

Commencement 2018

Sunday, May 20, 2018

To: All BU Law 3Ls

From: Dean O'Rourke

Subject: Important Information Regarding Commencement

Date: February 5, 2018

I hope your last semester of law school is off to a good start! I am writing today to let you know about some important information regarding Commencement.

The BU Law Commencement ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Track and Tennis Center. A reception will follow immediately after the ceremony. The All-University Commencement ceremony will take place on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. on Nickerson Field. While those dates may seem far away, they will arrive very quickly! This memo outlines the things you need to do in order to participate in the ceremonies that day and to ensure that you receive your diploma at the BU Law Commencement ceremony.

We've set up a special section of the website to help you get ready for Commencement. Please visit <http://www.bu.edu/law/events/commencement> for all your commencement needs. If you have specific questions about the ceremony that you can't find answers to on the website, please contact Elizabeth Clancey at lawevent@bu.edu.

Please pay close attention to the requirements and deadlines. You must complete the requirements on time in order to receive your diploma.

Have a great semester! I look forward to congratulating you at Commencement.

Maureen A. O'Rourke
Dean and Professor of Law
Michaels Faculty Research Scholar

J.D. COMMENCEMENT CHECKLIST

Graduation Application – Deadline: Monday, January 29th, 2018 – PAST DUE!

You should have submitted your graduation application to the BU Law Registrar's Office by **January 29th**. You must submit this application in order to participate in commencement ceremonies. If you have yet to submit your application, please do so immediately. You can access the form on the law school commencement website or by clicking on <http://www.bu.edu/law/current-students/jd-student-resources/forms/graduation-application/application-for-graduation/>.

Academic Requirement Check – Deadline ASAP

At the conclusion of the add/drop period on **January 29th**, the BU Law Registrar's Office sent out a course confirmation to all J.D. students. The course confirmation only addresses credit requirements. Remember that you also must fulfill the Professional Responsibility, Introduction to Business Fundamentals, Professional Skills and Upper Class writing requirements to graduate. If you have any question about whether you have fulfilled all graduation requirements, please check with the Registrar's Office as soon as possible.

Verify Personal Data – Deadline: Wednesday, March 7, 2018

After you file your graduation application, you received an automated email from the University Registrar asking you to provide your name as you would like it to appear on your diploma. If you didn't indicate otherwise, your diploma will show your name as it currently appears on University records. Any Student who has restricted the release of their name in the "Commencement Program" through the Student Link will not appear in Commencement Programs. Please check the Student Link to be sure your name appears as you would like it to in the Commencement Programs. If you wish to make any changes, please contact Nicole Haefner in the registrar's office.

Order Your Cap and Gown Online – First Deadline: March 25th, 2018

Cap and gown orders are placed online through Barnes & Noble @ BU's vendor, Herff Jones. If you're participating in ceremonies during Commencement Weekend, you'll need the University-approved regalia. A \$10 discount is applied to all regalia packages ordered online by March 25th. You can place your regalia order, and order personalized commencement announcements, by visiting <http://www.bu.edu/commencement/for-students/caps-gowns-announcements/> and clicking on "Place your order today."

- You may pick up your cap & gown at Barnes & Noble @ BU beginning May 1st. *Be sure you have the right cap and gown for your degree when you pick them up at Barnes & Noble.*
- All rentals are on a first-come, first-serve basis for sizes. Please don't wait until March 25th to place your order! Online ordering will still be available after March 25th, but for home delivery.
- Step-by-step ordering directions can be found on the [regalia](#) page of the BU Law Commencement website.
- For further information regarding cap and gown orders, please contact Barnes & Noble @ BU at 617-236-7402.

RSVP – Deadline: April 11, 2018

After you file your graduation application, you will receive an automated email from the University Registrar asking you to RSVP for the All-University Commencement and Law School Commencement ceremonies. The last day to update commencement attendance is **April 11th**.

Federal Loan Exit Counseling & Loan Repayment – Deadline: April 30, 2018

- If you received federal loans while at BU Law, you must complete an Exit Counseling Session by **April 30** to guarantee that you will receive your diploma at graduation. Group sessions will begin the week following spring break. Please review the Law Financial Aid Office's [schedule](#) for the dates and times of

group loan counseling sessions. You may also complete the requirement [online](#) or make an appointment to meet individually with the Law Financial Aid Office.

- Detailed loan repayment information is available on the [Federal Student Aid website](#). The options for federal loans include several income-driven repayment plans, which use your adjusted gross income to determine your monthly payment – and do NOT require specific employment (such as public interest work).
- If you plan a career in public interest work, you should become familiar with the federal [Public Service Loan Forgiveness program](#) and [BU Law's LRAP](#). When used with an income-driven repayment plan, these programs can provide a substantial benefit for students who pursue a career in a public service field.

The Law Financial Aid Office will work with you throughout the semester and after graduation to provide the information that you need to repay your loans.

❑ Outstanding Balances – Deadline: April 30, 2018

If you have an outstanding balance on your student account, it must be paid by **April 30** to ensure that you will receive your diploma at graduation.

❑ J.D. Graduation Survey – Deadline: May 4, 2018

The CDO will ask you to complete an online graduation survey via Symplicity in the middle of April. This provides us with information that we are required to report to the ABA and helps us identify career needs of our graduates so that we can continue to work with you beyond graduation. You must complete this requirement by **May 4th** in order to receive your diploma at the BU Law Convocation ceremony.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Boston University Registrar collects and holds all diplomas not awarded at commencement. BU Law will not have access to your diploma after the Commencement ceremony and the University will not release your diploma until the BU Law Registrar advises them that you have met all requirements.

- To obtain your diploma after Commencement, you will need to complete all requirements. Once completed, return to the Student Link — <http://www.bu.edu/studentlink> — and opt either to pick-up your diploma in person or provide a mailing address. The last day to submit this information on the Student Link is **Friday, June 8th**.
- The University will begin dispensing diplomas in person to students who have met all requirements on **Wednesday, June 13th**.
- The University will begin mailing diplomas to students who have met all requirements on **Monday, June 18th**.
- The University Registrar will hold all diplomas for students from whom they have not heard.