

Photographs

The 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](http://www.flashphotography.com). Family and guests are allowed to take pictures 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 must be carried in. You may put on your regalia once inside the Arena.

Special Assistance

Students planning to attend Commencement who need accommodations should contact the Accessible Education Center at [aec@uhd.edu](mailto: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). NRG does not accept cash for payment. 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. All bags brought in must be no larger than 11” by 17”. Strollers will be allowed inside NRG but will be required to stay on the concourse once inside.

Student & Guest Entrance

Students will enter NRG Arena from the Blue Lot through the far-right entrance. Guests should enter through the center entrance. Upon entering NRG Arena students and guests will go through a security screening – bag checks and metal detectors. Graduation check-in for students will be in Hall B and starts at 10:45 a.m. (first ceremony) & 3:15 p.m. (second ceremony) **Students who arrive after 11:45 a.m./4:15 p.m. will not be able to participate in the processional and will be seated after.**

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 4-6 weeks to complete after final grades are posted. Diplomas and/or certificates will be available for pickup January 20 – 30, 2026. Any diplomas not picked up by January 30<sup>th</sup> will be mailed out on February 02, 2026 to the address on your student record.

GRADUATION  
CANDIDATE  
INFORMATION  
PACKET



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONIES

Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00 P.M. & 4:30 P.M.

The University of Houston-Downtown is pleased to announce that we will host our 79<sup>th</sup> Commencement Ceremonies on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at NRG Arena. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments!

The venue will open to students and guests at 10:45 a.m. The first ceremony will begin at 12:00 p.m. & the second ceremony at 4:30 p.m. with the student processional.

**The Fall Commencement Ceremony is reserved for our Summer and Fall 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 November 20<sup>th</sup> or at the Registrar’s Office from November 21<sup>st</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 two to three 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](mailto: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,

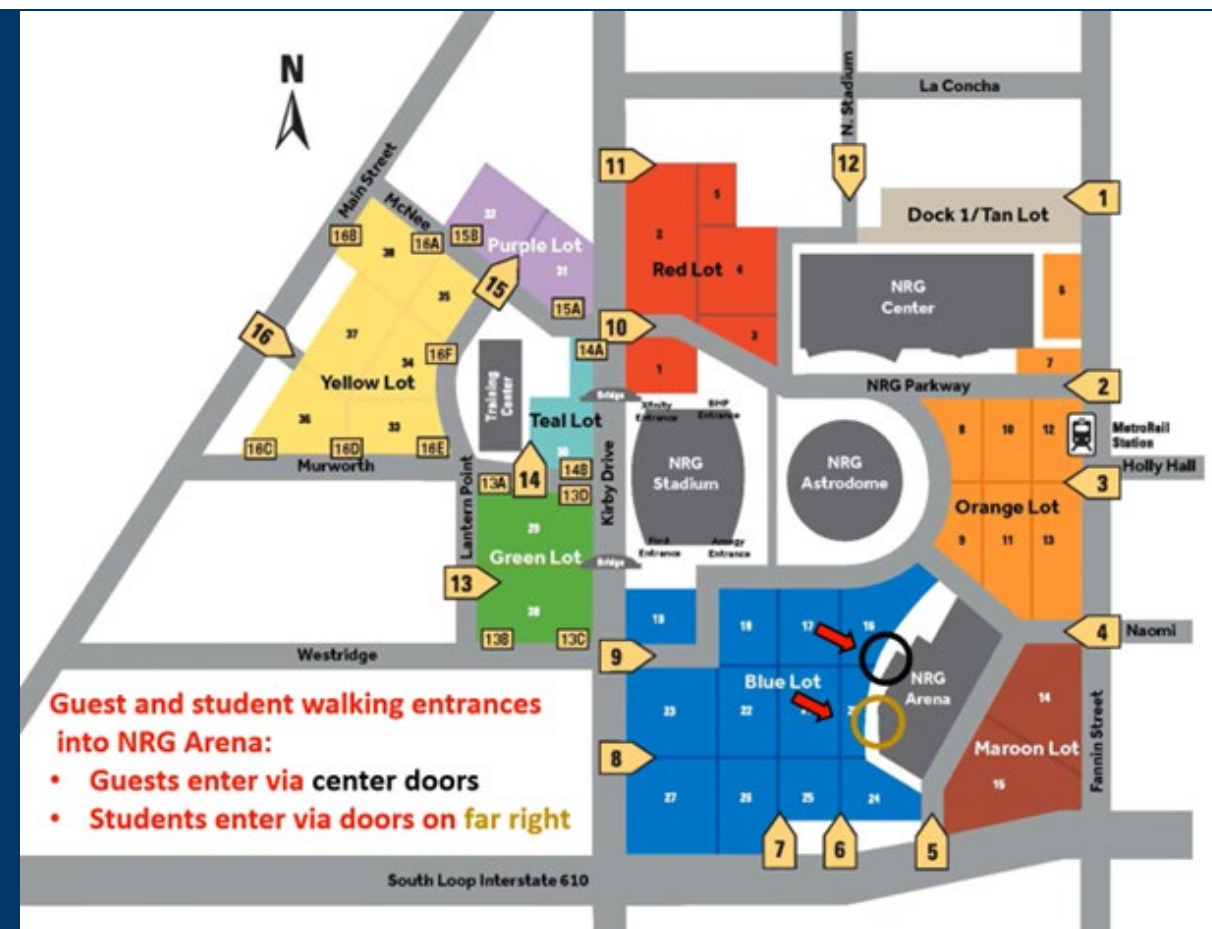
This semester marks a special milestone in your academic career. After completing your college requirements, you will receive your UHD degree and transition into the next season of your professional journey. I offer my sincere congratulations for your accomplishment.

Our 79th Commencement Ceremonies are scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the NRG Arena. 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 awarding you your diploma 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



## Important Events

### Commencement Orientation

**Thursday, November 6**

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

### Grad Fair

**Thursday, November 20, 2 p.m., 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, December 6, 10 a.m., 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](mailto:Alumni@uhd.edu).

### Graduate Hooding Ceremony

**Saturday, December 6, 3 p.m., 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

**Wednesday, December 3, 10 a.m., Wilhelmina Cullen Roberston Auditorium A350**

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