

INFORMATION ABOUT COMMENCEMENT

Commencement Ceremonies

Congratulations, classes 2019-2020 and 2020-2021! To celebrate the milestone of graduating from college and to keep you and your party safe, Guilford College will conduct a socially distanced ceremony where graduates can have their name read, walk across the Dana Auditorium stage, and obtain diploma covers on May 7-8, 2021. The following week on May 15, 2021, there will be a special virtual Commencement ceremony for graduates that will feature a Commencement speaker. Graduates may also choose to attend virtual sessions with academic departments after the Commencement ceremony on May 15.

- **July 2019, December 2019, and May 2020 graduates** may participate in the socially distanced ceremony from 3 to 6 p.m. on Friday, May 7.
- **August 2020, December 2020, and May 2021 graduates** may participate from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Saturday, May 8. As many as four family members and friends will be allowed to accompany you to the ceremony and will view you walking across the stage from the audience. The College will also broadcast the ceremony on the Internet for those who can not be present.
- The virtual Commencement ceremony from 9 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 15, is open to both the **2019-2020 and 2020-2021 classes**.

To ensure that the socially distanced ceremony is conducted efficiently and that community practices in relation to COVID-19 are followed, graduates must register in advance to participate on May 7 or 8. All in-person events will also reflect health and safety protocols required by the State of North Carolina and Guilford County. Information on how to register will come from the Division of Student Affairs beginning on Monday, April 12. The deadline to register is Friday, April 23rd.

More information, including the location of the socially distanced ceremony and how to attend the virtual Commencement ceremony, will be available on the [Guilford College Commencement webpage](#) in the weeks ahead. The Commencement page will also include parking information and how to take pictures during the ceremony.

Health and Safety Protocols (Revised April 27, 2021)

The Commencement committee has worked in conjunction with the Health and Safety Task Force to ensure that all commencement related activities are done in a safe manner and in alignment with the college's health and safety protocols. All commencement activities will be conducted in a socially distant manner with mandatory face coverings.

Ordering Regalia

To order regalia (i.e. mortarboard, gown, and tassel), please follow the instructions below from the Guilford College Bookstore:

1. Students should either come into the bookstore to place an order or call 336.316.2156.
2. Students participating in the socially distanced ceremony on May 7 or 8 will need to give their height and weight, but they will not pay until they pick up their regalia at the bookstore. An announcement will go out in the Buzz when the regalia has arrived.

GUILFORD COLLEGE

3. Students who are not going to participate in the socially distanced ceremony but want regalia for the virtual Commencement ceremony (or just photos), will need to pay when they call to place their order. Besides height and weight, they will also need to share a shipping address and the bookstore will take payment over the phone. (The bookstore can't ship out regalia that is not paid for.)
4. The gown costs \$36.25; mortarboard costs \$10.50; and tassel costs \$5.75. **Total cost for a full set (mortarboard, gown and tassel) is \$52.50.**

Diplomas for May 2021 Graduates

Only diploma covers will be available on May 8. The College will mail diplomas for May 2021 candidates who have completed all graduation requirements the week of May 17 following the online Commencement ceremony. The conferral date, which is the date in which your degree is awarded and the date on your diploma, will be May 8, 2021.

Diplomas are mailed to the permanent address on file in [BannerWeb](#). To update your permanent address, email the Registrar's Office at registrar@guilford.edu. **It is recommended that you notify the Registrar's Office of an address change at least two weeks before your diploma is mailed to ensure it is sent to the correct address.**

Graduates must clear all outstanding account balances and have no judicial action pending or unresolved judicial charges to receive a diploma or final transcript. Outstanding account balances can be viewed and cleared on [TouchNet](#).

Graduation Honors (Revised March 10, 2021)

Honors are awarded to graduating seniors who have attained a grade-point average of 3.5. High Honors are awarded to seniors who have attained a grade-point average of 3.7. Students who graduate with Honors will have the distinction notated on their transcript and an honors seal is added to their diploma.

Honors cords will be available for July 2019 - December 2020 semester graduates during the socially distanced ceremonies on May 7th and 8th.

May 2021 candidates must attain a minimum grade point average of a 3.5 at the end of the Spring 2021 12-Week Session to receive an honors cord on May 8th.

May 2021 candidates must complete all degree requirements with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 to have applicable honors distinctions notated on their transcript and diploma.

Other Recognitions, Stoles, and Cords

Various additional departments and/or programs may offer graduation recognitions, stoles, and cords. Each department/program is responsible for the distribution of these forms of recognition.

Commencement Programs (Revised March 23, 2021)

Commencement programs will be available to download and print leading up to the May 15 virtual Commencement ceremony on the [Guilford College Commencement webpage](#). May 2021 candidates must complete all academic

GUILFORD COLLEGE

requirements prior to May 15 to be included in the Commencement program as graduates.

The College will mail a hard copy Commencement program to the permanent address on file in BannerWeb following the virtual Commencement ceremony. To update your permanent address, email the Registrar's Office at registrar@guilford.edu.

Early Participation

Students who want to participate in the socially distanced ceremony to obtain a diploma cover but will not complete all graduation requirements by May 8, may petition the Provost's Office to participate in the pickup and the online Commencement ceremony. To petition the Provost's Office, visit the [Early Participation webpage](#) to view the criteria. Students must meet all criteria to successfully petition. Petition forms for early participation are made available by an Associate Academic Dean during the opening of summer/fall registration. Petition forms are emailed to students within 8 credits of completing the minimum number of credits to graduate.

Early Participants are eligible to obtain a diploma cover during the socially distanced ceremony on May 8 and may attend the virtual Commencement ceremony on May 15. Petitioners must complete all Early Participation criteria requirements prior to May 15 to be included in the Commencement program.

Diplomas are mailed to Early Participants the semester in which all academic requirements to graduate from Guilford College are met.

Financial Aid Information

As a reminder, federal student loan borrowers must complete [this online Exit Counseling session](#). This session will provide information to you about the servicer of your federal loan, your repayment options, and your rights and responsibilities as a student loan borrower.

Students who have borrowed through a private lender should reach out to that lender regarding their repayment options.

If you have questions regarding your past borrowing history, please email financialaid@guilford.edu.