Graduate Student Graduation Information

On commencement day, there will be two ceremonies for you to attend: the general Emory commencement and one of two Graduate School Diploma Ceremonies – one for master’s graduates and one for doctoral graduates. Below is information about all of them.

For information about the all-Emory event, visit http://www.emory.edu/COMMENCEMENT/.

For information about the Graduate School event, contact Queen Watson at 404-727-6170 or queen.watson@emory.edu.

The Emory Ceremony
As a graduate of the Graduate School, you should gather with your class behind Bowden Hall by the Mizell Steps at 7:15 am. Faculty marshals will guide you in forming a single line for the procession. You will enter the Quadrangle with the schools of Public Health and Law to your right. Please do not bring any alcoholic beverages to the ceremony.

At exactly 8:00 am the Chief Marshal of the University will give a nod to the Pipe Major, the pipe and drum corps will strike up the “Emory and Old Saint Andrews March,” and the procession will get underway. Graduates will enter the Quadrangle from seven different staging areas, followed by the faculty of the University and the Platform Party, including President Wagner, the commencement speaker, honorary degree recipients, deans, and members of the Board of Trustees. The rule of thumb for marching in the procession is simply to take the place assigned to you by a marshal and follow the person in front of you. You will find a commencement program on your chair.

The all-schools ceremony will include the commencement address; awarding of honorary degrees and the Brittain, Scholar/Teacher, and Jefferson awards; and conferring of degrees en masse.

Following the Quadrangle ceremony, faculty marshals will lead you and your fellow doctoral and master’s graduates to the Mizell bridge. What happens next depends on whether you are receiving a master’s degree or a doctoral degree – see below for further instructions.

In the event of severe weather (torrential downpour, lighting, tornado warning), a remnant of the Quadrangle ceremony—the commencement address and the awarding of the honorary degrees—will be held in the Glenn Memorial Auditorium at 9:00 am. Doctoral graduates, their advisers, and Master’s graduates will gather in the Glenn Church School Building Fellowship Hall by 8:30 am. The ceremony will proceed exactly as set forth in the printed program.

If the ceremony is moved to the Glenn Church, guests who wish to attend need tickets. Doctoral candidates receive 4 tickets and Master’s candidates receive 2 tickets. Tickets are available at the Graduate School office in 200 Administration Building; you can pick them up from Queen Watson any time, up to the morning of commencement. Remaining guest will be seated according to space available.
Master’s graduates schedule
Following the all-Emory ceremony, there will be a brunch for master’s graduates and their guests in the Jones Room of the Woodruff Library.

At 11:30 am, sharp, you will need to return to the Mizell bridge, where Graduate School graduates and faculty advisors will line up in two parallel lines—one for graduates, one for faculty advisors. Graduate School staff and Faculty Marshalls will line you up to enter the ceremony in the right order.

If you plan to attend only the Graduate School Master’s Diploma Ceremony, (a) please let Queen Watson know, and (b) be on the Mizell Bridge at 11:30 am, sharp.

Once graduates and faculty advisors are lined up, Faculty Marshalls will lead graduates and faculty advisors into the Emerson Concert Hall in the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts.

The Graduate School Master’s Diploma Ceremony will start at 12:00 pm, and will move quickly. Graduates will be seated on the stage.

After the ceremony, please join a celebratory brunch on the Woodruff Library Plaza for graduates, faculty, family, and friends. It will include ample food and beverages and a live band. Please join us!

Doctoral graduates schedule
After the Emory ceremony, Graduate School graduates and faculty advisors will line up on the Mizell Bridge in two parallel lines—one for graduates, one for faculty advisors. Graduate School staff and Faculty Marshalls will line you up to enter the ceremony in the right order.

If you plan to attend only the Graduate School Diploma Ceremony, (a) please let Queen Watson know, and (b) be on the Mizell Bridge at 9:15 am, sharp.

Once graduates and faculty advisors are lined up, Faculty Marshalls will lead graduates and faculty advisors into the Emerson Concert Hall in the Schwartz Center for the Performing Arts.

The Graduate School Diploma Ceremony will start at 10:15 am, and will move quickly. Graduates will be seated on the stage. As part of the ceremony, doctoral graduates will be “hooded”—Provost Earl Lewis and each graduate’s faculty advisor will place the hood signifying a doctoral degree over the graduate’s shoulders. On the next page are instructions that were sent to faculty; they will help you navigate the ceremony.

Immediately following the ceremony, starting at about 11:15 am, there will be a celebratory brunch on the Woodruff Library Plaza for graduates, faculty, family, and friends. It will include ample food and beverages and a live band. Please join us!

In the event of severe weather, the ceremony in Glenn Church will be the only ceremony, and the brunch will proceed as planned (it will be in a covered area).