Congratulations! As a soon-to-be graduate, we are inviting you to attend the Commencement Ceremony for Masters Candidates (10am) or Doctoral Candidates (3pm) on Thursday, May 14, at the BU Track and Tennis Center (100 Ashford St., Boston). You will find an overview of necessary information regarding the two GMS Commencement ceremonies in this document. If you have any questions about the document itself or otherwise, please contact Vincent Moore at vinny@bu.edu and/or Kimberly Arena at krarena@bu.edu.

ALL GMS STUDENTS

Student Loan Exit Counseling

Exit counseling is required for each student who has borrowed federal and/or institutional funds while attending Boston University and who is scheduled to graduate, withdraw, or has been granted a leave of absence. Exact topics covered in the exit counseling session will vary based on the type of loan borrowed, but will cover loan repayment schedules, total indebtedness, as well as rights and responsibilities of the borrower. www.studentloans.gov. For more information see Student Financial Services Exit Counseling instructions, or contact gmsloans@bu.edu with specific questions.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Federal Student Aid Counseling Guide
Federal Student Aid
Student Financial Services handbook

Alumni Information

We encourage you to complete our alumni form to stay up to date with GMS upcoming events and invitations to participate in career panels, alumni award opportunities and/or mentoring.

Join the BUSM / GMS tradition of giving back; support GMS here. Please choose the fund Graduate Medical Sciences Annual Fund. Once you make your donation stop by the GMS office (after April 15) to pick up your Alumni pin to wear at Commencement.

Regalia Information

Master’s Candidates: Please order your regalia online for home delivery through March 26 with free shipping. Online ordering continues through May 1 but you will be charged shipping. If you choose campus pick-up your regalia will be available after May 6th at the BU Barnes & Noble store on the second floor (910 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215). MA students will have a white lined hood whereas MS students will have gold. All master’s students should have a green tassel. Purchase cost is $113. For more information and detailed instructions click here

Doctoral Candidates: Please order your regalia online by March 26th for home delivery with free shipping to assure receipt in time. If you choose campus pick-up your regalia will be available after May 6th at the BU Barnes & Noble store on the second floor (910 Commonwealth Avenue). Rental cost is $95. For more information and detailed instructions on how to complete your order click here.
The Track & Tennis Center opens at 9:00 AM for guests and families of the Masters Ceremony and 2:00PM for the PhD/MD Ceremony. This is a non-ticketed event but there is a security bag check so do limit bringing personal belongings; please keep your carry bags to purses and smaller camera bags. No wrapped gifts, luggage or large bags including backpacks will be permitted. Strollers will not be allowed on the TTC floor but will be permitted in front of the stadium seats. No balloons, food or drink are allowed onto the floor.

Please do not walk up to or stand in front of the professional photographers. They are focused on capturing an equally professional photo for each and every student. Please do not bypass the rope and stanchions at any time during the ceremony or interrupt the processional or recessional, everyone will be able to meet during the reception under the tent outside directly following the ceremony.

Information on lodging, memorabilia, emergency services and disability services are available on the main BU Commencement pages.

Disability Services

Starting April 1st, requests for accessible parking, seating, and individual services may be requested via our Disability & Access Services Accommodations Request Form on this page. The deadline to submit the form is Friday May 1.

Guests with accommodations should check in at the Disability Accommodations table in the Track & Tennis Center lobby upon arrival. Some wheelchairs will be available for use in the lobby of the TTC.

If you need additional assistance, contact Disability & Access Services at 617-353-3658.

CART Services: Services for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People will be provided at go.bu.edu/ttc

Parking And Transportation

Public transportation is highly recommended for students, faculty and guests.
GREEN LINE: B (Boston College) to Babcock St. Families and guests including individuals with disabilities will be able to park in Langsam Garage, 278 Babcock St located opposite the Track & Tennis Center. Faculty & students must park at Agganis Arena garage (925 Commonwealth). Agganis will also be available for guest parking as needed.
Parking in all Boston University lots are free and open from Thursday morning through Monday at 11 am.

Lactation Room

Follow signs located in the Track & Tennis Center’s office suite to the right of the main entrance.
MD/PHD & PHD COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

The GMS Doctoral Commencement Ceremony will take place at 3 p.m., Thursday, May 14 at the Boston University Track and Tennis Center on the Charles River Campus (100 Ashford St). Tickets are NOT required; however, it is important that you indicate how many guests will be attending and if any require accessible parking and/or individual services (e.g., seating, speech to text, wheelchairs) when you complete the Commencement Registration Form. The PhD Commencement form is sent to all students who have submitted a diploma application for May graduation and those who graduated in September 2019 and January 2020. If you believe you should have received the commencement form but have not, please contact Vincent Moore at vinny@bu.edu

Guest Information

Doors of the Track and Tennis Center will open for family and guests at 2 p.m. through the main entrance. For more information, see Family and Guests on page 2.

Brief Outline of the Ceremony

Student Line up | Malvern field under the tent across from the Track & Field Center
Processional | Faculty followed by graduates
Welcome | Provost and Associate Provost
Student Speakers | Graduate Medical Sciences & School of Medicine
Commencement Address | Commissioner Monica Bharel, MD, MPH
Presentation of Candidates and Conferral of Diplomas
Recitation of Oaths
Recessional

MD/PhD Commencement Day Itinerary

1:30 p.m. Graduates arrive, check in and line up
2:00 p.m. Track and Tennis Center doors open for guests
2:30 p.m. Line-up for processional
3:00 p.m. Ceremony begins with processional
4:30 p.m. Recessional and reception on Malvern Field
Arrival for Ceremony

Graduates should arrive at the Track and Tennis Center by 1:30 p.m. with their robe, tam, hood(s), and tassel in hand. Note: there will be security screening upon entering the tent, so please do not arrive dressed in your regalia.

Do not bring any personal items or valuables that you cannot fit in a pocket, as there will not be any place to leave belongings. Upon arrival, graduates should check in at the white tent on Malvern Field across the street from the Track and Tennis Center. You will receive an index card with your line-up number.

Line-Up for Processional

When assembled, you may dress in your robe. Make sure to wear your tassel on the left side of your tam and carry your hood on your right arm, string facing forward (you'll be "hooded" during the Ceremony). BUSM student marshals will provide information on carrying your regalia, the processional, row arrangements, standing protocol, how to receive the diploma, and where to stand for pictures at the ceremony. When inside the Track and Tennis Center, remain standing until told otherwise.

Hooding and Conferral of Diplomas

Graduates will be asked to line up to the left of the stage by rows at the appropriate time. If you selected a specific faculty or non-BU/family hoder, they will line up beside you. You will step onto the stage with your hoder and hand your hood to the hoding marshal, who will ensure it is facing the right direction and then hand it to your hoder(s). Stand on the X in front of the hoder box as your hoder steps up to place the hood over your head. You will then walk across the stage to Dean Antman, shake hands, receive your diploma, and turn and smile for the camera. Afterwards, you will descend from the stage, pick up your alumni gift, and return to your seat. **WATCH: BUSM Hooding Instructions**

Professional Oath

Following awarding of the last diploma, Associate Provost Stearns-Kurosawa will lead the PhDs in reciting the Oath of the Scientist, after which Dean Antman will lead the MDs in reciting the Hippocratic Oath. All graduates will participate in reciting their oaths, which will be provided in the Commencement program.

Recessional

At the end of the ceremony, there will be a recessional during which students will remain standing. The order of the recessional is as follows: 1) platform party led by Dean Antman; 2) faculty and non-faculty hoders led by faculty marshals; and 3) students led by the student marshals. Once you have recessed out of the ceremony to the White tent outside you will be able reunite with your guests. We ask that you refrain from meeting up with your guests until you have exited the building.

Commencement Photos

Commencement Photos, Inc. (CPI) of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, will provide photography services at Commencement. CPI captures the moment that each graduate is awarded his/her diploma, known as handshake photography. Commencement Photos will mail packets with photo package ordering information and a Unique ID number in early April. If you do not receive this mailing or you do not have your code, please call CPI at 978-851-5924 for assistance.
The GMS Master’s Commencement Ceremony will take place at 10 am, Thursday, May 14 on the Charles River Campus at the Boston University Track and Tennis Center (100 Ashford St). Tickets are NOT required; however, it is important that you indicate how many guests will be attending and if any require accessible parking and/or individual services (e.g., seating, speech to text, wheelchairs) when you complete the Commencement Registration Form.

The Masters Commencement form is sent to students who have submitted a diploma application for May (and September) graduation and those who graduated in September 2019 and January 2020. If you are graduating in September (2020) please check with your program to see if they permit you to attend the May ceremony. If so, then you must submit a diploma application NOW (deadline Feb 24).

If you believe you should have received the commencement form but have not, please contact Vincent Moore at vinny@bu.edu.

**Guest Information**

Doors of the Track and Tennis Center will open for family and guests at 9:00 a.m. through the main entrance. For more information, see Family and Guests on page 2.

**Brief Outline of the Ceremony**

Student Line up | Malvern field under the tent across from the Track & Field Center  
Processional | Faculty followed by graduates  
Welcome | Provost and Associate Provost Stearns-Kurosawa  
Student Speakers | Graduate Medical Sciences  
Presentation of Candidates and Conferral of Diplomas  
Recessional

**Master’s Commencement Day Itinerary**

8:30 a.m.  Graduates arrive & check in  
9:00 a.m.  Track and Tennis Center doors open for guests  
9:30 a.m.  Line-up for processional  
10:00 a.m.  Ceremony begins with processional  
11:45 a.m.  Recessional and reception on Malvern Field
Arrival for Ceremony

Graduates should arrive at the Track and Tennis Center by 8:30 a.m. with their robe, tam, hood(s), and tassel in hand. Note: there will be a security screen upon entering the tent, so please do not arrive dressed in your regalia. Do not bring any personal items or valuables that you cannot fit in a pocket, as there will be no place to leave belongings. Upon arrival, graduates should check in at the white tent on Malvern Field across the street from the Track & Tennis Center. You will receive a card with your line-up number and be instructed to assemble in marching order around 9:30am. (On the note card L means left row, R means right row). Please note there is a possibility that under the tent might be muddy, especially if it rains near the time of commencement.

Line-Up for Processional

When assembled, you may dress in your robe. Make sure to wear your tassel on the left side of your tam and carry your hood on your left arm, with the string facing forward (you’ll be “hooded” during the Ceremony). When you are in front of your assigned seat (seat number on the note card) remain standing until told otherwise. GMS student marshals and staff will be able to provide more information on the processional, seating, how to receive the diploma, and where to stand for pictures.

Hooding and Conferral of Diplomas

Graduates will be called to line up to the left of the stage by rows. If you selected a non-BU/family hoder, they should line up beside you. Your BU faculty hoder will join you on the stage. If your child(ren) will be walk across stage with you, please have a guest bring them to you just before you walk across stage. You will step onto the stage and hand your hood to the hooding marshal. Stand on the X in front of the hoder box as your hoder will step up to place the hood over your head. You will then walk across the stage to Dean Antman, shake hands, receive your diploma folder, and turn and smile for the camera. Please note that the diploma folder will be empty, on student link you will need to add a delivery address for your diploma and it will be mailed directly to you. Afterwards, you will descend from the stage, pick up your alumni gift, and return to your seat. WATCH: BUSM Hooding Instructions

Recessional

Students should remain standing for the recessional. The order of the recessional is as follows: 1) platform party led by Dean Antman; 2) faculty and non-faculty hoders led by faculty marshals; and 3) students led by the student marshals (this will be in a similar fashion to the processional). The recess will exit to the Track and Tennis Center and reunite with your guests. We ask that you refrain from meeting up with your guests until you have exited the building. There will be a reception under the white tent on Malvern field following the ceremony.

Commencement Photos

Commencement Photos, Inc. (CPI) of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, will provide photography services at Commencement. CPI captures the moment that each graduate is awarded his/her diploma, known as handshake photography. Commencement Photos will mail packets with photo package ordering information and a Unique ID number in early April. If you do not receive this mailing or you do not have your code, please call CPI at 978-851-5924 for assistance.
Complete the Commencement Registration Form (Emailed directly to you in February)

Complete all degree requirements

Update Student Link
- Check your data restriction settings on the Student Link Personal Page (Personal tab, Data Restriction option, Directory Information) and make sure they are up to date. NOTE: We cannot print your name in our Commencement program if you have a data restriction. Additionally, if you have restricted the release of your degrees, honors, and awards, the University Registrar will not be able to confirm degrees earned to prospective employers or any other party after you have graduated.
- Make sure to add a delivery address for your diploma as well.

Order Academic Regalia (tams, gowns, hoods and tassels)
- Submit your order by Thursday, March 26, to receive free shipping; rental fee for PhD is $95 and $113 purchase fee for MA/MS.
- Pro tip: once you have received your regalia, take it out of the box. Make sure you have a gold tassel (PhD) or green tassel (MA/MS), a black tam (cap), a red gown, and the right color hood—Kelly Green and Dark Blue (two hoods) for MD/PhDs; Dark Blue (PhD); White for MA and Gold for MS candidates. Try on your tam and gown to ensure a good fit.
- Also, make sure your hooder has ordered their regalia (click here for PhD or here for MA/MS for more information about hooder regalia).

Complete the GMS exit survey (Emailed to you in April)

Settle all financial accounts with Boston University

Plan for your Guests.
- Request disability and access services as needed (e.g., parking, seating, individual services) starting April 1 through May 1 by clicking here.
- Book lodging as early as possible. BU students and guests have the option of staying at the on-campus Warren Towers on the Charles River campus starting Thursday, May 14. Full information and booking information can be found here. Additionally, the greater Boston area offers accommodations from quaint neighborhood B & B’s to luxurious hotels along Boston’s waterfront and everything in between to meet your particular lodging needs. Note: because BU’s Commencement Weekend is the same as many other area colleges and universities, hotels fill up quickly. Make your reservation NOW.
- International guests may contact ISSO to generate a letter of invitation for U.S. visitor’s visa application, which can be used by family members of a BU student or scholar.

Plan your Transportation.
Traffic along Commonwealth Avenue during Commencement Weekend can become heavily congested, causing long delays. Thursday is the first day for Commencement so it is less busy than later in the weekend but plan accordingly. We recommend using public transportation to and from campus whenever possible, and the BU Shuttle will also be running. For the both the Masters and PhD/MD Commencement Ceremonies, family/guests of graduates will be allowed to park in Langsam Garage, 278 Babcock St (entrance on Gardner Street) on a first-come first-served basis with additional parking at Agganis Arena garage (925 Commonwealth Ave).