



Graduate Commencement Ceremony

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Thursday, May 15, 2025



**FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Dear graduate,

On behalf of the entire university community, I am pleased to offer congratulations and best wishes as your commencement nears. This moment honors your hard work, and we eagerly await celebrating your success this May.

The graduate ceremony is set for **Thursday, May 15 at 4:00 PM** in the Athletics and Recreation Center. You will find additional details and guidance for a memorable celebration for you and your guests in this booklet.

For updates, please monitor your Fitchburg State email and the Fitchburg State Commencement website, where any plan amendments will be posted.

Again, congratulations, and best of luck in these final weeks of the semester.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Hodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "D" and "H".

Donna Hodge, Ph.D.
President

ACTION ITEMS

■ Clearance for Graduation and Candidates for Graduation

To confirm that you have been cleared to participate in graduation as well as to verify your ceremony attendance status, please log into your MyFalcon account at myfalcon.fitchburgstate.edu. Click on **View Application to Graduate**. If, while your file is being reviewed for graduation, the Registrar finds that you meet requirements for participating in the ceremony, you will be invited to attend the ceremony.

It is essential that we know the exact number of students attending the ceremony. If you will not be able to attend, please contact the Registrar's Office by Friday, May 2 at 978-665-4196 or registrar@fitchburgstate.edu.

■ Transcripts

If you took courses at another university, transcripts from that university must be received by **Friday, May 23, 2025**.

■ Caps and Gowns

Graduation regalia packages must be purchased in advance of the ceremony through the bookstore, at fitchburgstateshop.com, or we can assist you inside the store. The price of the Master's package is \$65, and the CAGS package is \$67. We also have a wide selection of diploma frames available to show off your great achievement!

All cap-and-gown packages consist of cap, gown, tassel, and hood (the hood distinguishes the institution from which the wearer is graduating and the degree being awarded). Packages will be available to purchase approximately 4 weeks prior to graduation and will appear on our website when available. Please contact the bookstore with any questions regarding graduation regalia at 978-665-4026.

Bookstore Hours Commencement Week

Monday - Friday 9 AM - 5 PM
Saturday 8 - 11 AM

■ Ticketing

The Graduate Commencement Ceremony is a ticketed event. Information on reserving tickets will be sent to graduates through their university email as we get closer to the ceremony date.

■ Diplomas

At graduation, you will receive a diploma cover with a certificate enclosed. Actual diplomas will be mailed to graduates by early July. Your name will be engraved on your diploma as you indicated on your commencement application.





CEREMONY INFORMATION

■ Commencement Ceremony Schedule

Commencement is scheduled for **Thursday, May 15** at the Athletics and Recreation Center. There is no commencement rehearsal. **Please arrive no later than 3:00 PM**. Volunteers will be available to assist you. The ceremony will be approximately an hour and a half.

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Jocelline H. Student

Phonetically: JOSS-A-LEEN

Master of Science in Nursing

Forensic Nursing

Take this card with you when it is time to receive your diploma and hand it to the individual on the stage reading names. If your name is difficult to pronounce, clearly write it phonetically on the line provided.

Guest seating area will open at 2:00 PM. Graduates will be lined up alphabetically within their school and by graduate degree. You will be given an index card on which your name has been typed. If you have a name that is difficult to pronounce, please provide the phonetic spelling. When you approach the platform, this card will be handed to the reader. The chair of your program will lead the graduates on stage and present them to the president and school dean.

Your name will be read as you cross the stage and receive your diploma cover from President Hodge. Please return to your seat promptly upon exiting the stage.

■ Commencement Ceremony Decorum

Commencement is a true milestone for each and every student. We welcome your excitement and enthusiasm as we celebrate this grand occasion. We also ask that our graduates and their guests respect the importance and dignity of the proceedings by staying for the entire ceremony. Guests who leave early may distract from the event, which would be disrespectful to the other graduates and their families.

■ Parking

Directions to the campus and designated parking lots for the ceremony can be found at fitchburgstate.edu/commencement. Shuttle buses will be in operation between the Intermodal Center parking garage and the Athletics and Recreation Center.

■ Graduates and Guests with Disabilities

Graduates and guests who have a disability can request accommodations through the Disability Services Office. To request an accommodation, please complete the online form found at fitchburgstate.edu/disabilityaccommodations by Wednesday, May 7. All requests will be reviewed, and seating and/or parking passes will be emailed to the address provided on the form. The event will be captioned live online at fitchburgstate.edu/captioning and the ceremony will be ASL interpreted. To discuss seating near the ASL interpreter, please contact the Disability Services Office. You can reach us at 978-665-4020 or Ambray Ernst, aernst2@fitchburgstate.edu.

Please note: Guests with a disability are allowed to have one additional guest seated with them in the accessible seating area.

■ Photographs

During the ceremony, access to the stage area for picture taking or videotaping by guests will be prohibited. Please relay this information to your guests. A professional photograph will be taken as you receive your diploma cover and congratulations from the president, and you will receive a digital copy of the photograph courtesy of the Fitchburg State University Alumni Association.



REGALIA

■ Hood Color by School

ARTS & SCIENCES

Applied Communications – White
Arts Education – Light Blue
Counseling – White
Criminal Justice – White
English Studies – White
History – White
Interdisciplinary Studies – White

EDUCATION

Curriculum and Teaching – Light Blue
Early Childhood Education – Light Blue
Educational Leadership & Management – Light Blue
Elementary Education – Light Blue
Education 5-12 – Light Blue
Pedagogy & Learning – Light Blue
Special Education – Light Blue

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Business Administration – Drab
Computer Science – Golden Yellow
Occupational/Vocational Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

Forensic Nursing – Apricot



IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Commencement Website: fitchburgstate.edu/commencement

Academic Affairs: 978-665-3168

Alumni: 978-665-3441

Bookstore: 978-665-4026

Disability Services: 978-665-4020

Registrar: 978-665-4196

School of Graduate, Online and Continuing Education: 978-665-3182

University Police: 978-665-3111



Dear Class of 2025,

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from Fitchburg State! When you walk off stage with your diploma certificate, you become a lifelong member of the Alumni Association.

As you take your next steps in life, embark on a career or continue your education, you will do so with the support of the 52,000 member Fitchburg State University Alumni Association. The association has a proud tradition of serving the university and its graduates. Alumni throughout the country form the lifeline of the university, and the involvement of graduates is vital to the growth and betterment of the institution.

At Fitchburg State you received far more than just a world-class education. Being an alumnus/a entitles you to a wide range of benefits and services both on and off campus. In addition, the Alumni Association provides each graduate with a gift from commencement—your photo with President Hodge as you cross the stage. Remember to visit fitchburgstate.edu/alumni to update your alumni information, view upcoming events, and more.

Again, congratulations. I wish you great success in all of your future endeavors and hope that you will return to your alma mater often.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tanya Hoos Crowley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Tanya Hoos Crowley, MS '21
Director of Alumni and Family Relations



160 Pearl Street ■ Fitchburg, MA 01420-2697

**IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT
INFORMATION INSIDE**



SCAN THIS CODE OR VISIT
fitchburgstate.edu/commencement