

Photographs

University of Houston - Downtown has contracted a professional photographer to take photographs as you are recognized on stage. Flash Photography's (professional photographer) website is www.flashphotography.com. Family and guests are allowed to take photographs from their seats; however, no one is permitted to block the aisles or enter the auditorium floor to take photographs.

Commencement Attire

The official commencement attire is business casual. Decorated, bedazzled, and/or “costumed” caps are permitted. Decorations must be flat and cannot exceed 1” in height and thickness. Caps and gowns cannot be worn at security check-in and will need to be carried in. You may put on your regalia once inside the Stadium.

Special Assistance

Students planning to attend Commencement who need accommodations should contact the Accessible Education Center at aec@uhd.edu. Please use the subject line, "Accommodations for Commencement". You may also call 713-221-5078 to receive more information. All Commencement guests who need accommodations should contact an NRG representative on the day of the event. Accommodations through NRG are available on a first come, first served basis.

Parking & Facility Policies

Students and guests will park in the Blue Lot, accessible through gates 8 and 9; please note there is a \$25 parking fee (plus tax). Outside food and drinks are prohibited inside NRG and facility concessions will not be available. Flowers, balloons, gifts, and foghorns will not be permitted inside of NRG. NRG Park follows a Clear Bag Policy – all bags brought in must be clear bags no larger than 12” by 6” by 12”. NRG recommends a one-gallon size plastic Ziploc bag. Strollers will be allowed inside of NRG but will be required to stay on the concourse once inside.

Student & Guest Entrance

Students will enter NRG Stadium through the Kroger Gate entrance. Guests will enter through the Ford Gate entrance. Upon entering NRG Stadium, students and guests will go through a security screening – bag checks and metal detectors. Graduation check-in for students starts at 11:30am. **Students that arrive after 12:45pm will not be able to participate in the processional.**

The Commencement Ceremony will be streamed live on UHD’s website for those that cannot attend in person.

Diplomas

Graduates will receive their diploma either through pick up or by mail after successful completion of degree certification. Degree certification typically takes between 6-8 weeks to complete after final grades are posted. Diplomas and/or certificates will be available for pickup June 16 – 27, 2025. Any diplomas not picked up by June 27 will be mailed out on June 30, 2025, to the address on your student record.

GRADUATION
CANDIDATE
INFORMATION
PACKET



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Saturday, May 17th 1:00 PM

The University of Houston-Downtown is pleased to announce that we will host our 78th Commencement Ceremony on Saturday, May 17 at NRG Stadium. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments!

The venue will open to students and guests at 11:30 a.m. The ceremony will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the student processional.

The Spring Commencement Ceremony is reserved for our Spring 2025 graduates.

Commencement Ceremony (Seating & Duration)

There are assigned seats for graduates during the ceremony. You will be alphabetically assembled and by college on the arena floor. Your seating number will be on your walk card. Walk cards will be made available for pickup at Grad Fair on April 22nd or the Registrar’s Office from April 23rd to May 15th. It will be your responsibility to bring it with you to commencement.

However, should you forget or lose your card or there is damage to your card, please visit the check-in area to request a new one. No edits, additions, or any handwriting of any kind should be made to your walk card. Commencement usually lasts between three to four hours.

Students are expected to stay for the entire duration of the ceremony.

Commencement Regalia (Cap, Gown, & Cords)

Graduates participating in the commencement ceremony must wear a cap and gown. Commencement attire (cap/gown) can be purchased through Herff Jones and the UHD Bookstore. Please contact the UHD Campus Store at houstondowntowncampus@bkstr.com or at 713-221-8025 for questions.

Latin Honor cords may be picked up at the Grad Fair or from your College Advising Center.



A Message from the President

Dear Candidates for Graduation,

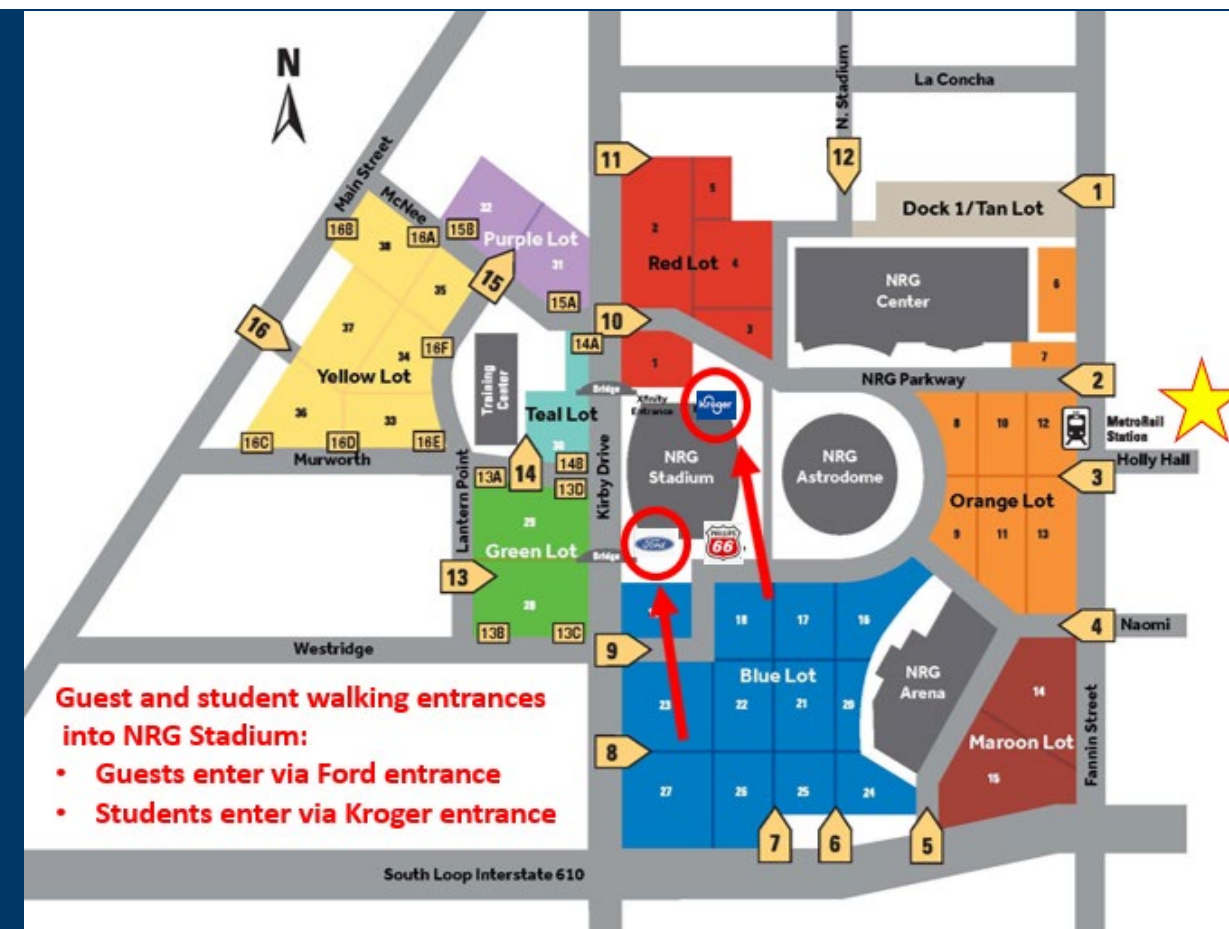
May 17, 2025 will soon mark a special milestone in your academic career. After completing your college requirements this spring semester, you will receive your UHD degree and transition into the next season of your professional journey. I look forward to conferring your degree and offer my sincere congratulations for your accomplishment.

Our 78th Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. in the NRG Stadium. For a detailed schedule and to stay abreast of all updates, including commencement activities, speakers, livestream details, guest tickets, and parking, please visit our [commencement website](#).

Again, congratulations on this important life achievement. I look forward to personally shaking your hand when you cross the stage on commencement day. As President of the University of Houston-Downtown, I know the value of a UHD degree, and I wholeheartedly believe you are well on your way to a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.
President



Guest and student walking entrances into NRG Stadium:

- **Guests enter via Ford entrance**
- **Students enter via Kroger entrance**

Important Events

Commencement Orientation

Thursday, April 10

Presentation posted and available to all at <https://www.uhd.edu/registrar/commencement/commencement-orientation>

Grad Fair

Tuesday, April 22, 2pm, UHD Academic Building A300

Students can pick up their walk card and honors cords, decorate their cap, participate in mock interviews, and get assistance with preparing their resume.

Ring Ceremony

Saturday, May 10, 10am, Wellness and Success Center

Eligible students or graduates who have pre-ordered a class ring are invited to participate. For questions about the Ring Ceremony and registration, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at Alumni@uhd.edu.

Graduate Hooding Ceremony

Saturday, May 10, 3pm, Wellness and Success Center

This is an opportunity for all graduating Master's degree earners to be formally "hooded" by their program faculty with the graduate regalia before commencement.

Veterans Stole Ceremony

Friday, May 9, 12pm, Wilhelmina Cullen Roberston Auditorium A350

The Office of Veterans Services will be celebrating our Military Community's Spring 2025 graduates by presenting them a Veterans Stole.