Understanding Commencement
An Overview of Commencement
254th Commencement
Friday, May 27 - Sunday, May 29, 2022
2022 Dates

Friday, May 27
- Campus Dance

Saturday, May 28
- Class of 2020 Procession and Ceremony
- Forums
- Baccalaureate Service

Sunday, May 29
- Class of 2022 Commencement Procession and Ceremonies
Campus Dance

Friday, May 27
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

- Families and guests are welcome to attend.
- Tickets are required and go on sale in April on the Brown Alumni Association website.

One of Brown’s best-loved Commencement and Reunion traditions, Campus Dance brings graduates, alumni and families to dance on the College Green under hundreds of paper lanterns.
Saturday, May 28
Offered at various times

- Forums are not ticketed.
- Seating is first come, first seated.
- Forums are announced in the early spring on the 2022.brown.edu.

Each Commencement, Brown presents a wide range of forums led by faculty, alumni and Honorary Degree candidates. Speakers, topics and locations are announced in late April.
Baccalaureate Service

Saturday, May 28

1:30 p.m.  Seniors line up
1:45 p.m.  Procession begins
2:30 p.m.  Ceremony begins
4:00 p.m.  Ceremony ends

- This service is for Seniors only.
- Guests can watch a simulcast from the college green.
- Features student performers and a keynote address.

The Baccalaureate Service is a multi-faith ceremony that incorporates the many spiritual and cultural traditions of the Brown community. Seniors process to the First Baptist Church from the College Green.
Commencement Day
Sunday, May 29, 2022
Commencement Day Schedule

Sunday, May 29

9:30 a.m.     Procession begins
10:15 a.m.    Alpert Medical School Ceremony
10:30 a.m.    Graduate School Master’s and Doctoral Ceremony
12:15 p.m.    College Ceremony at First Baptist Church
1:15 p.m.     University Ceremony on the College Green
2:30 p.m.     Departmental Ceremonies

*All times are approximate*
On Commencement Day, Students Should:

- Have their Caps and Gowns! Caps and gowns can be purchased from the Brown Bookstore and are required for students participating in Baccalaureate and Commencement.

- Line up for the procession starts at 9:30 am. The Procession lasts until 1 p.m.; students should pack a water bottle and a snack.

- Find their departmental ceremony location and coordinate a meeting place with guests in advance.

- Dress comfortably and for the weather. Ceremonies will be outdoors, rain or shine, and they will be walking a lot!
Sunday is a long day.

Arrive early for seats closest to the center green.

Surrounding streets are closed to traffic during the morning for the procession, making the campus difficult to reach by car after 9 a.m.

For best viewing of the procession and College Ceremony, watch the simulcast from the College Green rather then trying to view them from the street.

Consider only attending the Departmental Ceremony if you have concerns about the length of the day or navigating the campus by foot. Seniors are acknowledged individually at these ceremonies.
Enter the green from George street to avoid the congested procession lineup areas on Waterman and Brown streets.

The center seating section is for graduates only.

You must be present and seated to hold seats for other guests.

All seats have a view of the simulcast displayed on the Jumbotron.
9:30 a.m. Seniors line up
9:45 a.m. Procession begins

- Seniors line up on Waterman Street then march through Faunce Arch, the College Green and the Van Wickle Gates before processing to the First Baptist Church for the College Ceremony.

- Guests watch a simulcast from the College Green.

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Graduates march through the Van Wickle Gates, which are opened only twice each year. Alumni who have returned for Reunion march with their classes. Once the last person is through the Van Wickle Gates, the procession inverts and continues down College Street, with each participant passing by the others, to mutual applause.
Seniors assemble on the lawn of the First Baptist Church for the College Ceremony where the undergraduate degrees are conferred.
Procession resumes immediately following the College Ceremony.

Seniors split and process in two groups up the hill to the College Green.

After the College Ceremony at the First Baptist Church, seniors return to the College Green for the University Ceremony.
University Ceremony

Sunday, May 29
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
(Approximate times)

Seniors, Graduate and Medical School Students all celebrate their accomplishments!

- Senior Orators speak
- Presentation of Honorary Degrees
- Presentation of Symbolic Degrees

What a view it is from the stage podium, where President Paxson addresses all gathered for the University Ceremony on the College Green
Sunday, May 29
2:30 p.m. (Approximate time)

- Immediately follows the University Ceremony.
- Make sure you know senior's concentration!
- Locations will be posted on 2022.brown.edu.

Families and guests are invited to attend the Departmental Ceremonies. See the map of the ceremony locations at the back of the Commencement program for location.
Departmental ceremonies are the best opportunity for photos.

The Van Wickle Gates will remain open through Monday evening for more photo opportunities.

Live streamed events:

➔ Baccalaureate
➔ Procession
➔ College Ceremony
➔ University Ceremony

View a simulcast of all major events on the Jumbotron on the College Green!
Travel, Food and Accommodations
Housing & Dining

- Most local hotels require a 2-3 night minimum during this weekend. Rooms sell out months in advance.

- A limited number of campus Residence Hall rooms can be reserved for Commencement weekend beginning in mid-March. Information on how to register for rooms will be forthcoming.

- Make dinner reservations in advance! Most departmental ceremonies end by Sunday at 4 p.m.

- Several “grab & go” retail food locations may be open on campus and will be listed on the website and app.

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*Providence WaterFire traditionally takes place Saturday evening of Commencement Weekend.*
Implemented **ONLY in SEVERE weather conditions**

- Announcement will be made on Brown’s homepage brown.edu
- Procession will be cancelled
- University Ceremony held in Pizzitola Sports Center for Seniors only.
- Guests can live stream the ceremony, or view a simulcast in Salomon Center, Sayles Hall or Olney-Margolies Athletic Center (OMAC).
Parking and driving around campus is challenging. Expect traffic and roadblocks.

University lots open at 5 p.m. on Friday and remain open all weekend.

Consider a Drop Off Pass for your guests!

Handicapped parking registration opens February 1 and closes April 30.
This year’s events will have additional significance as the University also welcomes back our Class of 2020 graduates to celebrate their achievements in a separate, dedicated ceremony two years after the COVID-19 pandemic cut short their time at Brown.

2020 Commencement Procession and Ceremony will take place on Saturday morning.

You may see a lot of activity and regalia around campus, so it is important to be aware of the specific schedule for your 2022 graduate.
Resources

- **Commencement Website**
  2022.brown.edu

- **BrownU App**
  Download to use as a guest.

- **Welcome Kiosks on College Green (onsite)**
  Stop by on May 28 and 29 for information about weekend events!

- **COVID-19 Updates**
  Any changes due to COVID-19 will be communicated. Check healthy.brown.edu for current health guidelines.
Thank you!