



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Spring 2017 Commencement - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Date: Saturday May 20, 2017

Time: 9:00am

Location: Xfinity Center ([Campus Map](#))

When should I arrive for the SPH Commencement?

Graduating students should report to the Auxiliary Gym (“Pavilion”) in the Xfinity Center **no later than 8:00 am**. Graduates should enter the Xfinity Center at Gate D only (northeast corner of Xfinity at parking lot 4b). Guests will be directed to use other entrances. THERE WILL BE SECURITY AT EACH ENTRANCE WANDING STUDENTS (AND GUESTS) SO PLEASE ALLOW PLENTY OF TIME.

Doors will open for all guests at **8:00 am**. No food or drink is allowed.

How many tickets do I receive for commencement?

SPH Commencement: There are no physical tickets handed out for the School of Public Health Commencement, and there is no limit on guests for this ceremony. Neither you nor your guests will need tickets to attend the School of Public Health Commencement.

University-wide Commencement: All graduates will be given **four guest tickets** to the main commencement ceremony. Graduates can claim their guest tickets through their athletic online ticket account beginning May 5. Further details can be found at <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

How many guests can I bring?

There is no limit on guests for the School of Public Health Commencement ceremony.

What time is the Main ceremony?

The University of Maryland Main Commencement ceremony will be held on Sunday May 21, 2017 in the Xfinity Center. The doors open at 11:30am. The Procession of Graduates will begin at 12:20pm, and the ceremony will begin at 1:00pm. For more information, please see the University’s official Commencement website, <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

How do I get my cap and gown?

This information is available on the University's official Commencement website, <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

Where can I get my graduation pictures?

This information is available on the University's official Commencement website, <http://www.commencement.umd.edu>.

How do I know if I have earned Commencement Honors?

Summa cum laude, magna cum laude and cum laude are the highest commencement honors that the university bestows for sustained excellence in scholarship. They are awarded to the top 10% of all students graduating in the School of Public Health over the course of a year. Summa cum laude is awarded to students with a GPA in the highest two percent of all college graduates, magna cum laude to the next highest three percent, and cum laude to the following five percent. Latin Honors will be conferred based on all coursework applied towards the degree, including courses taken during the student's final semester at UMD (for most students, this will be the semester in which they graduate). As such, Latin Honors standing will be preliminary until the point at which final grades have been submitted and the student is cleared to graduate.

- Summa Cum Laude: 4.000 – 3.904
- Magna Cum Laude: 3.903 - 3.835
- Cum Laude 3.834 – 3.718

Will there be a reception?

Family, friends or other guests are invited to a reception hosted by Dean Lushniak in the School of Public Health immediately following the ceremony.

I have a relative that is disabled/wheelchair bound/cannot walk far distances. What sort of seating accommodations do you have?

The Xfinity Center is equipped with elevators and accessible entrances located to the right of the steps that lead to the main entrance (Gate C) as well as at the Terrapin Trail Garage (Gate E). There are many long hallways in the Xfinity Center and much walking is required. The University of Maryland does not have wheelchairs available. If you have difficulty walking long distances, consider renting a wheelchair. **Please advise any guests requiring special assistance or accommodations to arrive early to make sure they have time to get seated before the ceremony begins.**

Where should I park for the SPH ceremony? Is there handicap parking for the SPH ceremony?

Parking for you and your guests is available in any lot or parking garage on campus. However, the best parking is available in Lots 4, 6 (Terrapin Trail Garage), 9 and 11 surrounding the Xfinity Center. There are handicap parking spaces available in these lots, but they are limited. Parking is available on a first come, first served basis. We recommend guests to utilize public transportation as much as possible to help reduce the amount of vehicle traffic on campus. To this end, Transportation Services will be running shuttles between the Metro and Campus along with routes throughout the campus to get people to the different ceremonies. If you have guests that cannot walk far distances, you may wish to drop them off first and then park the car.