

**Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
Hooding and Commencement Ceremony
Information for Graduate Students**

DATE: Saturday, May 16, 2026
CEREMONY TIME: 4:00 pm with reception immediately following the ceremony
ARRIVAL TIME: NO LATER THAN 3:00 PM
PLACE: Wait Chapel, Reynolda Campus

PARKING:

Plan and arrive early since parking on Saturday will be crowded! Parking passes are not required. Directions and a campus map may be found at [Campus Maps](#)

TICKETS: Tickets are not required.

ARRIVAL OF HOODING CANDIDATES:

Participants must arrive on Hearn Plaza no later than 3:00 pm and check in to receive a lineup card. Art & Sciences graduates will check in on the right side of the plaza facing the chapel. Biomedical Sciences graduates will check in on the left side of the plaza facing the chapel. You will then assemble numerically behind your degree sign. **Please note that we will NOT be able to accommodate late arrivals.**

WHAT TO WEAR:

Participants will wear their caps and gowns carrying hoods draped over the right arm*. Tassels should be worn on the left side and do not move for graduate degrees. Low heels are recommended since you will be walking up and down marble steps and throughout the chapel during the ceremony. PLEASE NOTE: All students and guests will be screened by magnetometer. Participants should not carry anything in their hands. Turn off your cell phone before you enter the Chapel.

***Please watch this [Hooding video](#) to see how to fold and carry your hood.**

ARRIVAL OF GUESTS:

Guests should arrive no later than 3:15 pm. All bags will be checked before entering the chapel (Remember: there is a clear bag policy for all attendees. Please see attachment). Anyone wishing to photograph the ceremony may consider sitting in the balcony but note that tripods are not allowed.

PROCESSIONAL AND SEATING:

Faculty marshals will lead you into the Chapel and direct you to your seat. Do not leave any empty seats between you and the next person. There will be a run-of-show card at your seat. Remain standing until after the invocation.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HOODING CANDIDATES:

All students stand for the conferral of degrees. Sit back down until your degree is called.

When your degree is called, you will stand as a group. A faculty marshal will direct you on how to proceed to be hooded and photographed.

When your name is called, walk up the stairs and stand on the X holding your right arm up for the faculty hooder to take your hood. Turn and face the audience with your back to the hooder who will place your hood over your head. After you are hooded, turn to your right and proceed up the steps, walking across the stage and behind the podium. Stop as the Dean presents your diploma cover and shakes your hand. Face the audience for a photo. Proceed down the stairs and return to your seat.

RECESSIONAL:

Following the closing remarks and as the music begins, please stand. The platform party and faculty will exit. Wait for the faculty marshal to direct you. Once outside, please walk far enough away from the doors to avoid crowding and join us for the reception in the Green Room on the main floor of Reynolda Hall.

LIVESTREAM:

The ceremony will be viewable via [a livestream](#) for those unable to join us.