College of General Studies’ Graduation Recognition Ceremony & Reception
Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Are cap and gown worn at the CGS Graduation Recognition Ceremony and Reception?**
   No, cap and gown are not worn at the CGS Graduation Recognition Ceremony and Reception on Friday, April 27, 2018; they are worn at the University of Pittsburgh Undergraduate Ceremony on Sunday, April 29, 2018 (commencement.pitt.edu). We suggest semi-formal/professional attire for the CGS Graduation Recognition Ceremony and Reception. If you purchased a cap and gown for the Undergraduate Ceremony, you are welcome to wear it to the CGS event, though most students do not.

2. **What is included in the CGS Graduation Recognition Ceremony and Reception?**
   Doors will open at 5 p.m. Students may should arrive no later that 5:45 p.m. to ensure a prompt ceremony start time of 6:00 p.m. During the ceremony, each graduate’s name will be read along with their CGS degree(s), minor(s), and/or certificate(s). Graduates will receive a padded diploma cover. A photographer will take each graduate’s picture as they shake hands with the Dean Kathleen Blee. Photos will be emailed to students at no cost in May. The ceremony will last approximately one hour and will be followed by an optional reception. Light desserts and beverages will be served (please note this is not a dinner event).

3. **Will I get my diploma at the CGS Graduation Recognition Ceremony and Reception?**
   No, diplomas will be mailed to graduates once grades have been finalized. For more information, contact the Registrar’s office registrar.pitt.edu/graduation.html

4. **Who is invited to the CGS Graduation Recognition Ceremony and Reception?**
   CGS students receiving a BA or BS who have applied for April graduation will receive an email invitation including a password to complete the RSVP online survey. Students graduating with a degree in August are invited to the December 2018 ceremony; requests to participate in April will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact your academic advisor for more information.

5. **Where can I park?**
   The closest parking garage is the OC Lot which is across Allequippa Street from the Fitzgerald Field House. Metered street parking is also available throughout Oakland.

![OC Parking Lot - Allequippa Street](image)

6. **How many guests may I bring?**
   The Fitzgerald Field House seats up to 2,000 people, so we do not require tickets for students and guests. Please indicate your estimated number of guests on the RSVP; this information will be used to order the appropriate number of programs and refreshments for the reception.

7. **Where do graduates sit?**
   Graduates will be seated in the center of the floor seating in front of the stage. After check-in, graduates will be guided to their seats as the ceremony begins by CGS staff members.

8. **Can I RSVP via e-mail?**
   No. You must fill out the RSVP via the survey link: cgs.pitt.edu/CGSGraduationRSVP with the password you received in your email invitation. If you have issues with the online RSVP, please contact Lydia Heyliger at lydia.heyliger@pitt.edu.