

## Frequently Asked Questions About Commencement:

Q) What time is the Commencement Ceremony?

A) The University-wide Commencement is at 1pm, the Political Science Commencement is at 4pm.

Q) Where is Commencement?

A) Please go to [www.bu.edu/commencement](http://www.bu.edu/commencement) for information about the University-wide ceremony. The Political Science Commencement is at Metcalf Hall, on the second floor of the George Sherman Union, located at 775 Comm Ave.

Q) How long will the ceremony last?

A) The University-wide ceremony usually runs approximately 2 hours. The Political Science ceremony will last approximately 45 minutes, with a short reception immediately following in the GSU Food Court.

Q) What time do I need to be at Commencement?

A) Please visit [www.bu.edu/commencement](http://www.bu.edu/commencement) for information about the University-wide ceremony. You **MUST** arrive at the Political Science ceremony by 3:15pm in order to have time to check in and line up. If you are late, we will not hold the ceremony for you, and you will not get your diploma until after the ceremony is over. NOTE: This will not give you much time between the general assembly at Nickerson field, and the ceremony at Metcalf Hall. Please come directly to the Political Science ceremony after the University-wide ceremony is finished, and direct your friends and family to do the same. You can meet up with them after the Political Science ceremony.

Q) Where do I park?

A) We strongly recommend that you do not drive to Commencement. Parking will be free, but extremely limited. If possible, take the T. Please visit [www.bu.edu/commencement](http://www.bu.edu/commencement) for information about parking on campus, as well as public transit and handicapped accessibility.

Q) How many guests can I bring to Commencement?

A) There is no limit to the number of friends and family who can attend Commencement, and we have a large event venue to accommodate guests. But seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. We recommend arriving at Nickerson Field by noon for the University-wide ceremony, and by 3:15pm for the Political Science ceremony.

Q) Are there disability accommodations available?

A) Persons requesting any disability accommodation - guest seating, disability parking, wheelchair requests, and interpreter services - will be directed to the Disability Services section of the Commencement website (<http://www.bu.edu/commencement/2008/disability.html>) where they are instructed to complete the on-line Accommodation Request Form. The information captured via the form will be submitted electronically to the Dean of Students' Office where it will be recorded and processed.

The Accommodation Request Form will be used for all disability service requests for the All-University Ceremony at Nickerson Field **as well as** the individual school/college/department convocations.

Q) I am a double major. Where will my diploma be?

A) You need to use the Student Link, "Diplomas and Graduation" option, to indicate to the University which ceremony you want your diploma to go to.

Q) I graduated in January/will graduate in September. Can I walk at Commencement?

A) Yes. But you need to use the StudentLink, "Diplomas and Graduation" option, to let everyone know that you will be there.

- Q) I do not want to attend Commencement. How will I get my diploma?
- A) Unclaimed diplomas will be sent to the Registrar's Office by the end of the week after Commencement. You will be able to pick yours up there. You may also visit the StudentLink, "Diplomas and Graduation" option, to indicate where you would like your diploma mailed.
- Q) I failed a class in my final semester, or got a C- or lower in a required class for my major. Can I still walk at Commencement?
- A) Yes you can, but you will not receive your diploma, and you will not be considered an official graduate until you have made up those credits either at Summer Term or in the next Academic Year.
- Q) I never filed a graduation application. Can I attend Commencement?
- A) Check with CAS B-3, the Student Records Office, to see if they will allow you to submit a late graduation application.

\*\*\*Below we have pasted the "Important Graduation Information" e-mailed by the Office of Student Programs to all tentative graduates on 2/18/2009:

We offer our congratulations on your approaching graduation from the College of Arts & Sciences. Boston University will hold its Commencement exercises on Sunday, May 17, 2009.

Each year we choose a CAS graduating senior to be the Class Day speaker. Class Day is an annual event held during Commencement weekend to celebrate your accomplishments and academic excellence. The deadline to submit a speech for the Class of 2009 Class Day ceremony is April 13. Speeches on any topic, but somehow relating to your CAS experience, must be no more than three typed pages, and submitted to Dean Snyder, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs (CAS Room 102) or via email (casugrad@bu.edu).

Graduation packets will be mailed to you at the beginning of March. These packets include information you will need regarding commencement. In the meantime, you may view 2009 commencement information, including the

locations and times of the individual school/college ceremonies at:  
<http://www.bu.edu/commencement>.

If you are due to graduate, you must update and confirm your Diploma and Graduation information on the Student Link. Below are important deadlines and instructions:

### **Instructions for Updating Diploma and Graduation Information on the Student Link**

- o Log on to the Student Link using your BU log in and Kerberos password (<http://www.bu.edu/studentlink>)
- o Select the "Academics" tab
- o Select the "Diploma and Graduation Information" option
- o You will be asked to update the following information:
- o The name you want printed on your diploma. **Deadline: March 23, 2009.**
- o Whether you will be attending the All-University Ceremony on Nickerson Field. **Deadline: April 17, 2009.**
- o Whether you will be attending the May School/College diploma ceremony. **Deadline: April 17, 2009.**
- o BUCOP/Double Major? Please identify which ceremony you will attend & where you wish to receive your diploma. **Deadline: April 17, 2009.**

### **For those students not attending a graduation ceremony: "How do I get my diploma?"**

If you will not be attending the May School/College ceremony, you may pick up your diploma beginning June 15, 2009 from the Office of the Registrar. If you would like your diploma mailed to you, you must update your diploma mailing address on the Link by June 8, 2009. Diplomas will be mailed beginning June 22, 2009.

### **For those students who do NOT have Link Access**

If you have been scheduled to graduate and do not have access to the Student Link and are unable to update your Graduation and Diploma information, please visit the "Graduation and Diploma" section of the Office of the University Registrar's website at <http://www.bu.edu/reg/graduation/applygrad.html>.

If you are graduating in May, please use the "May Information Form". If you

would like to walk in the May ceremony, but have graduated in January or will be graduating in September 2009, please use the "January and September Information Form". You may fax or mail the completed form to: Office of the University Registrar, Diploma Office, 881 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215, (ph) 617-353-3604, (fax) 617-358-6046. (If you are scheduled to graduate at any other time, please contact the Office of Student Programs).

**Students in a joint concentration**

The Office of the University Registrar will e-mail you in mid-February and ask which program you will be attending (and at which ceremony you would like to receive your diploma). You may also submit the information directly to the Registrar by following the instructions above, titled "For those students who do NOT have Link Access."