Congratulations! As a soon-to-be graduate, you are eligible to attend the BUSM Commencement Ceremony scheduled for 3 p.m., Thursday, May 14, at the BU Track and Tennis Center (100 Ashford St., Boston).

You will find an overview of necessary information regarding BUSM Commencement in this document. If you have any questions about the document itself or otherwise, please contact Katie Toro-Ferrari, Director of Student Affairs.

**STUDENT LOAN EXIT COUNSELING**

The U.S. Department of Education requires that all graduates who have borrowed federal student loans complete federal loan counseling. **Federal Direct Unsubsidized and Graduate PLUS** loan borrowers can complete Exit Counseling electronically at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov). Please see our Exit Counseling Instructions.

If you received any **BU need-based loans**, you are required to attend exit counseling in addition to completing your online Federal Loan requirement. Exit counseling is held in April in conjunction with the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and is designed to assist you with understanding your specific loan terms and conditions, as well as establishing a loan repayment option suitable to your financial capabilities. Awareness of your loan options, rights, and responsibilities is crucial to successful repayment.

Please contact osfs-med@bu.edu with any questions or concerns.

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**HELPFUL RESOURCES**

- [Direct Loan Borrower Exit Counseling Guide](#)
- [Direct Loan Rights and Responsibilities Summary Checklist and Student Contact Information](#)
- [BU Loan Exit Counseling Session Form](#) to be completed if you received any BU need-based loans
- [Financial Information, Resources, Services, and Tools (FIRST)](#) offered by the AAMC to help manage your student debt

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**ALUMNI INFORMATION**

Welcome to the Alumni Association! Update your contact information so you can stay up to date on upcoming events, alumni news, and opportunities to connect with students. If you’d like to be an e-Mentor for current medical students, you can sign up for students to contact you. Join the BUSM tradition of giving back and support your Class Gift here.

We want to hear from you as you enter residency! Email us at alumbusm@bu.edu or stay connected on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram (@BUSMAlumni).

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**HONORS INFORMATION**

Among the awards for excellence of medical student achievement is the designation of the MD degree with Latin honors. A committee of the faculty, selected according to the bylaws of Boston University School of Medicine, reviews the academic record of each candidate for the MD degree. The selection of students for this award is based on overall academic achievement and excellence. Policies approved by the faculty are used as the guidelines for selecting candidates for the honor cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude. These recommendations are then forwarded to the Dean of the Medical School and presented to the faculty for approval at its meeting in May. Honors students are informed of their award at Commencement.
Senior Week
SCOMSA organizes a series of events for graduating students during the week leading up to Commencement. Examples of previous Senior Week events include a Senior BBQ, Boda Borg outing, Trivia Night, etc.

Stay tuned for details from SCOMSA later this spring.

Pre-Commencement Awards Breakfast with Faculty
Student Affairs will host a special breakfast for graduating students and faculty on Wednesday, May 13, from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Hiebert Lounge.

During the breakfast, BUSM Student Award recipients will be recognized.

Commencement Ceremony
The BUSM Commencement Ceremony will take place at 3 p.m., Thursday, May 14 at the Boston University Track and Tennis Center. Tickets are NOT required; however, it is important that you indicate how many guests will be attending with you and if any require accessible parking and/or individual services (e.g., seating, speech to text, wheelchairs) when you complete the Commencement Registration Form.

Guest Information
Guests will be allowed to enter the Track and Tennis Center at 2 p.m. through the main entrance. Please discourage guests from bringing extraneous personal belongings, as there is no coat check and neither larger bags nor wrapped gifts will not be permitted by security. Bags should be kept purse-size. Strollers will only be allowed by the stadium seats (not down on the floor).

COMMENCEMENT DAY ITINERARY

1:30 p.m. Graduates arrive and check in
2 p.m. Track and Tennis Center doors open for families and guests
2:30 p.m. Line-up for processional
3 p.m. Ceremony begins with processional
4:30 p.m. Recessional and reception

BRIEF OUTLINE OF THE CEREMONY

- **Procesional** | 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**
**Arrival for Ceremony**
Graduates should plan to 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 a security screen upon entering the tent, so please do not arrive dressed in your regalia. Additionally, do not bring any personal items or valuables that you cannot fit in a pocket, as there will not be any place to leave purses, bags, or regalia packaging. 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 and be instructed to assemble in marching order.

**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 share the procedures for the processional, row arrangements, standing protocol, how to receive the diploma, and where to stand for pictures. While we want you to enjoy this moment with your fellow graduates, we ask that you listen carefully to line-up instructions as there will be limited time to prepare.

**Hooding and Conferral of Diplomas**
Graduates will be summoned to line up to the left of the stage by rows. If you selected a specific faculty or non-BU/family hooder(s), they will line up beside you. You will step onto the stage with your hooder(s) and hand your hood to the hooding marshal, who will ensure it is facing the right direction and then hand it to your hooder(s). Stand on the X in front of the hooder box as your hooder(s) 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.

**Professional Oath**
Following the awarding of the last diploma, Associate Dean 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 respective 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 hooders led by faculty marshals; and 3) students led by the student marshals. Once you have recessed out of the track, you will be able to exit 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.

**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. Note: the MD & PhD Ceremony is not videotaped.

WATCH: BUSM Hooding Instructions
Complete the **Commencement Registration Form**.

Complete **all degree requirements**, and ensure all fourth-year evaluations have been submitted to the BUSM Registrar.

Settle **all financial accounts** with Boston University.

Check your **data restriction settings** on the [Student Link Personal Page](#) (Personal tab, Data Restriction option, Directory Information) and make sure they are updated.

NOTE: We cannot print your name in our Commencement program if you have a data restriction. Most importantly, if you have restricted the release of your degrees, honors, and awards, the Office of the University Registrar will not be able to confirm degrees earned to prospective employers or any other party after you’ve graduated.

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

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 the night of Thursday, May 14. Full information and booking can be found here. Additionally, the greater Boston area offers myriad accommodations from quaint neighborhood B&Bs 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.
- **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. We recommend using public transportation to and from campus whenever possible, and the BU Shuttle will also be running through commencement. For the BUSM Commencement Ceremony, 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.