Commencement

Commencement Ceremonies

Unable to attend? Watch the recorded live stream from the day of the event.

Ceremony #1: Friday, May 10 - 7:00 p.m.

Ceremony #2: Saturday, May 11 - 10:00 a.m.

Ceremony #3: Saturday, May 11 - 3:00 p.m.

Photo Opportunities and Graduate Activities

There were a number of photo ops on campus during the days of commencement, May 10 and 11. Locations included the Student Union, Colonnade, Lincoln Statue, and University entrance. There were also a number of graduate activities held during the week of commencement (e.g., cap decorating in the Student Union from May 6-10). We encouraged graduates to take photos and participate in activities to help celebrate their achievement!

Question/Answer Sessions

We held three question/answer sessions via Zoom for graduates. Graduating students were welcome to attend any of these sessions, though each were focused on the population of students noted below. Graduates were encouraged to click on the applicable link below to join the session at the date/time shown.

- All Students Session Monday, April 29 at 11:00 a.m.
- First Generation Students Session Friday, April 26 at 2:00 p.m.
- International Students Session Friday, April 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Commencement Week Schedule of Events

*Denotes by invitation only or RSVP; questions should be addressed to the applicable "contact" below. Check this site frequently for updates.

Event	Location	Time	Contact
GPSI Graduate Celebration* Wednesday, May 1, 2024	Student Union North Patio (Rain Location: Student Union Sports Grill)	3:00- 5:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7990 or jcook36@uis.edu
Reception in Honor of Burks Oakley II (Honorary Degree Recipient)* Thursday, May 2, 2024	3rd Floor Public Affairs Center Atrium Lounge	5:00- 6:30 p.m.	(217) 206-7794 or jsest1@uis.edu
Student Affairs Leadership Awards Friday, May 3, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	3:00- 4:30 p.m.	(217) 206-4762 or studentlife@uis.edu
Equity Over Injustice Specialty Graduation Celebration* (UIS Students Only) Saturday, May 4, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	1:00- 4:00 p.m.	(217) 206-6333 or diversity@uis.edu
CAP Honors Graduation Celebration Lunch* Thursday, May 9, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	11:30 a.m 1:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7251 or kguth01s@uis.edu
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Awards Ceremony Thursday, May 9, 2024	Brookens Auditorium	4:00- 6:00 p.m.	(217) 206-6512 or chunt26@uis.edu
Graduates Cookout with Dr. J. (UIS Students Only) Thursday, May 9, 2024	Student Union North Patio	5:00- 7:00 p.m.	(217) 206-6002 or acome2@uis.edu

Doctor of Public Administration Hooding Ceremony* Thursday, May 9, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	6:00- 7:30 p.m.	(217) 971-8632 or bgoul2@uis.edu
College of Health, Science and Technology Graduation Reception Friday, May 10, 2024	Student Union North Patio	1:00- 3:00 p.m.	(217) 206-6784 or chst@uis.edu
International Congratulatory Ceremony Friday, May 10, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	2:00- 4:00 p.m.	(217) 206-6678 or esuzu2@uis.edu
COLRS Recognition of Online Graduates* Friday, May 10, 2024	Brookens Library Outside Overhang Facing Colonnade	4:30- 6:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7317 or colrs@uis.edu
UIS Campus Tour Friday, May 10, 2024	Public Affairs Center - Second Floor Lobby	5:00- 6:00 p.m.	(217) 503-8840 or sadam26@uis.edu
Commencement Reception (Sponsored by Student Affairs) Friday, May 10, 2024	Student Union North Patio	5:00- 6:30 p.m.	(217) 206-6002 or acome2@uis.edu
Commencement Ceremony #1 College of Health, Science and Technology: Friday, May 10, 2024	Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center	7:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7730 or commencement@uis.edu

School of Education Commitment to the Profession Ceremony* Friday, May 10, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	7:00- 8:30 p.m.	(217) 206-6682 or education@uis.edu
Commencement Ceremony #2 College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences AND College of Public Affairs and Education Saturday, May 11, 2024	Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center	10:00 a.m.	(217) 206-7730 or commencement@uis.edu
UIS Campus Tour Saturday, May 11, 2024	Public Affairs Center - Second Floor Lobby	11:30 a.m 12:30 p.m.	(217) 503-8840 or sadam26@uis.edu
Commencement Reception (Sponsored by Student Affairs) Saturday, May 11, 2024	Student Union North Patio	11:30 a.m 2:30 p.m.	(217) 206-6002 or acome2@uis.edu
COLRS Recognition of Online Graduates* Saturday, May 11, 2024	Brookens Library Outside Overhang Facing Colonnade	11:30 a.m 2:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7317 or colrs@uis.edu
Commencement Ceremony #3 College of Business and Management Saturday, May 11, 2024	Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center	3:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7730 or commencement@uis.edu

College of Business and Management Graduation Reception - Accounting, Economics and Finance Saturday, May 11, 2024		5:00- 5:20 p.m.	(217) 206-6533 or cbm@uis.edu
College of Business and Management Graduation Reception - Management, Marketing and Operations Saturday, May 11, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	5:25- 5:45 p.m.	(217) 206-6533 or cbm@uis.edu
College of Business and Management Graduation Reception - Management Information Systems Saturday, May 11, 2024	Student Union Ballroom	5:50- 6:15 p.m.	(217) 206-6533 or cbm@uis.edu
Nigerian Student Association Gala Sunday, May 12, 2024	Public Affairs Center 160, Community Room (Formerly C/D)	4:00- 11:00 p.m.	(217) 206-7960 or cmars4@uis.edu

Past Commencement News

Student Commencement Speaker

Our student commencement speaker is an important tradition at UIS. Information regarding when and where the auditions will be held is provided in the online application. All graduating students are eligible to audition. Representatives of the faculty will select the speaker. If you wish to apply, please fill out the online Student Speaker Application form and read the special instructions listed. Application forms must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2024 (note: late submissions will not be accepted). The chosen speaker's speech will be pre-recorded and

broadcast to graduates and attendees during all three commencement ceremonies.

Graduation Application Deadline Dates

Students graduating in Spring 2024 or Summer 2024 must submit an online Graduation Application via Student Self-Service by the deadlines listed below:

- Spring 2024 Graduates February 16, 2024
- Summer 2024 Graduates who DO wish to participate in Commencement 2024 Activities February 16, 2024*
- Summer 2024 Graduates who DO NOT wish to participate in Commencement 2024 Activities July 1, 2024

*Summer 2024 graduates wishing to participate in Commencement 2024 activities must submit a Student Petition and have it approved by their adviser and department chair by February 16, 2024.

Department News

Sep 20, 2024

Final Reminder! Students Must Apply Now if Graduating in Fall 2024!

Students graduating in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 must submit an online Graduation Application via Student Self-Service (https://apps.uillinois.edu/ - "...

Aug 30, 2024

ATTENTION STUDENTS! APPLY NOW IF YOU WILL BE GRADUATING IN FALL 2024 OR SPRING 2025!

Students graduating in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 must submit an online Graduation Application via Student Self-Service (https://apps.uillinois.edu/ - "... lun 20, 2024

SUMMER 2024 UIS GRADUATION APPLICATION DEADLINE - MONDAY, JULY 1!

Students graduating in Summer 2024 or Fall 2024 must submit an online Graduation Application via Student Self-Service ("Graduation" link) by July 1, 2024 (... May 03, 2024

Janet Gooch: College commencements mark the beginning of new opportunities for graduates

University of Illinois Springfield Chancellor Janet Gooch wrote a column about commencement that was published by The State Journal-Register on May 3, 2024.... Feb 01, 2024

ATTENTION STUDENTS! APPLY NOW IF YOU WILL BE GRADUATING IN SPRING 2024 OR SUMMER 2024!

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Commencement FAQs

Who can participate in commencement?

The following three groups of individuals may be eligible to participate in the upcoming commencement ceremonies if they meet all of the listed guidelines. There will be **NO** exceptions to the criteria listed below. Please note that students can only participate in the commencement ceremony in which they are **FIRST** eligible (based upon the term for which the student submitted an online graduation application). Students cannot participate in more than one ceremony for the same degree program. Therefore, if the student already participated in or was eligible to participate in a **PREVIOUS** ceremony, participation in the upcoming ceremonies is not possible.

Summer 2023 and Fall 2023 Graduates:

These graduates are automatically eligible to participate.

Spring 2024 Candidates:

A Spring 2024 graduation application must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 16, 2024.**

Summer 2024 Candidates:

A Summer 2024 graduation application must be on file in the Office of Records and Registration no later than **Feb. 16, 2024.** In addition, an approved Student Petition requesting to participate in commencement must also be on file in the Office of Records and Registration by **Feb. 16, 2024.**

How do I register for commencement?

Each student must complete a graduation application by **Feb. 16, 2024**. Additionally, graduates must complete an online Intent to Participate form. This form will be live on the commencement website from **March 11-25**, and eligible graduates will receive an email communication when the form is available.

What happens before and during each commencement ceremony?

Graduates will check in within the lobby outside of Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center prior to their ceremony. Staff will then escort graduates to their seats. Once the ceremony begins, the processional will begin (consisting of the platform party and faculty). After several ceremonial pieces, students will walk across the stage, have their name announced, receive a UIS diploma cover, and have their photo taken by a professional photographer with the Chancellor.

Which ceremony do I attend?

A list of academic programs by ceremony and college is listed on the "Graduates" page of the <u>commencement website</u>.

How long will the ceremony last?

The ceremony will last approximately 90 minutes to two hours.

Do I have to wear a cap and gown?

Academic regalia is required, including a black cap and gown. It is suggested that you wear lightweight clothing and dark shoes under your cap and gown. Items such as purses should not be brought.

When will I be able to purchase a cap and gown?

Upon completion of the online Intent to Participate form, graduates will receive a link to purchase their regalia and other items (such as invitations) through Herff Jones.

When and where are diplomas mailed?

At commencement, diploma covers are presented to students by the Chancellor. Official diplomas are 8.5×11 inches and are sent by first-class mail to each student's

diploma address approximately nine weeks after your conferral date. Check your address by logging into Student Self-Service to ensure your correct address is on file.

My guests or I will require assistance/accommodations for accessibility so who should I contact?

Graduates with an assistance/accommodation request should contact the Office of Records and Registration (217-206-7730 or registrar@uis.edu).

Guests with an assistance/accommodation request should contact Office Disability Services (217-206-6666 or ods@uis.edu).

Tickets, Ticket Distribution, and Accessible Seating Tickets

Tickets will be required for admission into each ceremony. A notice will be sent to students when tickets are available. Students may print or email tickets to their guests. Tickets will be general admission by section (orchestra, loge, mezzanine or balcony). A student's entire group of tickets will be general admission in the same section. If ticketed guests require accessible seating, students should contact ods@uis.edu. Once accessible seating is assigned to those guests, their general admission tickets will be placed back in the pool for reassignment.

Overflow Seating for Those Without a Ticket

Overflow seating with livestreaming will be available in the lower level of the UIS Performing Arts Center for those without a ticket. Signs will be in place noting the designated locations for overflow seating.

Commencement Livestream

Access a livestream of each ceremony at <u>uis.edu/uislive</u>. The livestream will be broadcast on screens across campus, including in the Student Union, and will be accessible on personal devices.

Student Speaker

The student commencement speaker is an important tradition for UIS. All graduating students are invited to audition for this honor and responsibility. Speeches for the audition should be no longer than five minutes and should be presented in their entirety. Speeches will be evaluated by a faculty/student committee for clarity of expression, delivery, timing, appropriateness, and relevance of the topic as representative of the graduating class. Application and audition information will be forthcoming.

Stoles/Cords

Program marshals have the responsibility of representing their fellow graduates. Because of this responsibility, it is essential that these individuals can be identified and therefore, they wear gold stoles during commencement.

Some departments, associations and groups recognize their students with colored cords or non-gold stoles. Those seeking approval to distribute cords or non-gold stoles to their students must do so by submitting a formal request to the Registrar in the Office of Records and Registration. The request is considered, the Registrar communicates a decision to the appropriate parties, and updates the master list of approved cords, stoles, and miscellaneous items worn at commencement.

Program marshals receive gold stoles from the Office of Records and Registration on commencement day. Non-gold cords and stoles are provided by the department, association, or group that requested the recognition.

Photographs

Graduates will receive professional photo proofs in the mail. There is no obligation to purchase, and they will have the option of ordering several enlargement packages. Questions regarding photographs following commencement should be addressed to GradImages (www.gradimages.com/)

Bookstore Info

Be sure to visit the UIS Bookstore to purchase commencement-related items. Bookstore hours are posted online at:

https://www.bkstr.com/illinoisspringfieldstore/home.

iCard for Commencement Check In

If you have an iCard, please bring it to Commencement to expedite check in. If you do not have an iCard, you can check in using your UIN and NetID.

Etiquette

Want to know the proper etiquette for Commencement? <u>Download the guide here</u>. (pdf)

Ceremony DVD

A ceremony DVD will be available for \$25. This cost includes postage in the continental United States. <u>Complete the form</u> to order your copy. Questions should be addressed to the Office of Electronic Media at 217-206-6799.

NetID Access

Your NetID will remain active for three (3) semesters after graduation. After that time, you will no longer be able to use your NetID to access email, Blackboard, or other campus services such as Box, lynda, Office 365, etc. Please see the <u>User Account Lifecycle for NetIDs</u> policy for more information.

First Destination Survey (FDS)

The First Destination Survey (FDS) is a national survey that is meant to gain knowledge about what activities students are engaging in after graduation from college. The information gained from the survey helps to determine institution effectiveness and provide data for reporting needs, to enhance UIS academic offerings, and support career exploration for current and future students. Prior to graduation day, you will receive emails with additional information and be asked to complete the Outcomes Survey. By completing the survey, you will qualify to win a variety of prizes including iPads and gift cards. For further information, you may visit

the UIS Career Development website.

Directions/Maps

The University of Illinois Springfield is located at One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703. Please view the helpful information below:

Driving Directions to UIS

Campus Maps of UIS

Parking

Parking will be available during the commencement ceremonies in campus parking lots. No parking hang tags or parking fees will be required.

Special Events Related to Commencement

Numerous events are being planned to help graduates celebrate. Special events will be scheduled for certain groups. Please be sure to check our website (www.uis.edu/commencement) for more information.

Graduates

Eligibility

The following three groups of individuals may have been eligible to participate in the upcoming commencement ceremonies if they met all of the listed guidelines. There were NO exceptions to the criteria listed below. Please note that students can only participate in the commencement ceremony in which they are FIRST eligible (based upon the term for which the student submitted an online graduation application). Students cannot participate in more than one ceremony for the same degree program. Therefore, if the student already participated in or was eligible to participate in a PREVIOUS ceremony, participation in upcoming ceremonies is not possible.

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• DPA Students:

You must be deemed eligible to participate by **April 1**. Please contact your advisor for additional information.

How to Participate

The deadline to confirm participation has now passed. Those planning to participate in commencement were required to complete the following two steps:

1. **Confirm Participation:** An online Intent to Participate form must have been submitted between **March 11 and March 25**. Only those who were eligible to

- participate were able to submit their intent to participate.
- 2. **Purchase Regalia (Cap and Gown):** Upon completion of the online Intent to Participate form, graduates received a link to purchase their regalia and other items (such as invitations) through Herff Jones. Students making special cap and gown arrangements (e.g., borrowing a black cap and gown) still had to confirm their participation by submitting an online Intent to Participate form.

Participation

Graduates are responsible for knowing and adhering to all University of Illinois Springfield policies, deadlines, and procedures. Specific graduation and commencement-related information is available in the current catalog and must be followed. Also, please note the <u>Visitor Behavior Policy of the UIS Performing Arts Center</u>. Any questions related to participation should be directed to <u>commencement@uis.edu</u>.

Programs by Ceremony and College

FRIDAY, MAY 10 CEREMONY - 7:00 P.M.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Athletic Training

Biochemistry

Biology

Chemistry

Clinical Laboratory Science

Computer Science

Data Analytics

Environmental Health

Environmental Sciences

Environmental Studies

Exercise Science

Information Systems Security

Mathematical Sciences

Medical Laboratory Science

Philosophy

Psychology

SATURDAY, MAY 11 CEREMONY - 10:00 A.M.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

Art (Visual Arts)

Criminal Justice

Criminology and Criminal Justice

English

History

Human Development Counseling

Liberal & Integrative Studies

Liberal Studies

Social Work

Sociology/Anthropology

Theatre

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS & EDUCATION

Communication

Education

Educational Leadership

Elementary Education

Global Studies

Human Services

Legal Studies

Middle Grades Education

Political Science

Public Administration

Public Affairs Reporting

Public Policy

Public and Nonprofit Administration

Secondary English Education

Secondary History Education

Secondary Mathematics Education

Teacher Leadership

SATURDAY, MAY 11 CEREMONY - 3:00 P.M.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

Accountancy

Accounting

Business Administration

Cybersecurity Management

Economics

Finance

Healthcare Informatics

Human Resource Management

Management

Management Information Systems

Special Instructions for International Students

Commencement information for international students (including information for inviting guests) can be found on the International Student Services website.

FAQs

Guests and Visitors

Commencement Program

Those attending commencement in person received a printed program that included summarized ceremony and miscellaneous information. The complete online commencement program (including graduate names, etc.) is posted below.

• 2024 Complete Commencement Program (pdf)

Special Needs

Wheelchairs for transport were not available at Sangamon Auditorium in the UIS Performing Arts Center. **Graduates** with an assistance/accommodation request contacted the Office of Records and Registration (217-206-7730 or registrar@uis.edu). **Guests** with an assistance/accommodation contacted the Office Disability Services (217-206-6666 or ods@uis.edu).

Springfield Information

For information related to Springfield, visit: <u>Springfield Convention and Visitors</u>
<u>Bureau</u>. They have created a landing page devoted specifically to UIS family and friends.

Directions/Maps

The University of Illinois Springfield is located at One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703. Please view the helpful information below:

Driving Directions to UIS

Campus Maps of UIS

Gifts for Graduates

If you would like to purchase gifts for your graduate, the <u>UIS Bookstore</u> has a number of items for sale. In addition, the <u>Commencement Group</u> offers a variety of items, including t-shirts and flowers.

Parking

Parking was available during the commencement ceremonies in campus parking lots. No parking hang tags or parking fees were required.

Venue (UIS Performing Arts Center) Information

Guests may visit the information desk in the lobby for questions and assistance. In addition, please note the following:

- Restrooms and elevators are located on all levels of the Auditorium in each tower.
- Accessible seating is available on main and mezzanine levels.
- Assisted listening devices and sensory bags are available from the Guest Services Office in the lobby.
- Overflow seating with livestream is available on the lower level of the UIS Performing Arts Center.
- No smoking is allowed anywhere on the grounds. UIS is a smoke-free and vapefree campus.
- Medical assistance is available by request.
- Lactation facilities are located in PAC rooms 491 and 492.
- Stroller parking is available in the lobby.
- Balloons are not allowed in the Auditorium and can be checked at the stroller parking area in the lobby.

Hotels

The following hotels may extend discounted rates to family members and friends attending the UIS Commencement Ceremonies. Please mention "UIS Commencement" when calling to make reservations.

Candlewood Suites

2501 Sunrise Dr. Springfield, IL 62703 217-522-5100

Candlewood Suites Hotel Information/Rates

Carpenter Street Hotel

525 N 6th St. Springfield, IL 62702 217-789-9100

Carpenter Street Hotel Information/Rates

Comfort Suites

2620 South Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62703 217-615-4445

Comfort Suites Hotel Information/Rates

Holiday Inn Express

3050 South Dirksen Pkwy Springfield, IL 62703 888-465-4329

Holiday Inn Express Room Information/Rates

President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel

701 E Adams St Springfield, IL 62701 217-544-8800

President Abraham Lincoln a Doubletree by Hilton Hotel Room Information/Rates

Residence Inn

2915 Stanford Ave. Springfield, IL 62703 217-527-1100

Residence Inn Room Information/Rates

SpringHill Suites

3921 MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62711 217-789-0000

SpringHill Suites Room Information/Rates

Wyndham Springfield City Centre

700 East Adams St Springfield, IL 62701 217-789-1530

Wyndham Springfield City Centre Room Information/Rates

Restaurants

• For detailed information about **restaurants** in Springfield please contact the Springfield Convention and Visitor's Bureau at (800) 545-7300.

Faculty

Faculty Participation/Regalia

The online **Faculty Participation and Regalia form** is no longer available. It was available between **February 23 and March 8**. If you indicated your intent to participate in one or more ceremonies, please read the following notes carefully:

- If you submitted the online Faculty Participation and Regalia form indicating that you will be participating, commencement information was sent to you prior to the ceremonies.
- If you have special needs, please email commencement@uis.edu.
- If you ordered regalia as part of the Faculty Participation and Regalia form submission, items were delivered to your college office in late April.
- If your participation plans changed after March 8, please email commencement@uis.edu. Please be aware that, while it was possible to submit late regalia orders after March 8, only the home ship option was available and the cost for home shipping was the responsibility of the faculty member.

Parking

If you are a platform party or faculty member participating in the 2024 commencement ceremonies, you needed to arrive extra early, as parking was on a first come, first served basis. Hang tags were not required during the commencement ceremonies.

Ceremony Information

The Faculty Robing Room was located on the lower level of the UIS Performing Arts Center. Please look for room signs on the day of the ceremonies.