

HAMPTON UNIVERSITY



2026 Commencement Communiqué

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Greetings – University Registrar

Dear Graduates and Prospective Graduates:

It is with great pleasure that we offer congratulations to those of you who have completed or will successfully complete requirements for your degree. This is a very significant achievement for you, one that deserves our highest commendation. We are proud of the commitment and sustained effort you have made in achieving this goal. Your Hampton University family extends its heartfelt congratulations for all that you have achieved during your attendance at “Our Home by the Sea.”

This communiqué is provided for you to ensure that your graduation activities will be both enjoyable and “stress-free.” Please read and follow what is outlined in this communiqué. We hope that the Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 8, 2026, will be a joyful and memorable experience for you and your family.

If you have questions regarding the material enclosed, please call the telephone numbers provided throughout this publication. Again, congratulations to you and your families.

Sincerely,



Regina Cotter
University Registrar



Greetings Member of the Class of 2026:

The Hampton University Office of Alumni Affairs & Family Engagement and the National Hampton Alumni Association, Inc. (NHAA, Inc.) congratulates you during this season of commencement! As you approach graduation, then start your new career and the next phase of your life, we want to encourage you and your fellow classmates to connect with your new alumni family, and become an active member of the NHAA Inc.

We look forward to welcoming you into our beloved Alumni Family, here at your *Home by the Sea*, where you will be able to network with over 30,000 alumni worldwide. Before you set sail from our picturesque campus, stop by the Alumni House and provide us with your contact information. We will also provide you with information about the NHAA, Inc., including chapter locations and programs that are available online at, <https://www.nhaainc.org/>, so you can network with Hamptonians in your new city.

Connect with us on social media. When you return to Hampton for homecoming, reunions, and other occasions, be sure to stop by the Office of Alumni Affairs & Family Engagement to fellowship and to provide updates such as a new address, an additional degree or new job. This will help us maintain accurate records so you can receive the *Alumni Magazine*, invitations, reunion, and special mailings from your alma mater and you also might see yourself in an upcoming newsletter or publication. You can also contact us about your great career accomplishments post-graduation. You can always reach our office at 1-888-HU FORCE, send us an email at alumni@hamptonu.edu, or visit us online at <http://oaa.hamptonu.edu/>.

On behalf of the Office of the Alumni Affairs and Family Engagement and the National Hampton Alumni Association, Inc., we again say, congratulations! Always remember the *Education for Life* that Hampton has provided to you and the many doors and opportunities ahead that will open for you. And, forever let your *life do the singing!* These opportunities will be boundless because your potential is limitless.

In the Hampton Spirit,

Matthew A. White '07
Assistant Vice President of
Alumni Relations & Family
Engagement



IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

January 30	Herff-Jones accepting online orders for academic regalia https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/hamptonu/
March 15	May 2026 Graduation Application Deadline
April 10	Deadline to Order Parent Certificates and Senior Banquet Tickets
April 15	Deadline for All Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized Student Loan Exit Counseling for May 2026, Candidates for Graduation. All Exit Loan counseling is conducted online. You can complete this process through April 15 at https://studentaid.gov
April 24	End of Classes
April 25	Reading Day
April 27 – May 1	Final Examinations for Candidates for Graduation
April 30	Deadline for All Account Balances and Student Fees to Be Paid
May 4	Rehearsal in Ogden Hall (10am – 12pm) – bring your cap and hood
May 4-7	Notification of Approved Graduates (August & December 2025 & May 2026) and Provisional Candidates (August 2026)
May 4-7	* Distribution of Commencement Admission Tickets
May 4-7	*Distribution of Senior Banquet Tickets and Parent Certificates
May 5-7	*Distribution of Academic/Financial Clearance Cards
May 7	Commencement Rehearsal at the Hampton Coliseum (9:00am – 2:00pm) - bring your cap and hood
May 7	Senior Banquet at 6:00pm at the Convention Center
May 8	Ceremony begins at 10:00 am. You must have a Financial Clearance Card.

Your valid student ID must be presented

APPROVED LIST OF AUGUST AND DECEMBER 2025 GRADUATES AND MAY 2026 CANDIDATES FOR COMMENCEMENT

In order for a student's name to appear on the approved list for participation in commencement exercises, the student must (1) **be financially cleared by the Business Office**, (2) **be academically cleared by the Registrar**, and (3) **have completed an exit interview with the Financial Aid Office if the student has been a loan recipient**. The Office of the Registrar will begin posting the approved list of students eligible to participate in the commencement exercise and those eligible to receive honor cords on Hampton U Experience after 5pm on May 4 - 7, 2026.

Applicants who have met all requirements for a particular degree will receive the degree indicated.

ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMAS

(August and December 2025 and May 2026 Graduates only)

Immediately following the University Commencement exercise, students will return to the lineup area to obtain their diploma.

All graduates will be issued a total of **9** tickets for the Hampton Coliseum.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR AUGUST 2026 PROVISIONAL CANDIDATES

A provisional student (6 credits or less remaining) will have his or her name called but will not receive the diploma until **all** degree requirements have been met.

In order to participate in the en masse Commencement Ceremony as a provisional candidate on Friday, May 8, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., all August 2026 provisional applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- ◆ A graduation application must already be on file for August 2026.
- ◆ All August 2026 candidates must pre-register for Summer 2026.
- ◆ The student must be currently enrolled for the Spring 2026 semester.
- ◆ The student must have completed all required coursework and **require only six (6) hours or fewer** to complete degree requirements after the Spring 2026 semester.
- ◆ All students must have a cumulative GPA of 2.000 or higher after the Spring 2026 grading period.
- ◆ Students must have all financial obligations paid by April 30, 2026.
- ◆ All students who have been loan recipients must complete an exit interview with the Financial Aid Office and Office of Collections. [See page 10.]

The Office of the Registrar will begin notifying students eligible to participate in the en masse Commencement Ceremony as provisional participants after 5:00 p.m. according to the following schedule:

August Provisional 2026 Candidates: May 5 - 7, 2026

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

(All Participants)

ARRIVAL TIME: On Friday, May 8th, 2026 transportation for seniors will leave the Student Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to transport graduates to the Coliseum. All graduates **must be assembled by 9:00 a.m.** in the designated area inside the Hampton Coliseum and must have their Financial Clearance Card with them in order to march. Seniors should bring their caps and hoods to the rehearsal. **Duplicate Financial Clearance Cards will not be issued.**

ORDER OF PROCESSION: (A University marshal will precede each group.)

- (1) Graduates
- (2) Faculty and Staff
- (3) Administration
- (4) Platform Party

SEATING: This year the en masse ceremony will be held in the Hampton Coliseum. Seating is limited to guests holding admission tickets for that building only. Guests are not allowed to sit on the floor level, with the exception of those requiring handicapped assistance or modifications. The ushers will direct these guests, along with ONE attendant, to designated seats. **Family and friends are prohibited from holding seats or sectioning off blocks of seats.**

PICTURES: Photos may not be taken in front of the commencement stage and picture taking is restricted to the Hampton University photographer, the media, and employee(s) of the professional photographer contracted by the University.

All students are expected to demonstrate appropriate behavior consistent with Hampton University's Code of Conduct. No talking is permitted after the procession starts. For your safety, **cellular phones are not permitted during the processional.**

PARKING FACILITIES: Parking for our guests will be available at the Coliseum. Graduates, faculty and staff are strongly encouraged to take the convenient and comfortable transportation provided by the university.

Commencement at Hampton University begins on time, therefore, transportation for all graduates is being sponsored by the university.

To avoid the traffic congestion, seniors are strongly advised to take the transportation provided by the university to the Coliseum and back to the Student Center.

Policy Regarding Honors Cords Designations

Undergraduate Academic Regalia

Academic regalia worn by graduating seniors during the University-wide commencement exercise may be complemented by designations of honors representing only University Honors (Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude, Cum Laude, and Honors) and the Honors College. The color designations will be as follows:

Summa Cum Laude-	Gold
Magna Cum Laude-	Blue
Cum Laude-	White
Honors-	Green
Honors College-	Orange

Designations for other honors and honors organizations may be worn during the academic school ceremony at which diplomas are issued. Graduates of the Honors College may wear an approved Honors Medallion at the academic school ceremony.

The Administrative Council must approve all designations.

INSTRUCTIONS (Rehearsal and Day of Commencement)

(All Participants)

1. On Thursday, May 7th, 2026 transportation for seniors will leave the Student Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. to transport graduates to the Coliseum. All graduates must be assembled by 9:00 a.m. in the designated area inside the Hampton Coliseum and must have their Financial Clearance Card with them in order to march. Participants will assemble by departments in sections designated in the letter of instructions to be published. Deans and department chairs will provide information as necessary. Rehearsal will last until 2:00 p.m. Students are not to leave before rehearsal has ended. Undergraduate students who are unable to participate in rehearsal, but plan to participate in the ceremony should report to the school dean immediately upon arrival at Hampton Coliseum on Friday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m. in order to be placed correctly in the line to march.
 2. The Business Office will issue an Academic/Financial Clearance Card to candidates participating in the commencement exercises (see page 11 for distribution). A valid ID card is needed to obtain the Clearance Card. This Financial Clearance Card must be presented upon entering the site for the Commencement Ceremony. This card will serve two purposes: (1) to admit students to the Commencement Ceremony and (2) to call students' names after the Conferring of the Degrees. DUPLICATE FINANCIAL CLEARANCE CARDS WILL NOT BE ISSUED.
 3. **All** candidates are required to wear appropriate academic regalia.
 4. Students in academic regalia must wear auxiliary clothing that harmonizes with the black gown. Women: black dresses of appropriate length, Solid black shoes, skin tone or dark stockings, no pants or jeans; Men: white collared shirts with ties, black shoes, black dress slacks, and no jeans. Students that self-identify as Trans or Non-Binary: please aim for your polished, professional look that is true to who you are. Attire may include the following: black suits with shirt or blouse, long black trousers with shirt or blouse, black dress, skirt with shirt or blouse, and neckties. Anyone failing to meet these guidelines (carrying flowers or wearing sorority or fraternity Kente cloth stoles, attachments, corsages, ribbons, scarves, etc. with his or her academic attire) will be escorted from the procession. Academic regalia should be worn with limited jewelry. Large earrings, bangles, chains, pins and other pieces are inappropriate and will not be allowed.
 5. Caps are worn with tips in a horizontal position (not tilted) with tassels on the right side of the cap. Hoods are carried on the right arm with the border touching the fingers.
 6. Women should keep their caps on throughout the ceremony. Men should remove their caps during the invocation, replace them following the invocation, remove them again for the benediction, and replace them for the remainder of the ceremony.
 7. Specific instructions for the conferring of degrees will be announced and practiced during rehearsal.
 8. **Diplomas that are not issued will be mailed to the student's permanent address on record in the Registrar's Office. The Office of the Registrar must be informed of any address change.**
 9. All participants should report to the Student Center parking lot by 8 a.m. on May 8th to take the university transportation to the Hampton Coliseum. Once at the Coliseum follow the directions of the school, Deans and Marshals to line up.
- * If you choose not to ride the transportation provided by the university and you arrive after the procession starts you may not be able to get in the line for the processional*

COMMENCEMENT FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS (All Participants)

All account balances and student fees must be paid by April 30, 2026. Payments can be made by money order, cashier's check, MasterCard, Visa, Discover, Wire Transfer, or American Express. All transactions should be made payable to Hampton University and mailed to the Office of the Treasurer, Hampton University, Hampton, VA 23668. **The University does not accept personal checks.** **Students with outstanding balances will not be able to participate in the Commencement Ceremony or receive their official transcript or diploma.**

FEES

Graduation Fee (all levels): \$50.00

Academic Regalia:

Bachelor's Regalia*	\$91.00
Master's Regalia Unit*	\$104.00
Doctorate Regalia Unit w/ Tam*	\$130.00

If you have additional questions, please contact the Campus Bookstore at (757) 727-5446.

Students must present a valid student I.D. to pick up their Regalia.

Binding Costs for Graduate Candidates - Main Campus:

Main Campus Master's Thesis Binding	\$100.00 (\$50 each) (2 copies minimum)(all main campus master's programs except for Chemistry) 3 copies minimum for Chemistry students: \$162.00 total (\$50.00 each for first two and \$62.00 for the third)
Main Campus Doctoral Dissertation Binding	\$100.00 (\$50.00 each) (2 copies minimum)

Official Transcripts: \$10.00 each
(order online at www.getmytranscript.com)

EXIT COUNSELING REQUIREMENTS

(These two requirements must be met as they pertain to you.)

- ◆ **Mandatory Stafford Loan** (Direct Subsidized and Unsubsidized) **Exit Counseling may be conducted ONLINE.**
- ◆ **April 15th is the deadline for all candidates for graduation to complete exit counseling for financial clearance**

<https://studentaid.gov>

- **Manage My Direct Loans**
- **Complete Counseling**

Online Exit Loan Counseling sessions usually take 20 minutes to complete. Be sure to print or save the confirmation page at the end of your session for your records. Please be aware that it takes **24-48 hours for Exit Counseling holds to be removed** once you have successfully completed your session.

No student will be permitted to participate in the Commencement Ceremony if exit loan counseling has not been completed. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, the Office of Collections, and the Office of the Registrar must clear students before the Business Office will release a Financial Clearance Card.

TICKET DISTRIBUTION SCHEDULES

**ACADEMIC/FINANCIAL CLEARANCE CARDS/ADMISSIONS
TICKETS**

May 5 (Tuesday)	McGrew Towers	9:00am – 4:00 pm
May 6 (Wednesday)	McGrew Towers	9:00am – 4:00 pm
May 7 (Thursday)	McGrew Towers	After rehearsal– 5:00 pm

2026 candidates must present a valid HU ID card and 2025 graduates must present a valid state ID or driver’s license. Duplicate financial clearance cards will not be issued. Financial clearance cards must be presented upon entering the site for the commencement ceremony.

Tickets are required for all guests. Graduates are eligible to receive up to 9 tickets.

**UNDERGRADUATE BANQUET TICKETS & PARENT
CERTIFICATES**

May 4 (Monday)
McGrew Towers
after rehearsal – 4:00 pm

May 6 (Wednesday)
McGrew Towers
9:00 am – 4:00 pm

May 5 (Tuesday)
McGrew Towers
9:00am-4:00pm

May 7 (Thursday)
McGrew Towers
after rehearsal- 5:00pm

Please complete the Parent Certificate Form and the Senior Banquet Reservation Form and return via email to sheila.taylor@hamptonu.edu or to the Office of Special Projects, McGrew Towers Conference Center, before April 10, 2026. If there are any questions, please call (757) 727-5681.

August and December 2025 Graduates & May 2026 Undergraduate Candidates

The Graduation fees include the cost of one (1) certificate per student. This certificate may be addressed using the format of “Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Green,” “Mrs. Mary Green,” or any other names indicated.

- ❖ Additional certificates may be ordered by completing more than one form.
- ❖ There is a \$5.00 fee for more than one (1) certificate.
- ❖ Payment is accepted via money order, cashier’s check (made payable to Hampton University), or credit card.
- ❖ We do not accept personal checks or cash.
- ❖ Parent Certificates will be distributed with the Admission and Senior Banquet Tickets.
- ❖ If there are any questions, please call the Office of Special Projects at McGrew Conference Center (757)727-5681.
- ❖ Please return by April 10, 2026: **Email to: sheila.taylor@hamptonu.edu**

Office of Special Projects McGrew
Conference Center

**Hampton University
Takes Pleasure in Presenting This Certificate
Of Appreciation to**

Please Print Parent(s)/Presentee(s) Name

As

**Please Print Your First Name, Middle
Initial, & Last Name**

**Completes Degree Requirements at Hampton University Your
Commitment and Sacrifice in Making This Day Possible**

Merits Our Highest Commendation.

Presented at Hampton, Virginia, this 8th Day of May 2026

School: _____ Major: _____ Today’s Date: _____

Student ID: _____ Student’s Phone Number: _____

Home Address of Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Senior Banquet Order Form (All Participants)

Banquet Date: May 7, 2026, at 6:00p.m.

Space is limited. Requests are processed in order of receipt. Only seniors and their parent(s) or guardian(s) may attend. Each senior will be issued three (3) banquet tickets: one for the graduate and two for guests. If no one will be attending the dinner with you, please request only one ticket. If there are any questions, please call the Office of Special Projects at McGrew Conference Center (757)727-5681.

PRINT NAME CLEARLY

PRINT LOCAL ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

SIGNATURE

I will need _____ ticket(s).
(The maximum number of tickets to be issued is three (3), one for you, and two for guests.)

Please complete and return by **April 10, 2026**

Email: sheila.taylor@hamptonu.edu

Office of Special Projects
McGrew Conference Center

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR UNDERGRADUATE CANDIDATES

Note: The appearance of a name on any list in the Commencement program must not be considered as conclusive evidence of graduation. Persons who have met all requirements for a particular degree and whose name appears on the list in the program will receive the degree indicated.

STUDENTS MUST FULLY MEET ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AS INDICATED IN DEGREE WORKS.

Degree Works serves two purposes:

- (1) To indicate to the student the requirements which have been completed and
- (2) To show remaining requirements in the degree curriculum.

Bachelor's degree applicants and department chairpersons will review Degree Works to confirm remaining degree requirements. The student should review Degree Works with his or her advisor and have the departmental chairperson notify the Office of the Registrar, in writing, of any discrepancies.

The **student must ensure** that all work is completed, (i.e. waivers/substitutions, change of grades, and transfer credits, etc.) and that official documentation reaches the Office of the Registrar no later than the last day of classes for graduating seniors. **It is the student's responsibility to check with the major advisor and ensure that the deadlines are met.**

CRT REGISTRATION

All students who have an updated application on file for graduation must be enrolled the semester they anticipate graduation. The CRT 000-01 registration is a zero-credit course used to keep a graduating candidate's academic record active at Hampton University. The cost of this registration is \$150.00.

This course is required for all candidates who must complete any coursework that is not inclusive of normal matriculation at Hampton University or candidates who have received permission to complete their final courses at another institution.

CRT registration is required if an application to Take Courses at Another Institution is on file and it must be completed prior to the student taking the course away.

The deadline for the CRT registration is February 27, 2026.

WHEELCHAIRS

The University does not provide wheelchairs. Anyone desiring for the use of a wheelchair may contact one of the local pharmacies.

SENIOR SURVEY

All graduating seniors are asked to complete the Senior Survey. If you have questions, please contact Mrs. Bessie Willis of the Career Counseling and Planning Center at 757-727-5331. Surveys will be administered in a classroom setting.