

# UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Commencement Ceremony FAQ's



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:

- **When and where is the Gillings School ceremony?**  
The UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Commencement ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> in the Carmichael Arena at 1pm.
- **Do I need tickets for the Gillings School ceremony or reception?**  
No. Tickets are not needed for the Gillings School ceremony or reception. You may bring as many family members and friends as you like, but graduates will need to include them in their RSVP.
- **Do I need to RSVP for the Gillings School ceremony and reception?**  
YES, only intended graduates need to RSVP! It will help us a great deal in planning by sharing with us if you are participating in both the Gillings School ceremony and the Gillings School reception by filling out our RSVP form now: <http://tinyurl.com/ya3m79nt>.
- **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.
- **Where can I purchase caps and gowns?**  
Caps and gowns for undergraduates, masters and doctoral candidates can be purchased via the [UNC Student Stores](#). Please contact them directly at 919-962-5066 with your questions.
- **What time do graduates need to arrive at Carmichael Arena?**  
Graduates: Arrive before 12:30pm to check-in/lineup. Guests: Arrive between 12:15pm-12:50pm. Please note that the Carmichael Arena doors will open around 12:15pm due to the Law School's ceremony recessional finishing up and the Gillings School initial set-up. Graduates/guests please wait outside until arena staff re-open the entrances. Also, please plan accordingly as this time of year it is generally hot, sometimes humid, and occasionally raining.
  - Undergraduates and doctoral graduates: Proceed directly to the left side of the arena lobby to check in at the table according to your last name (alphabetically), pick up your index card (that is brought to the stage and read by the name reader), and line up alphabetically (according to the number on your card) in the arena corridor for the processional.
  - All Master's graduates: Proceed down the corridor to the right of the arena lobby to check in at the table according to your last name (alphabetically), pick up your index card (that is brought to the stage and read by the name reader), and line up alphabetically (according to the number on your card) in the arena corridor for the processional.

- **How long does the Gillings School ceremony usually last?**  
Approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- **Where do we park for the Gillings School ceremony?**  
Please be sure to arrive early that day as there will be traffic on-campus due to other ceremonies taking place at the same time, and generally 2,000 people attend the Gillings School ceremony. For UNC Parking maps: <http://move.unc.edu/parking/maps/>.
  - 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 since there are several events going on at the same time that day, 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 any designated lot.
  - General Parking:  
The Bell Tower Parking Deck, on a first-come, first-serve basis, has been reserved specifically for graduates and guests and then the Cobb Deck. Please tell the parking attendant you are with the Gillings School of Global Public Health.
  - Overflow Parking:  
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.
- **Will you or your guests require special assistance at the Gillings School ceremony?**
  - ASL Interpreters:  
If you or any of your guests require the services of an interpreter, please contact the Gillings School Office of Student Affairs by email at [sph-osa@unc.edu](mailto:sph-osa@unc.edu) with “Commencement Interpreter Request” in the subject line. The deadline for requesting interpreter services is **April 20<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that we will make our best faith effort to accommodate any requests submitted after this time-frame.
  - Preferential Seating (for guests only):  
These seats are generally for people who may 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.
  - Arena Floor Access and Stage Accessibility (for graduates only):  
To make arrangements for access to the stage or to address other needs, please contact the Gillings School Office of Student Affairs via email at [sph-osa@unc.edu](mailto:sph-osa@unc.edu) by **April 20<sup>th</sup>** with “Commencement Stage Access” in the subject line of your email.
- **Where can graduates put their purse, phone, and other valuables during the Gillings School ceremony?**  
Graduates are discouraged from bringing purses, cell phones, or other valuables with them on to the arena floor during the ceremony as you may not be sitting in your original seat after returning from the stage. Another option would be to leave your items/valuables with your guests.

- **May family members and guests take photographs?**  
Photos may be taken from seats (please avoid interrupting the procession/recession of graduates).
- **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](http://www.gradimages.com). Pictures may be ordered online, by phone (800-261-2576), or by mail.
- **Where do graduates meet guests after the Gillings School 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 School/department will be waiting to enter the Carmichael Arena for the next scheduled commencement ceremony directly after ours.
- **When and where is the Gillings School reception?**  
Immediately following the Gillings School Commencement ceremony, there will be a reception at the Gillings School from 2:30pm-4:00pm.
- **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 outside of the Carmichael Arena. 9 shuttle buses will run continuously back and forth from South Street curbside outside of the Carmichael Arena to the front of the Gillings School on South Columbia Street. We appreciate your help in assisting fellow guests in need on the shuttle buses first, and then filling in the seats from the back to the front to expedite the boarding process. If you do not make it on the first round of buses, please note that they will make several trips back and forth to the School and as a result, there will be some wait time involved (approximately 10-15 minutes). Buses will also shuttle guests from the Gillings School back to the Carmichael Arena area until around 4:30pm.
- **Are there specific room designations at the reception?**  
The reception will only have specific areas designated for the distribution and pick up of food and water. With graduates, family members, guests, and faculty/staff: we will have more than 2,000 people at the reception. Please visit your designated area first to pick up your food/water, and then you are welcome to sit in any/all of our classrooms/common areas.
  - 133 Rosenau Hall: Biostatistics, Environmental Sciences & Engineering, Epidemiology
  - Lower Atrium, Michael Hooker Research Center: Health Behavior
  - 1st Floor Atrium Café Area, Michael Hooker Research Center: Health Policy and Management
  - 2005 Michael Hooker Research Center: Maternal & Child Health, Nutrition, Public Health Leadership Program
- **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.

- **How will my name appear in the Commencement Programs and on my diploma?**

Both the University Commencement Program and the Gillings School 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](mailto:records@unc.edu). Visit <http://registrar.unc.edu/academic-services/graduation/> for more information.

- **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/>.

- **Where can I find information about the UNC Doctoral Hooding ceremony?**

For more information visit: <http://gradschool.unc.edu/events/hooding/>.

- **Where do I find out more information about the Gillings School Commencement ceremony?**

If you have any questions concerning areas not covered on this page, please visit: <http://sph.unc.edu/students/commencement/> or contact the Office of Student Affairs at 919-966-2499.