



2026
Commencement
Information Sheet



**New England College
Commencement Ceremony**
Saturday, May 2, at 10:00 a.m.

Regalia Pick Up
Arrange to pick up your caps, gowns, hoods, and tassels at the Pilgrim Shop by calling 603.428.2220.

nec.edu/commencement
Visit this page for more details and important RSVP links.

Questions?
Contact us at commencement@nec.edu



Congratulations, students, parents, and families!

Commencement is a time to celebrate all that you've achieved, and you should feel incredibly proud of everything you've accomplished.

Thank you for making New England College part of your journey. We deeply value all our graduates—past, present, and future. Your success reflects the heart of our mission: personal transformation and growth.

I'm excited to celebrate this moment with you!

With warmest regards,

Dr. Wayne F. Lesperance, Jr.
President

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, April 30, 2026

Nursing Pinning Ceremony 5:00 p.m. | Bridges Gymnasium

Nursing graduates and guests are invited to a symbolic ceremony celebrating their transition into the profession.

Friday, May 1, 2026

Commencement Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. | Commencement ceremony location

- Undergraduate on-campus students are required to attend.
- Graduate and online students are encouraged but not required to attend.

Barbecue Lunch

12:30 p.m. | Simon Patio

All graduating students are invited to lunch after rehearsal.

Graduate Celebration and BFA Exhibition

5:00 p.m. | Art Village

All graduates and guests are invited to a congratulatory toast, followed by a reception to meet the artists.

Saturday, May 2, 2026

Breakfast Buffet

7:30–9:30 a.m. | Gilmore Dining Hall

Pay at the door: \$10.25 per person.

Doctorate Reception

8:30–9:45 a.m. | Center for Education Innovation (CEI)

EdD graduates and faculty are invited to a private breakfast reception. RSVP to Dr. Gavin Henning at ghenning@nec.edu.

Graduates Assemble for Procession

9:00 a.m. | Undergraduate Students: Covered Bridge

Graduate Students: Lee Clement Ice Arena

All graduates must arrive on time to be welcomed and escorted to their place in line.

Commencement Ceremony

10:00 a.m. | Simon Green

Rain Location: Lee Clement Ice Arena

Celebrate New England College's 79th Commencement! Graduates, families, friends, alumni, students, faculty, and staff are all welcome. Commencement typically lasts two hours.

Commencement Reception

The Class of 2026, along with their guests, are invited to a reception in the Simon Center Great Room immediately after the Commencement ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.

SPECIAL NOTE

Late arrivals after the platform party is seated **cannot march or sit with graduates**. To participate, arrive promptly at the covered bridge or Lee Clemnt Ice Arena by 9:00 a.m.

 RSVP at nec.edu/commencement.

Pilgrim Shop Pop-Up and Store Hours

Friday:

9:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. | Store at 20 Main Street

Saturday:

8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Pop-Up Shop at Simon Green

11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. | Store at 20 Main Street

Seating

Commencement is held outdoors on NEC's scenic Simon Green with open seating (no tickets required). First-come, first-served seating opens at 8:00 a.m.

Inclement Weather

If weather is inclement, Commencement will move to the Lee Clement Ice Arena (limited seating). A live broadcast will be available in Bridges Gymnasium. The location decision will be made 48 hours in advance and shared on the College's website.

Accommodations

A list of area motels, hotels, and inns can be found at nec.edu/visit.

Flowers

Flowers will be available for purchase at Commencement.

Parking

Campus Safety will direct you to parking. Handicap parking is first come, first served in front of the Simon Center.

Photography

A professional photographer will capture each graduate receiving their diploma. Photos will be available for purchase through the photographer's website at nec.edu/commencement. Guests may take their own photos from their seats or the designated area to the left of the stage—Please keep visits brief to allow others the same opportunity.