

**HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE COLLEGE**

2026

Commencement Communiqué



Graduate College

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Greetings from the University Registrar

Dear Main Campus Master's and Doctoral Candidates:

It is with great pleasure that we offer congratulations to those of you who have completed or will successfully complete the 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 Main Campus Master's and Doctoral Candidates:

The Hampton University Office of Alumni Affairs & Family Engagement and the National Hampton Alumni Association, Inc. (NHAA, Inc.) congratulate you during this season of commencement! As you approach graduation and begin 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, 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 a 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. 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

November 1	Spring 2026 Graduation Application Deadline
January 30	Herff-Jones accepting online orders for academic regalia: https://colleges.herffjones.com/college/hamptonu/
March 1	Summer 2026 Graduation Application Deadline
April 15	Deadline for Student Loan Exit Counseling for May 2026 Candidates for Graduation. Note: All exit loan counseling is conducted online. Graduate students with loans must 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 4-7	Notification of Approved Graduates (August & December 2025 & May 2026) and Provisional Candidates (August 2026)
May 4-7	Distribution of Commencement Admission Tickets
May 5-7	Distribution of Academic/Financial Clearance Cards
May 6	Graduate College Reception, Student Lounge, Student Center (10am-12pm)
May 7	Commencement Rehearsal at the Hampton Coliseum (9:00am – 2:00pm) - bring your cap and hood
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 Student Business Services**, (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 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 main campus master's and doctoral candidates will be issued a total of **9** tickets for the Hampton Coliseum.

COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

(All Participants)

ARRIVAL TIME: On Friday, May 8th, 2026 transportation for candidates 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. Candidates 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, candidates are strongly advised to take the transportation provided by the university to the Coliseum and back to the Student Center.

INSTRUCTIONS (Rehearsal and Day of Commencement)

(All Participants)

1. On Thursday, May 7th, 2026 transportation for candidates 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.)

- ◆ All main campus graduate students who have loans must complete Exit Counseling by **April 15, 2026** to be financially cleared to graduate.
- ◆ Exit Counseling may be conducted online at <https://studentaid.gov>.
- ◆ 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.

Note: 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 Student Business Services 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.

August and December 2025 Graduates & May 2026 Candidates: Family Certificates

Graduation fees include the cost of one (1) family 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. To request your certificate, complete the Graduate College Family Certificate Form found on the Commencement Site: <https://home.hamptonu.edu/commencement/>.

- ❖ Additional certificates may be ordered by completing more than one Family Certificate 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.
- ❖ If there are any questions, please call the Office of Special Projects at McGrew Conference Center (757)727-5681.
- ❖ Please return completed forms by April 10, 2026. Email to: sheila.taylor@hamptonu.edu, Office of Special Projects, McGrew Conference Center.

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.

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.

GRADUATION EXIT SURVEY

All graduating main campus master's and doctoral candidates are asked to take the Graduation Exit Survey. If you have questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Bessie Willis of the Career Counseling and Planning Center at 757-727-5331.