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

Commencement is distinguished as the University-wide ceremony in which all graduates who qualify to receive their degrees receive the opportunity to walk across the stage at Trask Coliseum and participate with other graduates from their college. 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, RNBS, 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.
School of Nursing

Undergraduate Nursing (Pre-Licensure & RN to BS)

- RSVP required to attend
- Ticketed event
  - Usually between 6-8 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
    - RNBS Students must purchase regalia
    - 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 6-8 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
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