End-of-Semester Events

Commencement Ceremony

There is NO COMMENCEMENT BEHREIAL. Instructions will be given prior to the academic procession on the day of graduation.

Diplomas

Diplomas are NOT distributed at Commencement. Students will receive a letter from the Provost as they cross the stage. Diplomas will be mailed to the student's permanent address on file with the University, four-to-six weeks after the ceremony, by the Registrar's Office. Please be sure that the Registrar's Office has your correct mailing address.

Honors

Undergraduate academic honors will be announced with students' names as they cross the stage. Cum Laude honors is a cumulative GPA of 3.4-3.69, Magna Cum Laude is a cumulative GPA of 3.7-3.79, and Summa Cum Laude is a cumulative GPA of 3.8 or better. Students do not receive academic honors. For undergraduate students completing their degree in May and August 2014, honors will be based on the cumulative GPA from the fall 2013 semester. For students enrolled in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies Accelerated or PhilaU Online programs, honors will be based on the cumulative GPA from the end of the Spring 2014 term. Honors reflected on students' transcripts and diplomas will be based on the actual cumulative GPA at the time of degree completion.

Graduation Eligibility

If you have any questions regarding your eligibility for graduation, please contact your academic advisor. You can contact the Provost's Office if you have any other questions regarding Commencement or the graduation process at commencement@PhilaU.edu or 215.951.2705.

Information for Graduating Students

Academic Attire

Your academic dress will depend on the degree you will be receiving. The academic regalia consist of cap, gown, hood, and tassel. Academic regalia are required to participate in the Commencement ceremony. Request your graduation apparel here: www.philau.edu/ commencement/graduates/apparel.html

Cap and Gown Pick-Up

Graduation attire must be picked up at the Grad Finale on either Tuesday, March 25 or Wednesday, March 26, 2014 between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Jostens (the cap and gown supplier) will be able to fit you with your degree-appropriate attire. If you have requested apparel, please bring your email confirmation. Jostens will also be selling University-related items and diploma graduation-related items at this event. The Campus Store will be selling University-related items and diploma graduation-related items at this event. The Campus Center, to the left of the PECO gates. University staff will be on hand to assist students with the proper fitting of the academic hood and other attire issues.

Commencement Ceremony

All students participating in Commencement MUST stop by to pick up academic attire, announcements, and participation tickets.

Senior Class Toast

Friday, May 2, 2014 • 4 p.m.

Backyard of the President’s House

Rain location: The Kanbar Campus Center Performance Space

University Academic Awards Ceremony

Saturday, May 10, 2014 • 7 p.m.

**Students receiving academic awards will be formally invited by the Office of the Provost to this ceremony.

The Senior Design Show

May 30 – June 1, 2014

Reception and Awards: Friday May 16, 2014 • 6–p.m.

The Gallagher Athletic Recreation Center Busky Harris Gymnasium

President’s Champagne Toast for Legacy Families

May 10, 2014 • 5 – 6 p.m.

The Robert J. Reichlin House Lobby

Graduates with family members who have attended Philadelphia University are invited to join the President for a Champagne Reception to honor their alumni legacy. (Admission to this event is limited. Graduates should contact advance@PhilaU.edu or 215.951.2770 for details and reservations.)

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Commencement is fast approaching!

Saturday May 17, 2014

The Mann Center for the Performing Arts
5201 Parkside Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19131 • 11 a.m. (gates open at 9:30 a.m.)

The ceremony will last approximately two-and-a-half hours. If making late-night or dinner reservations after the event, please allow ample time for safe travel. Just like any large event, traffic leaving the facility can be heavy. The event will be held rain or shine.

Saturday, May 17, 2014 will be Commencement day and Commencement is held in rain or shine. Please note that

Tickets
Each graduate will receive five tickets for the graduation ceremony. All seating is by general admission. All guests attending the ceremony MUST have a ticket (graduates do not need a ticket). Tickets to the Grad Finals, the University’s tap and gospel distribution event Grad Finals will be held on March 25 and 26, 2014 in The Kimmel Center Performance Space from noon to 7 p.m. All students wishing to participate in the Commencement ceremony MUST stop by the Grad Finals to receive their ticket. The University is NOT responsible for lost or misplaced tickets. Replacement tickets will NOT be available. Following the Grad Finals, students will have the opportunity to request up to five additional tickets for terrace seating. Terrace seating tickets are NOT under cover. These tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Information on how to request additional tickets will be distributed at the Grad Finals.

The selling or buying of University Commencement tickets is strictly prohibited. Please be cautious of offers to sell or buy Commencement tickets. Tickets held at official resale value. Commencement tickets are solely for the purpose of allowing the friends and relatives of graduating students to attend the ceremony. All unsold tickets should be returned to the Provost’s Office if a graduate or guest(s) no longer plan to attend University Commencement.

The University is committed to ensuring that all members of the community are able to celebrate Commencement day.

Seating
There is designated handicapped seating at The Mann; however, availability is limited. We ask that families with special needs arrive on time and in a timely manner to the Mann Center for the Performing Arts from main gates before you proceed to parking. A limited number of wheelchairs are available for transport from the drop off location to the seating area. Please see your manner FAQs website for more information.

Parking
Limited parking for patrons with a valid handicap sign language interpreters should contact the Provost’s Office at 215.951.2705 at least 30 days prior to the ceremony. Guests will be escorted to specific seating for optimum use of the space. Each guest receiving this service may have only one additional person at the ceremony.

Philadelphia University wants to help make this a special day for graduates and their families and guests by providing this important information about Commencement day and Commencement weekend activities. Please note that candidates for graduation are personally responsible for satisfactorily completing all requirements for graduation.

The following information should provide you with all you need to know about upcoming activities and events. Should you have additional questions, contact commencement@PhilaU.edu. Also, please check www.PhilaU.edu/Commencement or “PhilaU Commencement 2014” on Facebook for the latest information prior to Commencement day.

Admission of Children
All children need tickets unless a child is small enough to be held on the lap of an adult during the event. As a courtesy to others, please be mindful of the sound levels that your children are creating. If the children are creating a disturbance, please escort them away from the seating area.

Accessibility
Philadelphia University is committed to ensuring that all members of the community are able to celebrate Commencement day.

Seating
There is designated handicapped seating at The Mann; however, availability is limited. We ask that families with special needs arrive on time and in a timely manner to the ceremony. In order to accommodate everyone with accessibility needs, only one guest per special needs will be allowed to sit in the designated area during the ceremony. For more information on accessibility, please refer to The Mann Center website. http://manncenter.org/plan-your-visit/accessibility.

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Photography
Professional photographers from Island Photography will be taking photographs of graduates walk across the stage at the Commencement ceremony. Graduates will receive optional photo order information from Island Photography via email after the event. No photos will be available for purchase.

General Parking
There is plenty of parking space at The Mann and parking attendants will be available to direct you to a spot. Please note that most parking at The Mann is grass. PLEASE NOTE: The Mann charges $15 per vehicle. Please make your guests aware. This fee is charged by The Mann Center for the Performing Arts. The University does not receive any portion of this fee.

Venue Information
For the comfort of family and guests, the following information and suggestions are provided.

• The Mann Center for the Performing Arts is an open-air, theater with both covered and terrace seating. It is often cool, so guests are asked to please dress accordingly. All seating is by general admission. All guests attending the ceremony MUST have a ticket (graduates do not need a ticket). Tickets to the Grad Finals, the University’s tap and gospel distribution event Grad Finals will be held on March 25 and 26, 2014 in The Kimmel Center Performance Space from noon to 7 p.m. All students wishing to participate in the Commencement ceremony MUST stop by the Grad Finals to receive their ticket. The University is NOT responsible for lost or misplaced tickets. Replacement tickets will NOT be available. Following the Grad Finals, students will have the opportunity to request up to five additional tickets for terrace seating. Terrace seating tickets are NOT under cover. These tickets will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Information on how to request additional tickets will be distributed at the Grad Finals.

• The first 5 tickets graduates receive will be for seating under cover. Any additional tickets will be for terrace seating (not under cover). Please keep this in mind in the event of inclement weather.

• Refreshments will be available for purchase.

• Balloons are not permitted at The Mann Center.

• This is a special day for all of our graduates, and their families and friends. Please be respectful to all of our graduates and the dignity of Commencement by staying for the entire ceremony.

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Personal
Personal picture taking can be done before or after the ceremony. While we recognize that getting pictures in the moment is important, students will not be able to stop and pose for pictures. Please show discretion when taking pictures and do not block others or aisles.

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