

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY 2025 COMMENCEMENT

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BEFORE THE CEREMONY

Event Details (check the back of your Event Staff Badge for key times)

UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONY

- Graduates are required to check in between 9:30-10:30 at the Loading Dock.
- Doors to CPA will open at 10:00 a.m.
- The Ceremony is scheduled to start at 11:00 a.m.
- Doors will remain open throughout the program to accommodate late arrivals.
- The ceremony is anticipated to last 3 hours, wrapping up around 2:00 p.m.

GRADUATE CEREMONY

- Graduates are required to check in between 4:00-4:30 at the Loading Dock.
- Doors to CPA will open at 4:00 p.m.
- The Ceremony is scheduled to start at 5:00 p.m.
- Doors will remain open throughout the program to accommodate late arrivals.
- The ceremony is anticipated to last 2 hours, wrapping up around 7:00 p.m.

Check-in Locations

GRADUATES

- Drop-off location: Along 1st Ave N between Lenny Wilkens Way and John Street
- Graduates should be directed to the loading dock entrance marked by the inflatable Rudy. They'll walk down the loading dock and be guided to their staging location.

FAMILIES/ATTENDEES/GUESTS

- Doors 1, 8, 10, and 11 will be open into Climate Pledge Arena. Guests can enter through any open door. Once their ticket is scanned, they can find a seat (all seating is General Admission/unassigned).

FACULTY

- UG Ceremony arrival time: 9:30 a.m.
- GR Ceremony arrival time: 3:30 p.m.
- Check-in at Entry 3. Faculty will be escorted to their Lower Level staging room once through security at Entry 3.

PLATFORM PARTY/SPEAKERS/VIPS

- Those attendees who are sitting on the platform are part of our Green Room/Platform Party contingent.
- Direct them to the ADA parking garage located under the arena on Lenny Wilkens Way.
- They'll enter the arena through the Pitchbook Suite doors in the parking garage and will be escorted to the Green Room by staff.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY 2025 COMMENCEMENT

STAFF WITH ASSIGNED ROLES

- All staff should check-in at the Loading Dock Staff check-in tent and will be directed to their lead/location upon check-in.

AMBASSADORS

- All staff attending commencement without an assigned role should use Entry 3.
- Staff will go through security, have their IDs checked and be escorted to their seating area.
- No ticket is needed at Entry 3.

Transportation & Parking

GENERAL PARKING: The most convenient parking that will allow for good traffic flow is north of Seattle Center. *Parking rates fluctuate depending on time of day and length of stay.*

- **Mercer Street Garage:** Most easily accessed from Mercer and either 3rd Avenue N or 4th Avenue N. (*Google Maps address: 659 4th Avenue N, Seattle, WA*)
- **Memorial Stadium Parking Lot:** Access on 5th Avenue N at either Harrison or Republican. (*Google Maps address: 402 Harrison Street, Seattle, WA*)
- **5th Ave N Garage:** Access is on Harrison Street off 5th Avenue. (*Google Maps address: 523 Harrison St, Seattle, WA*)

ADA PARKING

- Anyone needing ADA accessible parking can be directed to Denny Way and 2nd Ave N. At this checkpoint, wayfinders will help guide them to the Climate Pledge Arena Garage located on Lenny Wilkens Way and Warren Ave N.
- Traffic control will not allow access to this garage from 1st Avenue N. Folks need to turn from Denny onto 2nd to access this garage.

VIP PARKING

- Speakers, those seated on the platform, and honorary degree recipients should be directed to follow ADA signage and check-in at Denny Way and 2nd Ave N to access under arena parking.

STAFF & FACULTY PARKING

- Staff and Faculty are directed to park in the 1st Ave N Garage. This is only accessible from Denny Way and Warren Avenue. Wayfinders will assist guiding parkers through checkpoints and into this garage.
- Traffic control will not allow access to this garage from 1st Avenue. Folks need to turn from Denny onto Warren Ave N to access this garage.

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY 2025 COMMENCEMENT

SU-PROVIDED SHUTTLE BUSES

- Buses will run between Seattle University and Climate Pledge throughout the day, timed before and after each ceremony.
- At Seattle University the bus loading zone/drop off is the Visitor Lot behind the Lee Center for Performing Arts. Staff will be onsite to help load and unload.
- At Climate Pledge Arena, the bus loading zone/drop-off is on 1st Avenue N just outside the arena.

Morning Shift			
	SU Departure	CPA Arrival	
Monday	8:15 AM	8:45 a.m.	Bus #1 SU-->CPA (9am staff)
Monday	8:30 AM	9:00 AM	Bus #2 SU-->CPA (GRAD PRIORITY)
Monday	8:45 AM	9:15 AM	Bus #3 SU-->CPA (GRAD PRIORITY)
Monday	9:00 AM	9:30 AM	Bus #4 SU-->CPA (Grad Priority + Families)
Monday	9:30 AM	10:00 AM	Bus #1 SU-->CPA (Families)
			<i>Buses may continue to run between SU & CPA depending on lines and needs</i>
Afternoon Shift			
	CPA Departure	SU Arrival	
Monday	2:00 PM	2:30 PM	Bus #5 CPA--> SU
Monday	2:15 PM	2:45 PM	Bus #6 CPA--> SU
Monday	2:30 PM	3:00 PM	Bus #7 CPA--> SU
Monday	2:45 PM	3:15 PM	Bus #8 CPA--> SU
	SU Departure	CPA Arrival	
Monday	2:35 PM	3:05 PM	Bus #5 SU-->CPA (3pm staff)
Monday	2:45 PM	3:15 PM	Bus #6 SU-->CPA (GRAD PRIORITY)
Monday	3:15 PM	3:45 PM	Bus #7 SU-->CPA (GRAD PRIORITY + Families)
Monday	3:30 PM	4:00 PM	Bus #8 SU-->CPA (Grads + Families)
	CPA Departure	SU Arrival	
Monday	7:15 PM	7:45 p.m.	Bus #5 GR CPA-->SU
Monday	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	Bus #6 GR CPA-->SU
Monday	7:45 PM	8:15 PM	Bus #7 GR CPA-->SU
Monday	8:00 PM	8:30 PM	Bus #8 GR CPA-->SU

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY 2025 COMMENCEMENT

What can I bring into Climate Pledge Arena?

CPA BAG POLICY (SCAN THE GREEN QR CODE FOR THE BAG POLICY)

All attendees must adhere to Climate Pledge Arena's regulations to guarantee a secure and pleasant event for all. ALL guests will go through a security checkpoint and metal detector upon arrival.



Permitted items:

- A transparent bag measuring 14" x 14" x 6" or smaller
- Clutches must be 4"w x 6"h x 1.5"d or smaller
- An empty reusable non-glass water bottle 32oz. or smaller

Prohibited items you'll most likely be asked about:

- Outside food or beverage (there is food for purchase in the concourse)
- Balloons -there are bike racks placed outside CPA doors to tie balloons to and pick back up after the ceremony (but we can't promise they will be safe)
- Wrapped gifts (recommend taking them back to a vehicle)
- Noise-making devices (recommend taking them back to a vehicle)
- Flags (recommend taking them back to a vehicle)
- Computers (recommend taking them back to a vehicle)

Specially Permitted today only:

- Large camera lenses are on the prohibited list but are allowed today!

ADA information

- Individuals with limited mobility are encouraged to notify a Climate Pledge Arena Guest Services member at any open entry door for assistance with wheelchair transport and guidance to accessible seating.
- Individuals needing ASL services will be directed to a specific seating area once inside the arena.

Miscellaneous questions:

I have a large bag/item I can't bring in and nowhere to store it! The Mediterranean Inn located at 425 Queen Anne Ave N will hold bags for you. There is a cost associated (typically around \$20-25 per item). Walk to the corner of Republican Street and Queen Anne Ave – it's about a 5 minute walk from CPA.

I don't have a ticket, can I get one at the door? Yes! Let Climate Pledge Guest Services know you need a ticket and they'll direct you to a Seattle University ticketing assistant to get you one.

I have lost my tassel. Are there any available here? Yes! Graduates can ask for a replacement from staff in the corral at the Loading Dock.

Can I buy flowers or a lei here for my graduate? We do not have a vending area inside or outside of the arena. There may be some DIY flower/lei sales happening around the arena, but they're not affiliated with SU so we don't know where.

AFTER THE CEREMONY

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY 2025 COMMENCEMENT

Where do I reunite with my graduate after the ceremony?

- Graduates will be leaving the arena the same way they came in and will meet you outside after the ceremony. We recommend meeting in the Plaza outside the arena, or by the International Fountain on the east side of the arena for a nice photo opp 😊
- New this year! Giant SEATTLE U photo opp located on the CPA Plaza near Entry 1. Wayfinders will help guests take photos with the iconic Space Needle in the background.

Traffic between ceremonies:

- Traffic control will be in effect at 2:00 p.m. after the Undergraduate Commencement. For efficient egress, all traffic will be directed away from the arena between 2:00 – 2:45 p.m.
- All staff and Graduate ceremony guests will not be permitted to access the closed roads south of Climate Pledge until 2:45 p.m. Advise drivers to wait until after 2:45 p.m. to arrive at ADA or Staff/Faculty parking to allow for Undergraduate guests to depart the area.