



COMMENCEMENT 2020

**Information for
Division of Graduate and Professional
Studies (GPS) Commencement
Participants**

COMMENCEMENT CALENDAR 2020

Thursday, February 13

Academic Regalia available to order –Free shipping to the College.
There is a \$15 charge to have your cap & gown shipped to your home. <http://www.fisher.edu/studentregalia>

Sunday, March 29

Last day to settle financial obligations with the College:
Check your “MyFisher” Account for a “\$0” balance.
Contact the **Bursar’s Office** (617 236-5403) with any questions.

Sunday, March 29

Last day to order Academic Regalia –Free shipping to the College.
There is a \$15 charge to have your cap & gown shipped to your home. <http://www.fisher.edu/studentregalia>

Last day to complete Commencement Participation and
Petition to graduate online form.

Last day to arrange accommodations for guests with special needs,
contact the Director of Accessibility Services, Dr. Ferna L. Phillips
FPhillips@Fisher.edu

Saturday, May 16

Commencement, 11:00 a.m. (**Graduates must arrive promptly by 9:45 a.m.**)
John Hancock Hall

Commencement Reception immediately following located in Alumni Hall at 116 Beacon
Street – **All are welcome and encouraged to attend.**



Dear Graduate,

Congratulations to each of you from the members of the 2020 Commencement Committee!

Commencement time offers opportunities for reflection and celebration. For your convenience, we have published this guide to commencement events, dates, and required activities, so that you can make plans to complete all requirements and participate accordingly.

Lastly, a \$75 degree completion fee will be charged to your account and must be paid (along with your other financial obligations) before receiving your diploma.

Please note that students who owe the college more than \$500 will not be allowed to attend Commencement.

In this guide you will find:

- Commencement Check List
- Regalia and Ticket information
- Directions and Parking for the venue

We hope that you, your family and your friends enjoy the various commencement activities.

Best Wishes,

Members of the 2020 Commencement Committee

*Arthur Asbury
Jesse Avalos
Michael Crawford*

*Janet Kuser
Shiela Lally
Amanda Matarese*

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COMMENCEMENT CHECKLIST

Must be complete by:

- Order cap, gown and tassel February 13 - March 29
- Settle financial obligations Sunday, March 29
- Complete Financial Aid Exit Interview Sunday, March 29
- Complete Petition to Graduate Sunday, March 29
- Commencement Participation form due by Sunday, March 29
- Guest Accessibility Request due by Sunday, March 29
- Attend Commencement! ***Remember 9:45 a.m. sharp on May 16!***

John Hancock Hall *also referred to as Back Bay Events Center*
180 Berkeley Street *corner of Berkeley and Stuart Streets*
Boston, MA 02116

TICKETS

Each student may request **THREE** guest tickets. Tickets may be picked up April 15 – May 8, 2020.

- GPS Students may pick up tickets from Fisher College North Attleboro, Boston campus or at Will Call on the day of the event.

Tickets are required for admission to Commencement ceremony. Every attendee of Commencement must have a ticket. Children under the age of 3 who will remain seated upon a lap will not require a ticket. ***Guests who show up to commencement after the start of Commencement on May 16th, 2020 will be placed in the overflow room of John Hancock Hall and will watch Commencement on a live video feed provided by Fisher College.***

An additional ticket inquiry (max. 2) may be made with Megan Allende, Registrar & Academic Affairs Coordinator, via email only – Megan.Allende@Fisher.edu. Please understand seating is very limited and requests are not guaranteed. Requests will be granted in the order they are received. This request must be made by Sunday, March 29, 2020. Should additional tickets become available, students will be notified **Fisher email** of granted tickets and pick up instructions. ***If extra tickets are given, members with these tickets MIGHT be placed in the overflow room of John Hancock Hall and will watch Commencement on a live video feed provided by Fisher College (this depends on how many graduates are attending).***

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

All financial obligations to the College, including outstanding tuition and fees, must be satisfied by Sunday, March 29, 2020. Fisher College will **not** issue your diploma or any transcripts until your account is settled.

Please contact the Bursar's Office during their scheduled business hours to ensure that your account is in good standing or to make arrangements for payment. You may reach the Bursar's Office at (617-236-5403).

FINANCIAL AID EXIT INTERVIEWS

All GPS students are required to complete a Financial Aid Exit Interview if they receive financial aid. The Financial Aid Office will send the steps necessary to complete this interview via email. We request that you complete this interview within the timeframe indicated. Should you have questions, please contact the Financial Aid office (617-236-8821).

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

**YOU MUST BE PRESENT FOR THE STAGING AT 9:45 a.m.
IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY.
NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE!**

Academic Attire

Academic attire is required for all students. Graduates are able to choose the address their regalia is mailed to. (Additional information is available in the Academic Regalia section on page 6).

At the Commencement ceremony, honor cords/academic hoods are the only acceptable items to wear on the outside of the gown; no other ornamentation is permitted.

Academic Honor Cords will be distributed in the robing area only to students who have completed their degree. If you have not satisfied all requirements, you will be unable to wear Academic Honor Cords.

At Fisher College, our students are distinguished in the following manner:

- Drab mortarboard tassel signifies a Master's degree.
- Black mortarboard tassel signifies a Bachelor's degree.
- Blue and white mortarboard tassel signifies an Associate's degree or Certificate.
- Gold Cords signify a graduates Cum Laude or Honor Status
- Gold stole and royal blue & gold intertwined cord signify a member of the Golden Key Honor Society.
- Gold stole and royal blue & gold cords signify a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.
- Platinum stole and platinum & dark blue intertwined cord signify a member of the Psi Chi Honor Society.
- Gold & blue intertwined cord and medallion signify a member of the Alpha Phi Sigma Honor Society.
- Red, White & Blue cords signify current member of the U. S. Military or Veteran.
- Gold mortarboard tassel signifies a member of the Fisher College Honors Program.
- Silver cord signifies Salutatorian.

****Please remember the importance of this special day; dress appropriately.***

Line-up/Seating

All students attending commencement MUST arrive and check in downstairs at John Hancock Hall for the graduate line-up by 9:45 a.m. SHARP to participate in the procession and seating.

**Please note that Commencement is a dignified, respectful event. We understand that your guests are excited to witness you embark on new endeavors, but as a courtesy to other graduates, please encourage them to keep verbal cheering to a minimum. Noisemakers, horns, balloons, etc. are not allowed in the ceremony.*

DIPLOMAS

Graduates will receive their diploma while marching on the stage. The August 31, 2019 and the December 31, 2019 graduates will receive an empty diploma case, as formal diplomas were mailed to the address provided to the Registrar's Office. Students, who petition to "March Only" at commencement, will receive an empty diploma case, but will receive their official diploma after the next degree conferral period upon completion of all requirements. Any student who has not cleared all obligations to the college will have their diploma held.

A representative will be available in the Registrar's Office on campus, following the ceremony during the reception. Any questions, outstanding balances, incomplete obligations, etc. may be addressed and may be satisfied during this time.

Post Ceremony Reception

In keeping with tradition, there will be a reception in Alumni Hall at 116 Beacon Street directly following the ceremony. This is a great time for additional photo opportunities and to mingle with fellow classmates, faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing you there.

ACADEMIC REGALIA

All regalia (gown, cap, and tassel) must be ordered online by the student. Orders can be made beginning Friday, February 14, 2020. All orders must be completed by Sunday, March 29, 2020.

Please log on to www.fisher.edu/studentregalia to place your order. Please email Megan Allende with any questions: Megan.Allende@Fisher.edu

- **Students may choose to have their regalia sent to the campus you are associated with free of charge, for pickup (Boston, Brockton, New Bedford & North Attleboro). Regalia may be picked up May 4-8, 2020 at your campus.**
- **Graduates will have the opportunity to have regalia mailed directly to their preferred mailing address for a \$15 fee.**
- **If you do not pick-up your regalia we will have it for pick-up at Commencement.**

You will receive an email once your regalia registration is complete.

- The email will be from **Build a Grad**. This email order confirmation contains all the necessary details regarding your regalia order. Your order number will be on this confirmation.
- Please print this form or bring it on your mobile device if you are having your regalia shipped to Fisher College when picking up your regalia.

A Brief History of Regalia

The dress worn by faculty and graduates during Commencement ceremonies is based upon costumes used in fourteenth and fifteenth century universities, particularly Oxford and Cambridge in England. This style of academic dress and accouterments has been used in the United States from colonial times, and it was standardized by an Intercollegiate Code in 1895. Like the military of medieval times with its pages, squires, and knights, the academic world has long recognized three basic levels of dignity and achievement; these are: associate, bachelors and masters.

The variety of styles and colors seen in a faculty procession reflects the fact that each college and university retains its own distinguishing customs as especially revealed by the design of its doctoral robes. When a university is granted the right to confer doctoral degrees, one of the privileges that accompany that right is the opportunity to design unique and distinctive regalia for its graduates.

*Compiled by: Dr. Stephen E. Lunce, C.C.P.,
Associate Professor of Information Systems at Texas A&M.*

COMMENCEMENT ACCOMMODATIONS

Location

Commencement will be held at:

John Hancock Hall (also referred to as Back Bay Events Center)
180 Berkeley Street (corner of Berkeley and Stuart Streets)
Boston, MA 02116

**Please note, this is not the 'new' John Hancock tower (very tall and shiny), but rather the 'old' John Hancock tower with the blue/red lights on the spire.*

Doors open at 10:15 a.m. Guests should plan to be seated prior to the 11:00 a.m. start of the ceremony.

Ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes.

Guests with Special Needs

The College would like to accommodate your guests with special needs in the most efficient and helpful way possible. If you have guests with special needs who will be attending Commencement, please complete the section on the Commencement Participation Form. If you have additional questions or concerns, you may contact Dr. Ferna L. Phillips, Director of Accessibility Services FPhillips@Fisher.edu, (617) 670-4431. This will ensure that all necessary arrangements will be made prior to Commencement. We kindly ask that all requests are made prior to April 1, 2020 to ensure proper planning time. ***Please ask your guests to arrive by 10:00 a.m. so that they are seated before the Academic Procession, which begins at 11:00 a.m.***

Directions

John Hancock Hall is located within just blocks of Fisher College and several MBTA stations. Visit www.mbta.com

- **Back Bay Station:** servicing Commuter Rail, Amtrak, and the Orange Line. Located on Dartmouth St. between Stuart St. and Columbus Ave., and on Clarendon St. near Columbus Ave.
- **Copley Square Station:** servicing the Green Line. Located at 640 Boylston St. and 230 Dartmouth St.
- **Arlington Street Station:** servicing the Green Line. Located at 300 Boylston St. and 20 Arlington St.

From the North (I-93 South or Rt. 1 South)

Take the Storrow Drive exit (26) off Interstate 93 South. Follow signs for Copley Square. Take the Copley Square exit and turn right onto Beacon Street. Drive two blocks and turn left onto Clarendon Street. Drive six blocks and turn left onto Stuart Street. The facility is located one block ahead on the left at the corner of Berkeley and Stuart Streets.

From the South (I-93 North)

Take the Mass Ave. exit off Interstate 93 North. Continue straight through two sets of lights and stay right toward Frontage Road/Ted Williams Tunnel. From the left lane, follow signs for South End/Back Bay and turn left onto East Berkeley Street. Continue on East Berkeley to Columbus Avenue onto Berkeley Street. The facility is located one block ahead on the left at the corner of Berkeley and Stuart Streets.

From the West (Mass Turnpike/I-90)

Take the Copley Square exit, following signs for Copley Square. You will come to street level at Stuart Street. Continue on Stuart Street. The facility is located three blocks ahead on the left at the corner of Berkeley and Stuart Streets.

From the East (Logan International Airport)

Take the Sumner or Ted Williams Tunnel (I-90 West) toward Downtown Boston and merge onto Interstate 93 North. Take the Storrow Drive exit off I-93 North and follow signs for Copley Square. Take the Copley Square exit and turn right onto Beacon Street. Drive two blocks and turn left onto Clarendon Street. Drive six blocks and turn left onto Stuart Street. The facility is located one block ahead on the left at the corner of Berkeley and Stuart Streets.

Parking

Parking for John Hancock Hall is conveniently located one block from the venue at 100 Clarendon.

Visit www.100clarendon.com

*The Garage @ 100 Clarendon will validate parking for John Hancock Hall, please see attendant inside the lobby at the John Hancock Hall.

*Fisher College will not be responsible for any validation.

Hotel Accommodations

The City of Boston and our Back Bay neighborhood is home to numerous hotels in a wide range of prices. We suggest making hotel reservations as early as possible as the springtime Commencement season can be very busy.

Photography

The College has made arrangements for each graduate to be photographed while shaking hands with the President. These photographs are taken by an outside company, Commencement Photos, Inc (www.CPIGrads.com). You will receive an envelope within a few weeks of commencement. This envelope will contain order instructions. To ensure you receive this packet from CPI, please make sure your address is up to date at Fisher College.

Due to the limited space available inside the John Hancock Hall, a very small space is set aside for the quick close up shot. Tripods are not allowed in the designated photo areas.

Videography

Commencement is professionally recorded and will be available on the College's official YouTube channel after May 16, 2020. Visit www.fisher.edu/commencement for a direct link.



\$20.20 is all it takes to make a lasting impact for Fisher College.

No gift is too small, make a difference as a
soon-to-be alum and donate to the
2020 senior class gift!

It's quick and easy! Just go to **[Fisher.edu/giving](https://fisher.edu/giving)**.

As a member of the class of 2020, show your pride for
Fisher and its future.



The Fisher Fund



Key

- 1 Fisher College
- 2 John Hancock Hall
- 3 Arlington T Stop
- 4 Boston Common Garage
- 5 Garage @100 Clarendon