

POINT PARK UNIVERSITY

Graduate Hooding Ceremony Spring 2025

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I apply for graduation?

Visit <http://www.pointpark.edu/About/AdminDepts/RegistrarsOffice/StudentResources/Graduation>. The Office of the Registrar must determine your eligibility for degree conferral so that your diploma can be issued once you've successfully fulfilled your degree requirements. The application also ensures that your name will appear in the printed program booklet that will be distributed at the hooding ceremony. Applications are to be submitted to the Office of the Registrar no later than:

Fall – July 31

Spring – September 30

Summer – January 31

What do I need to do to ensure that I graduate in April?

Submit your graduation application as indicated above. Then, review your advising worksheet with your advisor to make sure you have met all necessary degree requirements. Check the status of your application and official degree audit in PointWeb: *Students > Degree Information > Graduation Application Status > Procedure List > Procedure*.

What is the difference between the Commencement Ceremony and the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony – This ceremony is for individuals earning graduate-level degrees. The Dean of each graduate program will place the hood on those earning graduate-level degrees. This ceremony replaces the traditional commencement ceremony, which only undergraduates will attend.

Commencement – This ceremony is for individuals earning degrees at the undergraduate level. This ceremony is more traditional in nature, and the Dean of each program will present each graduate with a diploma cover.

Who is eligible to participate in the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

All Graduate degree candidates who expect to complete their degree requirements by the end of the Spring, 2025 term are eligible to participate in the Spring Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony. Students who will complete their degree requirements in Summer or Fall of 2025 are invited to walk in the December Hooding Ceremony.

When will I receive my diploma?

Once your degree has been conferred by the Office of the Registrar, the diploma will be ordered from the Michael Sutter Company. You can expect delivery within 4-6 weeks after degree conferral.

📌 Am I required to attend the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

All Graduate Degree candidates are encouraged to attend, but attendance is not mandatory. The objective of the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony is to ceremoniously recognize, congratulate, and celebrate students who have worked hard to achieve a graduate-level degree.

📌 How long is the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

The Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony should last approximately two (2) hours.

📌 Is the venue for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony accessible to the disabled?

Yes, all facilities in PPG Paints Arena are accessible to the disabled. Accessible seating is available on all seating levels. Volunteers will be available at the Check-in table to assist individuals in need. *It is strongly recommended that individuals with physical limitations bring their own wheelchair.*

📌 Do I need to notify anyone if I plan to attend the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Yes, if are planning to attend the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony, you must let us know by submitting an RSVP online: <https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/Submit/Start/7086d189-f9f2-4802-a9a0-8a6af37a6d2b>. The deadline to RSVP is **April 15, 2025**. Note: this task is required for participation the ceremony and is completely unrelated to the graduation application in PointWeb.

📌 Is there a rehearsal?

No, there will not be a rehearsal for this event. Your calling card will indicate your place in line, and staff members will assist with both the procession and seating.

📌 How will I know what to do when I arrive for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

All students attending the ceremony should enter through the HIGHMARK gate at PPG Paints Arena and report to line-up by 8:30 am. Further instructions will be given at that time. You will receive your calling card at check-in.

📌 Do I need to check in upon arrival at PPG Paints Arena?

Students are to report to registration on the Main Floor of PPG Paints Arena and then proceed to the Lower Level by 8:30 am for line-up. Staff members will direct you to the appropriate line. You must bring your calling card, so do not lose it!

📌 Where should my invited guests and I park?

Parking will be available at the East Lot, as well as the PPG Paints garage for a fee. Other surrounding lots may be available. Valid disabled parking place cards are required. Accessible space is limited, and early arrival is strongly recommended.

📌 What time will my invited guests be able to enter PPG Paints Arena for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Doors at the HIGHMARK gate will open at 7:30 am. The ceremony will begin promptly at 9:00 am.

📌 How many family members and friends may attend?

This free event is open to all family members and friends who would like to attend. Tickets are not required.

📌 May children attend Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Yes, children are welcome to attend the Ceremony; however, childcare is not available and will not be provided at the ceremony venue. Children should be supervised and accompanied by family members during the ceremony.

📌 Where can I purchase my cap, gown and hood?

Caps and gowns (and hood, if applicable) may be ordered at the Graduation Fair at Point Park University, February 18 & 19, 2025. If you are unable to attend the Graduation Fair, please visit or call the Point Park University Bookstore (412-392-3448) to order your cap and gown, or order online beginning 02/07/2025 (the portal will not open until that date): www.oakhallcg.com/pages/point-park-landing.

Master's candidates:

If you would like to have your items shipped to the bookstore for pickup, you must order by **03/20/2025**.

If you would like to have your items shipped directly to you, you must order by **04/06/2025**.

Doctoral candidates:

If you are planning to rent your regalia, you must order by 03/20/2025. All rentals will be shipped to the bookstore. If you need to have your rental shipped to home, you must make special arrangements with the bookstore. Please call 412-392-3448.

If you intend to purchase your regalia, you must contact the bookstore no later than **02/20/2025** to guarantee that the robes are manufactured and delivered in time for the ceremony.

📌 Must I wear a cap and gown?

Yes, participation in the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony requires that you wear the traditional cap and gown, which are the only appropriate and acceptable academic attire for such an event. The University will not provide these items for those who forget to bring their own.

📌 What should I wear under my cap and gown for the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

In order to honor the dignity of the ceremony and maintain a professional atmosphere, it is expected that you wear appropriate business or dress clothing and shoes under your regalia.

📌 If I am a Graduate Degree candidate, is it correct to wear my tassel on the left?

Yes, Graduate Degree candidates should wear their tassels on the left. This signifies their conferral of any previous degree(s).

📌 May invited guests take pictures during the ceremony?

Yes, it is encouraged.

📌 Will I have my photograph taken by a professional photographer at the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony?

Yes. Grad Images will be photographing each graduate as they cross the stage at the Ceremony. You will be contacted directly by Grad Images via email with an invitation to purchase your photos; however, there is no obligation to purchase these.

📌 I won't be attending the Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony. How will I get my diploma?

All students who apply for graduation, regardless of attendance at the ceremony, will first be reviewed and verified as having fulfilled all requirements pertaining to their degree. Then, your diploma will be mailed to the address you provided in your graduation application. You can expect delivery 4-6 weeks after graduation.