eligible to attend the May 2025 ceremony if they are graduating July 2024 or later. Students may only participate in one ceremony and must contact the Registrar's Office as soon as possible if changing attendance.

What division am I?

Art and Design

Art, Animation
Art, Comic Arts
Art, Fine Arts
Art, Graphic Design
Art, Illustration
Art, Fine Arts/Media Arts
Art, Photography
Game and Digital Media Design
Theatre

Humanities

Communication Studies
Creative Writing
Criminal Justice
Educational Communities
Education Studies

Elementary Education K–6
and K–8
History
Homeland Security and
Emergency Preparedness
Humanities
International Relations and
Diplomacy
Liberal Studies
Outdoor Education
Philosophy and Literature
Physical Education K–12
Political Science
Secondary Education
Special Education K–12
Theatre Education K–12

Management

Accounting
Forensic Accounting
Business Administration
Computer Information Systems
Cybersecurity
Healthcare Administration
Sport and Recreation
Management

Nursing and Health Professions

Nursing

Science, Health, and Exercise

Biology
Environmental Science
Environmental Studies and
Sustainability
Health Science
Human Services
Kinesiology
Psychology
Natural Science, Social Science
(associate)
Social Sciences
Sociology