

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

# Class of 2024

268<sup>TH</sup> COMMENCEMENT





# The University of Pennsylvania's 268th Commencement

will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024, in Franklin Field. The gates to the field will open at 8:30 a.m. for guest seating. Guests will be seated in the southeast, east, and northeast stands of the stadium. Guests should enter through the south stands entrance from South Street. For updated information, refer to the Commencement website: [commencement.upenn.edu](https://commencement.upenn.edu).

The ceremony will feature the conferral of degrees, the awarding of honorary degrees, greetings by University officials, and remarks by the Commencement speaker. The ceremony will be held rain or shine. Tickets are not required for admission to the University Commencement ceremony. Degree candidates are required to wear academic regalia.

Degree candidates will assemble at 39th Street and Locust Walk (near the high rises) by 8:45 a.m., process down Locust Walk, and enter the field at 9:30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 10:15 a.m. upon the entrance of the academic procession (the President's party and the faculty) and will conclude at approximately noon.

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# Commencement and Graduation Ceremonies

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## UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

### Monday, May 20, 2024

8:30 a.m.     Gates open to Franklin Field

9:30 a.m.     Procession enters Franklin Field

10:15 a.m.     University Commencement Ceremony  
*Franklin Field*

## UNDERGRADUATE CEREMONIES

### Saturday, May 18, 2024

2:00 p.m.     School of Engineering and Applied Science  
Undergraduate Ceremony  
*Palestra*

### Sunday, May 19, 2024

9:00 a.m.     Wharton School Undergraduate Ceremony  
*Palestra*

6:30 p.m.     College of Arts and Sciences Ceremony  
*Franklin Field*

### Monday, May 20, 2024

3:00 p.m.     School of Nursing Ceremony\*  
*Verizon Hall at the Kimmel Center,  
Broad and Spruce Streets*  
*\*Tickets are required*

## GRADUATE CEREMONIES

In addition to the University Commencement, there are numerous ceremonies for graduate students.

For these ceremony dates and locations, please visit the School Ceremonies section of the Commencement website.

## THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Upon the entrance of the academic procession into Franklin Field, all graduates and guests should rise and remain standing until after the invocation.



Caps are worn during the procession and removed for the singing of the National Anthem. When the Deans present the candidates for each degree, graduates rise, and remain standing until the end of the presentation. After the degrees have been conferred, graduates lift their caps in salute to the Interim President. The tassel is then shifted to the left side, front.

The Provost will acknowledge those receiving various academic honors, prizes, and awards, as well as membership in scholastic honor societies. All persons who have earned these honors will be asked to rise for recognition and to remain standing until the completion of these remarks.

## WEBCAST OF THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Family members and friends who are unable to attend Penn's 268th Commencement may view the ceremony live on the internet. Coverage from Franklin Field will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, May 20. Please visit [commencement.upenn.edu/home#webcast](http://commencement.upenn.edu/home#webcast) to learn more about the webcast.

## ACADEMIC REGALIA

Academic regalia is required for degree candidates at Commencement. All candidates who do not possess regalia must obtain it from the Penn Bookstore, located at 36th and Walnut Streets. Detailed information is available on Grad Express at [www.campusexpress.upenn.edu/graduation](http://www.campusexpress.upenn.edu/graduation).

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### ***Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral Degree Candidates***

Graduates can purchase and pick up their Commencement regalia at the Penn Bookstore during “Grad Fair” – March 20-22, 2024. The regalia is a commemorative keepsake. All regalia will be distributed on the second level of the Penn Bookstore near the textbook department. Degree candidates will have the opportunity to meet with staff members regarding any questions, such as ensuring the correct fit. Other graduation-related products and special promotions will also be available at the Grad Fair.

Doctoral candidates should consult with their respective Schools or Programs as there may be special requirements or recommendations regarding the preferred regalia.

### ***Custom Doctoral Regalia***

Custom regalia is typically chosen by doctoral candidates who plan to frequently participate in academic ceremonies requiring such attire. Please keep in mind that doctoral candidates are not required to purchase custom regalia and may find it more economical to choose the standard doctoral regalia. Custom doctoral regalia can only be obtained by having it shipped directly to you. You must place your order by March 8, 2024, to receive the regalia by Commencement. Shipping fees apply. To order regalia, visit Grad Express [www.campusexpress.upenn.edu/graduation](http://www.campusexpress.upenn.edu/graduation).

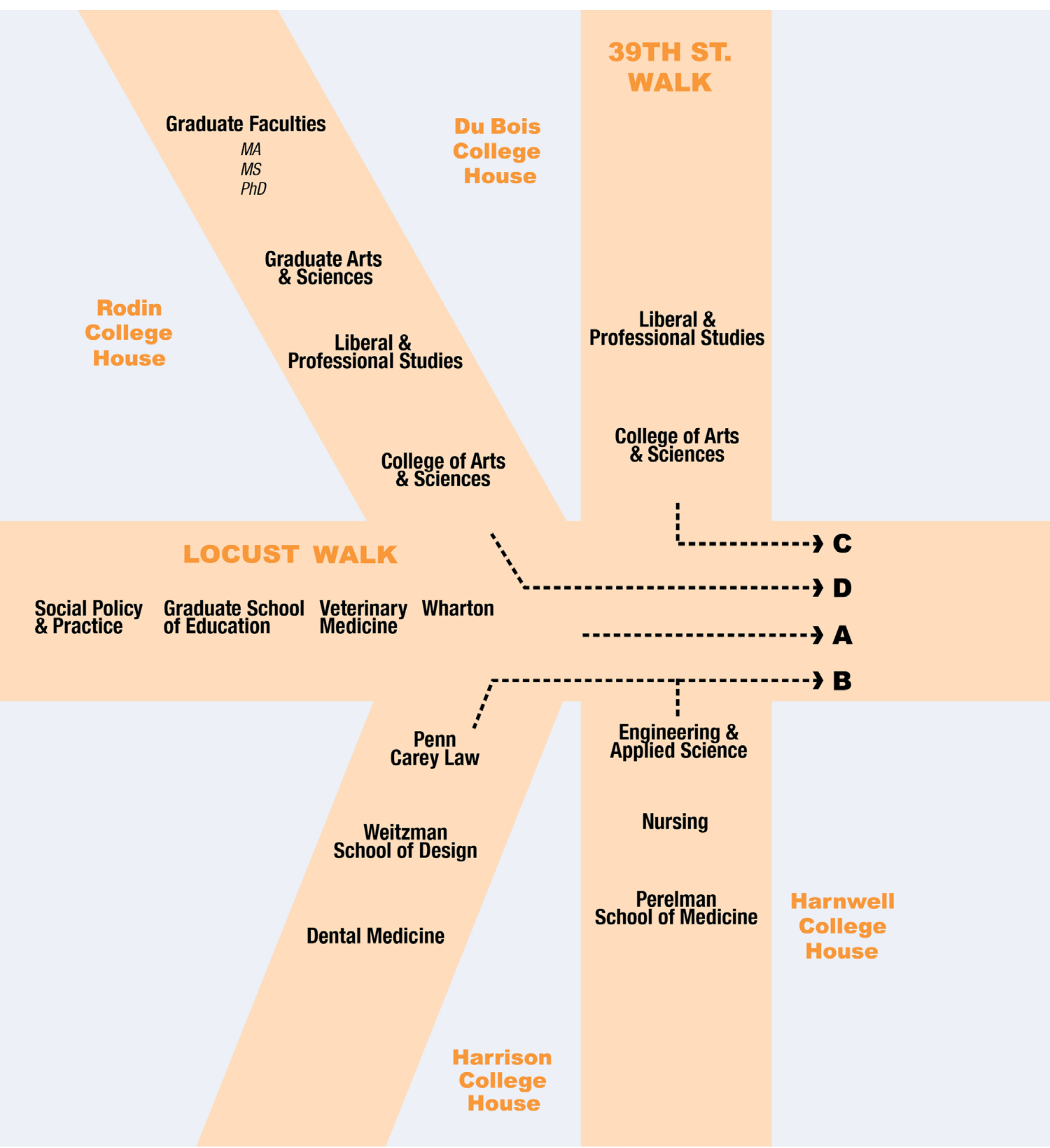
### ***Those Unable to Pick up their Regalia during Grad Fair***

Caps and gowns will still be available at the Penn Bookstore after the above dates, but graduates are strongly encouraged to obtain their regalia at the Bookstore during Grad Fair, when the store’s resources are dedicated to this process. If you are not currently on campus, you may order your regalia online and have it shipped directly to you. You must place your order by March 31, 2024, to receive the regalia by Commencement. Shipping fees apply. To order regalia, visit Grad Express [www.campusexpress.upenn.edu/graduation](http://www.campusexpress.upenn.edu/graduation).

ASSEMBLY OF DEGREE CANDIDATES

Degree candidates will assemble according to School at 39th Street and Locust Walk (near the high rises), no later than 8:45 a.m. (diagram below). School assembly points will be designated by banners. The identifying sign for PhD, MA, and MS candidates will be “Graduate Faculties.” Please be prompt! Those who are not at the assembly points, in academic regalia, when the procession is formed will not be able to march with their classmates.

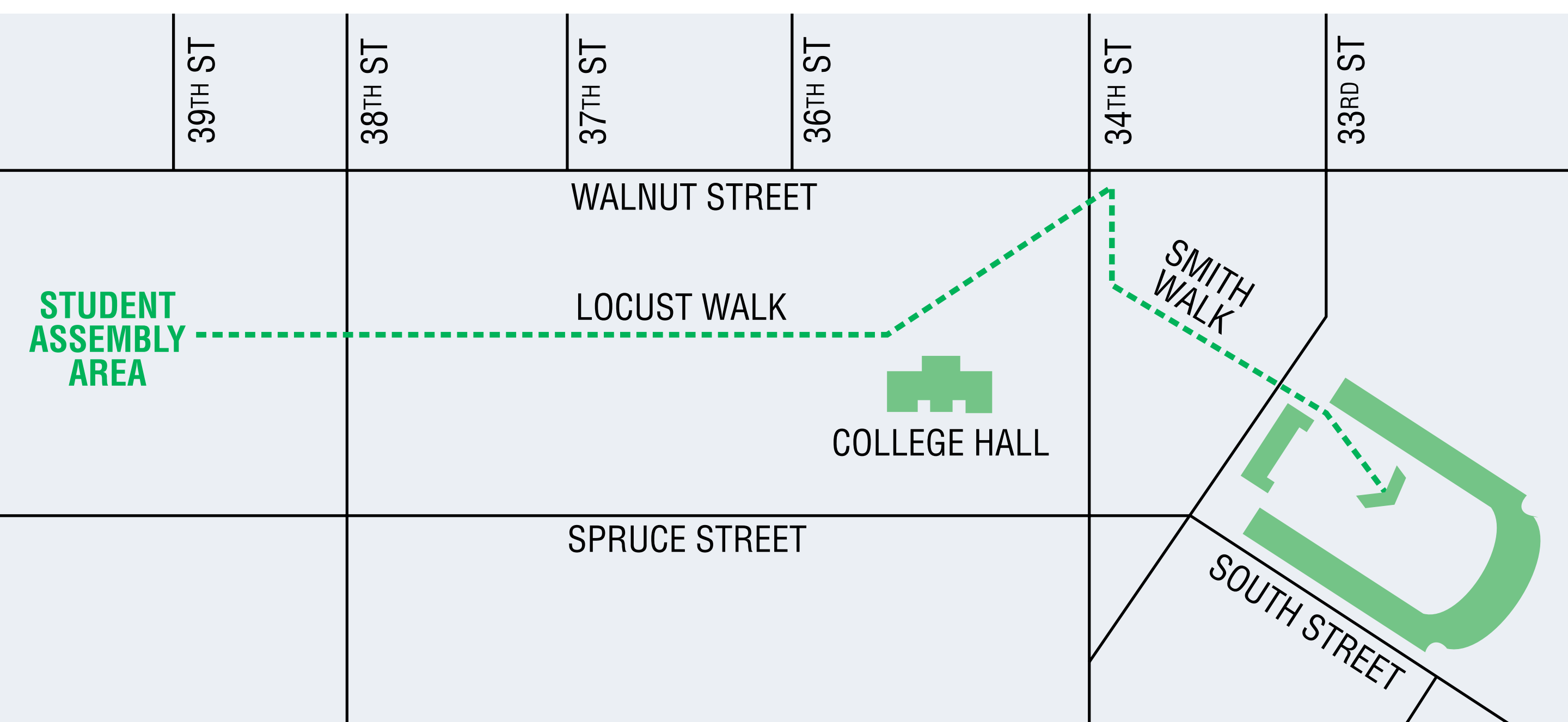
Student Assembly



*Student Procession*

The procession of degree candidates will form and move in four columns as directed by Commencement marshals (identified by lanyards). The procession will move down Locust Walk, along 34th Street, down Smith Walk, cross 33rd Street, and into the north entrance of Franklin Field (diagram below).

*Procession Route*

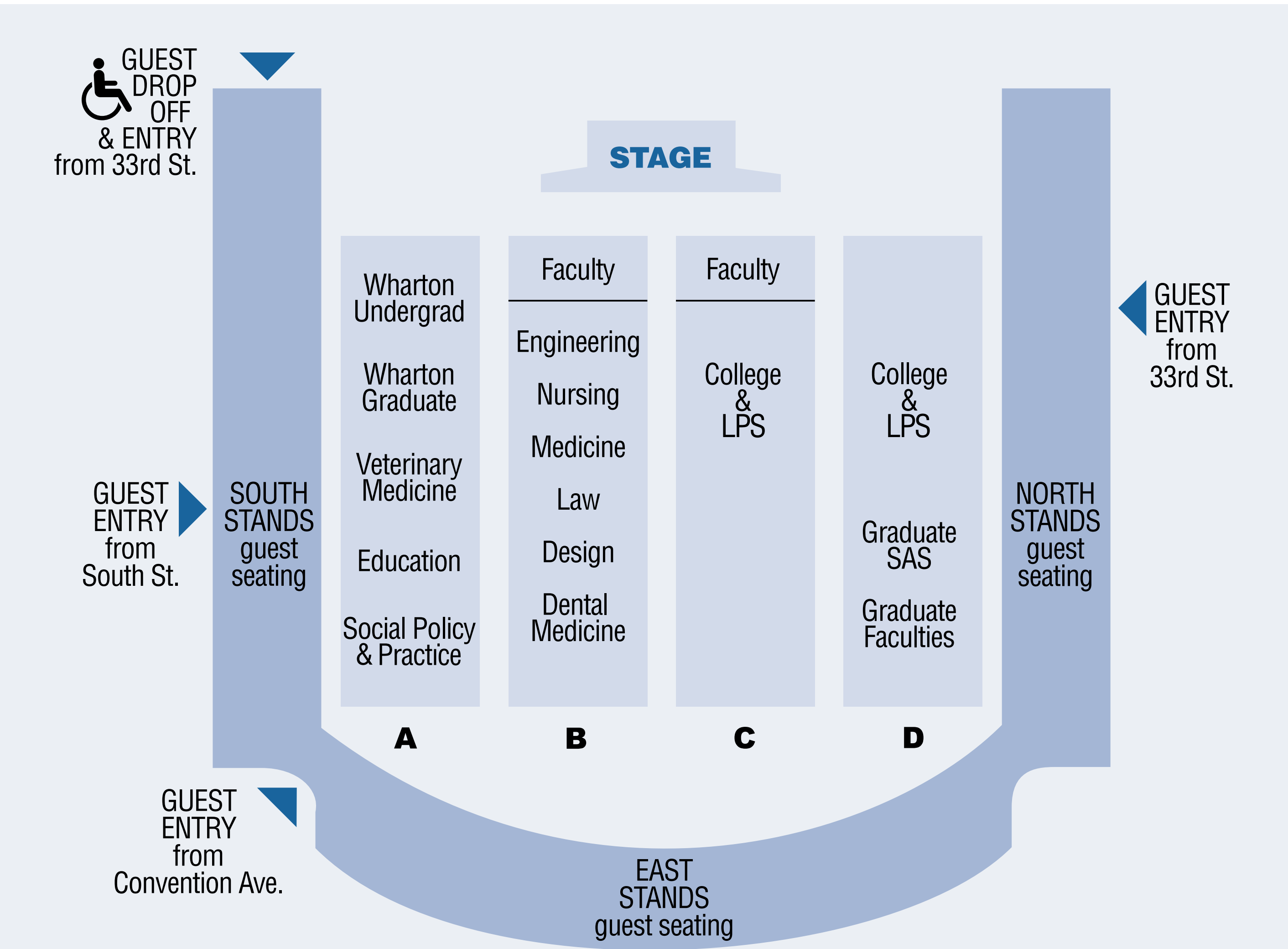


DEGREE CANDIDATES

If you wish to sit with friends on the field, you must line up in front of or behind each other in the same column of the procession. Do not stand next to each other, as each column is directed to a different section of Franklin Field. Once the procession begins, be sure to follow the person in front of you and stay in your original column. Please walk briskly and make sure there are no gaps in the line in front of you. Do not leave the procession once it is underway. Candidates will be seated on the field according to School (diagram below).

When you reach the row to which you are directed, please move into it quickly, leaving no vacant seats in the row, and be seated immediately. An end seat in each row will bear a stack of programs; the person occupying that seat should pass the programs along the row. Bottled water will be available on the field for the degree candidates.

Seating Chart



## HOTEL AND TRAVEL INFORMATION

For hotel and travel information, contact the following:

### *VISIT PENN*

<https://www.business-services.upenn.edu/services/hotels>

### *VISIT PHILLY*

[www.visitphilly.com](http://www.visitphilly.com) or 800-537-7676

## PARKING

If you plan to drive to campus, please remember that there will be tremendous traffic congestion and parking will be limited, so arrive early. It is a regular workday for many people in the area and there are road closures to accommodate the procession. Parking facilities (fees vary) are located at:

Walnut 38, University garage  
*the Northeast corner of 38th and Walnut Streets (enter on 38th Street)*

Sheraton University City,  
Hotel garage  
*36th and Chestnut Streets*

Walnut 40, University garage  
*40th and Walnut Streets*

Chestnut 34, University garage  
(limited parking)  
*34th and Chestnut Streets  
(enter on 34th Street)*

Ludlow 34, University lot  
*Ludlow Street (south side) between  
33rd and 34th Streets*

Penn Park, University lot  
*31st and Lower Walnut Street  
(accessed from Chestnut Street)*



## SEATING FOR GUESTS WITH DISABILITIES

Seating for guests who use wheelchairs, as well as those with limited physical mobility or medical conditions, will be available both on the field and in the lower stands. Please be aware that the stadium is bench seating. Due to space constraints, guests who are seated on the field may be accompanied by one escort only.

Beginning March 1, arrangements for disability seating may be requested at [commencement.upenn.edu/ceremonies#access](https://commencement.upenn.edu/ceremonies#access). An email confirmation will be sent within five business days of submitting your request. Starting April 1, you can call (215) 898-7369 (voice) if you have any questions. There is no guarantee that an accommodation can be made if the request is received after April 30. Tickets will be mailed at the end of April. Commencement information materials are available in alternate formats upon request. Advance notice is required. For information about disability seating at a School graduation, please reach out to your School.

## FRANKLIN FIELD POLICIES

Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited in Franklin Field. Please see the full list of prohibited items on the Commencement website [FAQ page](#), and on the [Graduates information page](#).

## IN THE EVENT OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Commencement will be held rain or shine. Franklin Field is an outdoor stadium and guests should come prepared for all weather conditions, including rain and hot sun. Only a limited amount of covered seating is available.





## **IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS**

In the event of dangerous weather conditions that threaten personal safety (such as a severe thunderstorm, lightning, or tornado), the ceremony will be delayed. In the unlikely event that dangerous conditions are forecast to persist throughout the morning, the ceremony may be moved to the Palestra (33rd Street, just north of Franklin Field), where seating would be limited to degree candidates only. These steps would be taken only in extreme circumstances. If changes are required due to severe or extreme weather, details about changes will be communicated by:

- A notice on the Commencement website, [commencement.upenn.edu](http://commencement.upenn.edu)
- Announcements on the University's emergency information line (215) 898-MELT (6358) and radio station KYW (1060 AM)
- Signs at 39th Street and Locust Walk (near the high rises) and around campus

## BACCALAUREATE CEREMONY AND SENIOR CLASS CELEBRATION

The Baccalaureate ceremony for graduating students will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 4:00 p.m. in Irvine Auditorium. The Baccalaureate ceremony is an interfaith program that includes student musical performances, readings, prayers, and a special celebration for the graduates, including an unveiling of the new class Ivy Stone and distribution of a commemorative class pin. Tickets and academic regalia are not required.

## DIPLOMAS

The following schools will distribute diplomas at their individual graduation ceremonies:

**School of Dental Medicine:** All

**Perelman School of Medicine:** MDs only

**School of Veterinary Medicine:** VMDs only

All other diplomas for May graduates will be mailed in July.

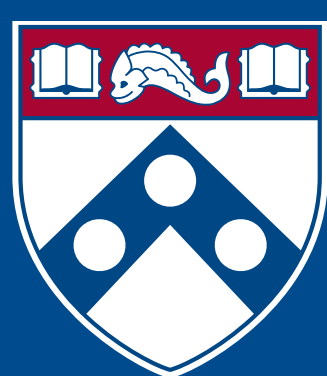
## DIPLOMA MAILING PROCEDURE

Diplomas are mailed in July, via First-Class U.S. Mail (not trackable), to the Diploma Mailing address entered on the University's graduation application. Students who wish to update their diploma mailing address after the submission of the graduation application should do so on Path@Penn no later than June 7. Diplomas mailed to international addresses can take up to eight weeks for delivery. To purchase trackable express shipping, please visit the website of the Office of the University Secretary (<https://secretary.upenn.edu/ceremonies/diplomas>).

## COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION

[commencement.upenn.edu](https://commencement.upenn.edu)  
(215) 898-7006





Penn

Office of the University Secretary

March 2024