Ceremonies and Celebrations or Commencement? What’s the Difference?

Commencement is distinguished as the College-wide ceremony in which all graduates who qualify to receive their degrees have the opportunity to walk across the stage at Trask Coliseum. Students must apply to graduate in order to have their diploma conferred, as diplomas are not received at the ceremony, but are mailed after commencement.

Ceremonies and Celebrations are individual events coordinated by each school or department to recognize graduating students in their respective majors. Students may be recognized and/or receive awards at these events. These events are smaller, held in more intimate settings, require an RSVP and are usually ticketed. Ceremonies and Celebrations will usually occur prior to Commencement.

The chart below outlines the Ceremonies and Celebrations for the College of Health and Human Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Majors</th>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Ticketed</th>
<th>Regalia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>Pre-Licensure, RN-BSN, MSN, DNP</td>
<td>Fall/Spring</td>
<td>Kenan Auditorium</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>BSW, MSW</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Kenan Auditorium</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Health and Applied Human Sciences (SHAHS)</td>
<td>Athletic Training, Exercise Science, Physical Education, Public Health, Recreation Therapy, Recreation, Sport Leadership and Tourism Management,</td>
<td>Fall/Spring</td>
<td>Burney Center</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Research</td>
<td>BS, MS</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Kenan Auditorium</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources for All Ceremonies

Campus Map- [http://www.uncw.edu/map/documents/CAMPUSMAP12x18.pdf](http://www.uncw.edu/map/documents/CAMPUSMAP12x18.pdf)
Regalia- [http://uncw.edu/bookstore/](http://uncw.edu/bookstore/)
Application for Graduation- [http://uncw.edu/reg/graduation-deadlinesApp.html](http://uncw.edu/reg/graduation-deadlinesApp.html)
Honors Cords- [http://uncw.edu/commencement/graduates.html](http://uncw.edu/commencement/graduates.html)
Hotel Accommodations- [http://uncw.edu/admissions/Accommodations.html](http://uncw.edu/admissions/Accommodations.html)
Diplomas- Will be mailed 6-8 weeks after the commencement ceremony

- Official transcripts are available sooner
- OAP students who need graduation verification, please contact OAP Registrar (oapregistrar@uncw.edu)

Who needs a ticket?

Any person who will need their own seat in the auditorium will require a ticket. Infants may be held in the laps of adults, but toddlers will usually require their own seat and will need a ticket.
What if I need extra tickets?

You have 3 options to receive extra tickets:

1. **Get them from your friends.**
   If you have a friend that does not plan to use all of their tickets, ask them for extras they don’t plan to use. You will need to make arrangements with your friend if they have extras to give.

2. **Wait until the RSVP period ends.**
   When the RSVP period closes, we will run a process to determine if extra tickets are available. If there are, we will add the number of tickets to each student who has RSVP’d to their guaranteed amount. Students will be notified if we are able to provide extra tickets.

3. **Wait until the day of the ceremony to claim extra tickets.**
   As graduates pick up their tickets, we will collect any extra tickets graduates do not intend to use to be given out on a first-come, first-served basis the day of the ceremony.

**Important items to remember**
- We are unable to guarantee extra tickets to any students
- Students who **DO NOT** RSVP are not eligible to receive tickets
- Ticket pickup will be at Kenan auditorium. Additional information when tickets will be available will be distributed later
- This event is streamed online for those unable to attend the ceremony in person
- Tickets are **ONLY REQUIRED** for the School of Nursing Graduation Recognition and Awards Ceremony
- CHHS Commencement is **NOT TICKETED**
School of Nursing

Undergraduate Nursing (Pre-Licensure & RN-BSN)

- RSVP required to attend
- Ticketed event
  - Usually between 5-7 tickets per student (determined upon number of RSVPs)
  - Tickets can be picked up at Kenan Auditorium Box Office
    - Information on when tickets are available is emailed to students
- Rehearsal for the ceremony is usually held on Reading Day
  - Pre-licensure (undergraduate) students will have their class picture taken on this day
  - Regalia is required (for Pre-licensure student) during the rehearsal
  - Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
    - RN-BSN students must [purchase regalia](https://www.jimcolemanstore.com/uncw/)
    - Pre-licensure students have regalia costs included in tuition and fees
- Purchase (optional) nursing pin- [https://www.jimcolemanstore.com/uncw/](https://www.jimcolemanstore.com/uncw/)

Graduate Nursing (MSN & DNP, Family Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Educator)

- RSVP required to attend
- Ticketed event
  - Usually between 5-7 tickets per student (determined upon number of RSVPs)
  - Tickets can be picked up at Kenan Auditorium Box Office
    - Information on when tickets are available is emailed to students
- Rehearsal for the ceremony is usually held on Reading Day
  - Rehearsal is optional for graduate level students
  - Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
    - Masters/Doctoral level students must purchase regalia

Clinical Research (Baccalaureate Degree)

- An RSVP required to attend
- This is a non-ticketed event
- Rehearsal for the ceremony is usually held a day prior to the event
  - Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
    - Undergraduate students have regalia costs included in tuition and fees
    - Masters level students must purchase regalia

Clinical Research (Master’s Degree)

- An RSVP required to attend
- This is a non-ticketed event
- Rehearsal for the ceremony is usually held a day prior to the event
  - Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
    - Masters level students must purchase regalia

This information is subject to change and will be updated accordingly. Last updated: March 15, 2018
School of Social Work

Bachelor of Social Work

- An RSVP required to attend
- This is a non-ticketed event
- Rehearsal is not required for students
- Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
  - Undergraduate students included in tuition and fees

Master of Social Work

- An RSVP required to attend
- This is a non-ticketed event
- Rehearsal is not required for students
- Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
  - Master’s level students must purchase regalia

School of Health and Applied Human Services

All SHAHS Programs

- RSVP required to attend
- Ticketed event
  - Usually between 4-6 tickets per student (determined upon number of RSVPs)
- No rehearsal held
- Regalia can be picked up in the campus bookstore
  - Undergraduate students’ regalia is included in tuition and fees; there is no additional fee
  - Master’s level students must purchase regalia