

# 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 11<sup>th</sup> in the UNC Dean E. Smith Center at 3pm.
- **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. Please **RSVP here** . For the latest details on the Gillings School ceremony and reception Please visit <https://sph.unc.edu/students/commencement/>
- **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 in person via the [UNC Student Stores](#). Please contact them directly at 919-962-5066 with your questions. Regalia is not required to participate in UNC Gillings commencement ceremony. Check [UNC commencement site](#) for more information regarding the purchase of regalia site for updates deadlines.
- **What time do graduates need to arrive at Dean E. Smith Center?**  
Graduates: Arrive **before 2:50pm** to check-in/lineup. Guests: Arrive between 3:05pm-3:20pm. Please note that the doors will not open until the ceremony time due to the 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.
- **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 4,000 people attend the Gillings School ceremony. For UNC Parking maps: <http://move.unc.edu/parking/maps/>.

- Parking assignments are the Manning Lot, the Bowles lot, and the Craige deck.

- The ADA parking lot is the Williamson lot and will have golf cart shuttles to the main doors.
- Please note parking will be busy as we are one of the later ceremonies in the day. Student check in ends at 3:15 please make sure you allot enough time for parking to make sure you are lined up for student check in at 3:00pm

- **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 21<sup>st</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 Dean E. Smith Center. No prior arrangements need to be made to secure seating in these areas, although it is recommended that you arrive early to secure seating. Preferential seating is first come first serve. 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 21<sup>st</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 UNC Dean E. Smith Center with your family and guests after the recessional. Please note that another School/department will be waiting to enter the Dean E. Smith Center for the next scheduled commencement ceremony directly after ours.

- **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 [sph-osa@unc.edu](mailto:sph-osa@unc.edu)