

COMMENCEMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

Is information about Commencement weekend available online?

Yes, the 2020 Commencement schedule can be found at bucknell.edu/commencement. You can also view the calendar of events using the Bucknell App, which you can download for free from the Apple App Store or Google Play.

Is there a hotline number to assist us?

Yes, the hotline is generally staffed from 9 a.m. – noon and 1 – 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 570-577-1192 for personal assistance.

Is on-campus housing available?

Yes, lodging is available in specific residence halls, providing families the convenience of staying on campus with no parking issues. A limited number of rooms with private bathrooms are available only for individuals with disabilities.

Are pets welcome on campus?

No, the University prohibits pets and other animals in University housing. Pets are also not permitted in administrative buildings or on Malesardi Quadrangle during the Candlelighting Ceremony or Commencement Ceremony.

Does the University provide wheelchairs?

No, the University does not loan or rent wheelchairs. You may call Dice Surgical and Home Health Care at 570-322-0656 to rent one. Wheelchairs can be picked up at the University Switchboard located on the second floor of the Elaine Langone Center.

Can wheelchairs be accommodated on Malesardi Quadrangle?

Yes, call the hotline number at 570-577-1192 to reserve seating in this area. This section is exclusively for wheelchair accommodations and one guest. (See how to access Malesardi Quad below.)

What is the best way for people with disabilities and those with physical limitations to access Malesardi Quadrangle for the Commencement Ceremony on Sunday?

As you enter campus, Public Safety officers will direct you to the drop-off area in front of Malesardi Quad on Dent Drive. Staff will be there to assist your guests in exiting the vehicle, providing information on restrooms and answering any other questions you might have. Malesardi Quad can be accessed via an elevator in either Marts or Coleman Halls. The driver of the vehicle can then park the car in one of the many parking lots offering shuttle options.

Is there an American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreter?

Yes, an American Sign Language Interpreter will be available by request. Please call the hotline number at 570-577-1192 to request this service.

Do I need to worry about sufficient guest seating on Malesardi Quadrangle?

No, there is ample seating available for all guests. If you are planning to come early to reserve seats, please note that at least one guest must remain to hold seats. Items left unattended will be removed. The Malesardi Quad will not open until 7 a.m.

Is there inside viewing when the Ceremony is outside?

Yes, inside viewing is available in Trout Auditorium in the Vaughan Literature Building (directly adjacent to the reserved wheelchair section). This nearby location provides a very large high definition video screen in a comfortable climate for guests. Additional live simulcast viewing locations will be available should the Ceremony be held indoors.

Is there a procedure in place for inclement weather?

Yes, unfortunately, weather in central Pennsylvania is unpredictable. A determination will be made by 7 a.m. on Sunday morning if the outdoor Ceremony must be delayed up to two hours or moved indoors to Gerhard Fieldhouse. An announcement will be sent through campus email notification. You may also call 570-577-2020 for updates. Signs will be posted at the entrances to Malesardi Quadrangle and the lobby of the Elaine Langone Center.

Will the graduating student receive tickets in the event of inclement weather?

Yes, the graduating student will receive five rain tickets with their cap and gown. These tickets will be required if the Ceremony is held indoors in Gerhard Fieldhouse. Tickets are not required on Malesardi Quadrangle, with the exception of specific reserved seating. Other guests may view a live webcast of the Commencement Ceremony indoors at the Weis Center for the Performing Arts, Trout Auditorium in the Vaughan Literature Building and many other designated locations. For a complete list, see signage posted in the Elaine Langone Center or on the Commencement website at bucknell.edu/commencement.

Are there shuttles?

Yes, shuttles can be found circling the entire campus from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Sunday and will be available after the Ceremony and lunch. An accessible shuttle is also available. If you would like to request an accessible shuttle pick-up, please contact the University Switchboard on Commencement day at 570.577.2000, 15 minutes before your requested time.

What should I wear?

The Ceremony takes place on Malesardi Quadrangle with seating in the grassy area. Sensible shoes should be worn and dressing in layers is appropriate as the weather can range from chilly in the morning to extreme heat midday.

Are there places to get beverages and/or snacks?

Yes, the Bison Snack Bar is open on the ground floor of the Elaine Langone Center from 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. Limited drinks and snacks are also available for purchase under a tent on the east side of Bertrand Library. Complimentary water and coffee can be found in front of the Library.

Are there sufficient restrooms?

Yes, restrooms are available on all floors of Bertrand Library, Coleman Hall, the Vaughan Literature Building and the Elaine Langone Center. Portable restroom facilities will be available on the east and west sides of the Library. All facilities are accessible, with the exception of the portable restrooms.

Is there an area to take photos of graduates as they receive their diploma?

Yes, there is an area on the west side of Malesardi Quadrangle for guests to take photos as their graduate receives their diploma. Please note a photography team from Island Photography will be at the Ceremony to take a candid photograph of each graduate at the special moment of recognition as well as a portrait style photo as they exit the platform. Feel free to stay seated. Information will be sent out about how to purchase these photos directly from Island Photography. You may also visit islandphoto.com and scroll down to select Graduation Day Photos Pre-Registration.

Is there a live webcast for family members who are unable to attend?

Yes, for information and a link to the live webcast, visit bucknell.edu/CommencementLive.