The commencement ceremony symbolizes for many the attainment of a lifetime goal. As students near completion of their individual degree programs, questions may arise concerning policies and procedures associated with commencement. Some of the most frequently asked questions are listed below:

1. **When and where is the Gillings Commencement ceremony?**
   The UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 13th in the Carmichael Arena at 1pm.

2. **Do I need tickets for the Gillings Commencement ceremony?**
   No. Tickets are not needed for the School of Public Health’s Commencement. You may bring as many family members and friends as you like, but you will need to include them in your RSVP.

3. **Do I need to RSVP for the Gillings Commencement ceremony and reception?**
   YES! It will help us a great deal in planning by sharing with us if you are participating in both the Gillings ceremony and the reception by filling out our RSVP form now: [http://tinyurl.com/jdq3k7t](http://tinyurl.com/jdq3k7t)

4. **Do I need to apply to graduate?**
   Yes! Students must apply for graduation through their ConnectCarolina account. Use the following website to confirm that all graduation-related items have been completed by the deadlines indicated: [http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/graduation/](http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/graduation/).

5. **Where can I purchase caps and gowns?**
   Caps and gowns for undergraduates, masters and doctoral candidates can be purchased via the [UNC Student Stores](http://studentstores.unc.edu).

6. **What time do graduates need to arrive at Carmichael Arena?**
   Graduates should arrive at 12:15 pm. Upon entering the Carmichael Arena’s main entrance, undergraduates will need to proceed directly to the left side of the lobby and graduate students will need to proceed down the corridor to the right to check in and pick up your index card (that is brought to the stage) and line up for the processional. Please note that the Law School’s ceremony will be finishing up in the Carmichael Arena and Gillings graduates/guests will need to wait outside until the Law School recessional is over and arena staff re-open the entrances. Also, please plan accordingly as this time of year it is generally hot, sometimes humid, and occasionally raining.

7. **How long does the ceremony usually last?**
   Approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes.
8. Where do we park for the Gillings Commencement ceremony?

**Disability Parking:**
For those with a state-issued disability permit, parking is available on a first come, first-served basis along South Road between the soccer fields and the cemetery. Note that there are several events going on at the same time that day and we are unable to permanently reserve disability parking. For those without a state-issued disability permit, we suggest that you drop your guests off at Carmichael Arena and then park in the Bell Tower Parking Deck.

**General Parking:**
The Bell Tower Parking Deck, on a first-come, first-serve basis, has been reserved specifically for Gillings graduates and guests and then the Cobb Deck. Please tell the parking attendant you are with the School of Public Health.

**Overflow Parking:**
Please be sure to arrive early as other ceremonies are taking place on campus at the same time, and generally 2,000 people attend the Gillings ceremony. Highway 54 Visitor Lot, Emerson Drive, Lenoir Drive, Stadium Drive, and Venable Lot (also on a first-come, first-serve basis) are our overflow parking suggestions. For information on UNC Parking maps: [http://move.unc.edu/parking/maps/](http://move.unc.edu/parking/maps/).

9. Will you or any of your guests require special assistance at the Gillings Commencement ceremony?

**ASL Interpreters:** If you or any of your guests require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Gillings Office of Student Affairs by email at sph-osa@unc.edu with “Commencement Interpreter Request” in the subject line. The deadline for requesting interpreter services is **April 29th**. We will make our best faith effort to accommodate any requests submitted after this time-frame.

**Preferential Guest Seating:** These seats are generally for people who have limited mobility. Seating for family members and guests with special needs will be available in designated sections of the Carmichael Arena. No prior arrangements need to be made to secure seating in these areas, although it is recommended that you arrive early to secure seating. One companion may accompany guests seated in these sections. Seating for additional family members should be available within close proximity.

**Commencement Stage Accessibility (for graduates):** To make arrangements for access to the stage or to address other needs, please contact the Office of Student Affairs via email at sph-osa@unc.edu by **April 29th** with “Commencement Stage Access” in the subject line of your email.

10. Where can graduates put their purse and/or other valuables during the Gillings ceremony?
Graduates are discouraged from bringing purses or other valuables with them to the ceremony as you may not be sitting in your original seat after returning from the stage. Another option would be to leave your purse or other valuables with your guests.

11. May family members and guests take photographs?
Photos may be taken from seats (please avoid interrupting the procession/recession of graduates).

12. Will there be a professional photographer?
Professional photographers from GradImages will take individual photographs of each of the graduates during their Commencement ceremony. Participants will receive a free photo proof and can order copies of their photograph directly from GradImages. Your proofs will be available after
the ceremony. To view your proofs online, please visit www.gradimages.com. Pictures may be ordered online, by phone (800.261.2576), or by mail.

13. Where do graduates meet guests after the Gillings ceremony?
Prearrange a meeting spot outside the front of Carmichael Arena with your family and guests after the recessional. Graduates will be using the side exits of the arena. Parents and guests will exit directly out the front of the arena (the way they came in). Please note that another department will be waiting to enter the Carmichael Arena for the next scheduled commencement ceremony directly after ours.

14. When and where is the Gillings reception?
Immediately following the Gillings Commencement Ceremony, there will be a reception at the Gillings School from 2:30pm-4:30pm.

15. How do I get to the reception at the Gillings School after the ceremony?
Feel free to walk back to the School, or wait for the shuttle buses that will run continuously back and forth from South Street curbside outside of the Carmichael Arena to the Dauer Drive entrance to the School. Since there are a limited number of buses, please note that the buses will make several trips back and forth to the School and as a result, there will be wait time involved. Buses will also shuttle guests from the Gillings School's Dauer Drive entrance back to the Cobb Parking Deck/Carmichael Arena area until around 4:30pm.

16. Will departments have specific room designations at the reception for guests and graduates?
Yes, for the distribution of the boxed hors d'oeuvres and water. Since there will be hundreds of graduates and guests at the reception, please visit your assigned room first to pick up your food/water and then proceed to sit in any of our classrooms/common areas.

- Biostatistics – McGavran Greenberg 2308
- Environmental Sciences and Engineering – Rosenau 133
- Epidemiology – Rosenau 133
- Health Behavior – Michael Hooker Lower Atrium
- Health Policy and Management – Michael Hooker 1st Floor Atrium
- Maternal and Child Health – Michael Hooker 2005
- Nutrition – Michael Hooker 2005
- Public Health Leadership Program – McGavran Greenberg 2308

17. When are diplomas distributed?
Visit the Diploma Distribution page for more information about pick-up or mailing. Mailed diplomas are sent to the “Home” address listed on a student’s record. The application for graduation includes a confirmation statement where students can “see” this address. A student can update this information in ConnectCarolina by going to the Personal Information area of their Student Center.

18. Where can I find information about the UNC Doctoral Hooding ceremony?
For more information visit: http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/hooding/.

19. Where can I find information about the University Commencement ceremony?
The best source for complete information on Commencement is the main UNC Commencement website: http://commencement.unc.edu/.
20. How will my name appear in the University & Gillings Commencement Programs and on my diploma?
Both the University and Gillings Commencement Programs and diploma will list each student’s full legal name as it appears in ConnectCarolina. The application for graduation includes a confirmation statement where students can “see” this name; it can also be seen (view only) in the Personal Information area of the Student Center. Any change to a student’s full legal name may only be processed through the Registrar’s Office; please direct all inquiries to records@unc.edu.
February 19th: Deadline for professional degree candidate name changes to reflect on May diplomas. March 18th: May Commencement Program Names – Deadline for all degree candidate names and/or name changes to appear in the May Commencement Program.
Visit http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/graduation/ for more information.

21. Where do I find out more information and details of the Gillings Commencement ceremony?
If you have any questions concerning areas not covered on this page, please visit: http://sph.unc.edu/ and on the top menu hover over “Students” and click on “Commencement Information” or contact the Office of Student Affairs at 919-966-2499.