

Photographs

University of Houston - Downtown has contracted a professional photographer to take photographs as you are recognized on stage. Flash Photography's (professional photographer) website is www.flashphotography.com. Family and guests are allowed to take photographs from their seats; however, no one is permitted to block the aisles or enter the auditorium floor to take photographs.

Commencement Attire

The official commencement attire is business casual. Decorated, bedazzled, and/or "costumed" caps are permitted. Decorations must be flat and cannot exceed 1" in height and thickness. Caps and gowns cannot be worn at security check-in and will need to be carried in. You may put on your regalia once inside the Arena.

Special Assistance

Students planning to attend Commencement who need accommodations should contact the Accessible Education Center at disabilityservices@uhd.edu. Please use the subject line, "Accommodations for Commencement". You may also call 713-221-5078 to receive more information. All Commencement guests who need accommodations should contact an NRG representative on the day of the event. Accommodations through NRG are available on a first come, first served basis.

Parking & Facility Policies

Students and guests will park in the Blue Lot, accessible through gates 8 and 9; please note there is a \$22 parking fee. Outside food and drinks are prohibited inside NRG and facility concessions will not be available. Flowers, balloons, gifts, and foghorns will not be permitted inside of NRG. NRG Park follows a Clear Bag Policy – all bags brought in must be clear bags no larger than 12" by 6" by 12". NRG recommends a one-gallon size plastic Ziploc bag. Strollers will be allowed inside of NRG but will be required to stay on the concourse once inside.

Student & Guest Entrance

Students will enter NRG Arena through doors on the right while guests will enter through doors on the left. Upon entering NRG Arena students and guests will go through a security screening – bag checks and metal detectors. Graduation check-in for students starts at 12pm and 4:30pm, respectively. **Students that arrive after 12:45pm/5:15pm will not be able to participate in processional.** Guests will be directed to guest seating. Each graduating student is allotted 5 tickets and seating at NRG Arena will be General Admissions and available on a first-come, first-serve basis. The Commencement Ceremony will be streamed live on UHD's website for those that cannot attend in person.

Diplomas

Graduates will receive their diploma either through pick up or by mail after successful completion of degree certification. Degree certification typically takes between 6-8 weeks to complete after final grades are posted. Diplomas and/or certificates will be available for pickup January 20 – 31, 2025. Any diplomas not picked up by January 31 will be mailed out on February 3, 2025, to the address on your student record.

GRADUATION CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACKET



COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Monday, December 16th 1:00 PM and 5:30 PM

The University of Houston-Downtown is pleased to announce that we will host our 77th Commencement Ceremony on Monday, December 16 at NRG Arena (please see map on pg.3). There will be two ceremonies split by academic college, please find your college below to see your ceremony time. We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments!

First Ceremony 1:00 p.m. (Parking open at 11:00am and Check-in at 12:00pm)

Colleges Represented:

- Marilyn Davies College of Business
- College of Sciences and Technology

Second Ceremony 5:30 p.m. (Parking open at 3:30pm and Check-in at 4:30pm)

Colleges Represented:

- College of Humanities and Social Sciences
- College of Public Service

The Fall Commencement Ceremony is reserved for our Summer and Fall 2024 graduates.

Commencement Ceremony (Seating & Duration)

There are assigned seats for graduates during the ceremony. You will be alphabetically assembled and by college on the arena floor. Your seating number will be on your walk card. Walk cards will be made available for pickup at the Registrar's office prior to commencement day. It will be your responsibility to bring it with you to commencement. However, should you forget or lose your card or there is damage to your card, please visit the check-in area to request a new one. No edits, additions or any handwriting of any kind should be made to your walk card. Commencement usually lasts about three hours.

Commencement Regalia (Cap, Gown, & Cords)

Graduates participating in the commencement ceremony must wear a cap and gown. Commencement attire (cap/gown) can be purchased through Herff Jones and the UHD Bookstore. Please contact the UHD Campus Store at houstondowntowncampus@bkstr.com or at 713-221-8025 for questions.

Latin Honor cords may be picked up at the Grad Fair or from your College Advising Center. Cords will also be available on the day of commencement.



A Message from the President

Dear Candidates for Graduation,

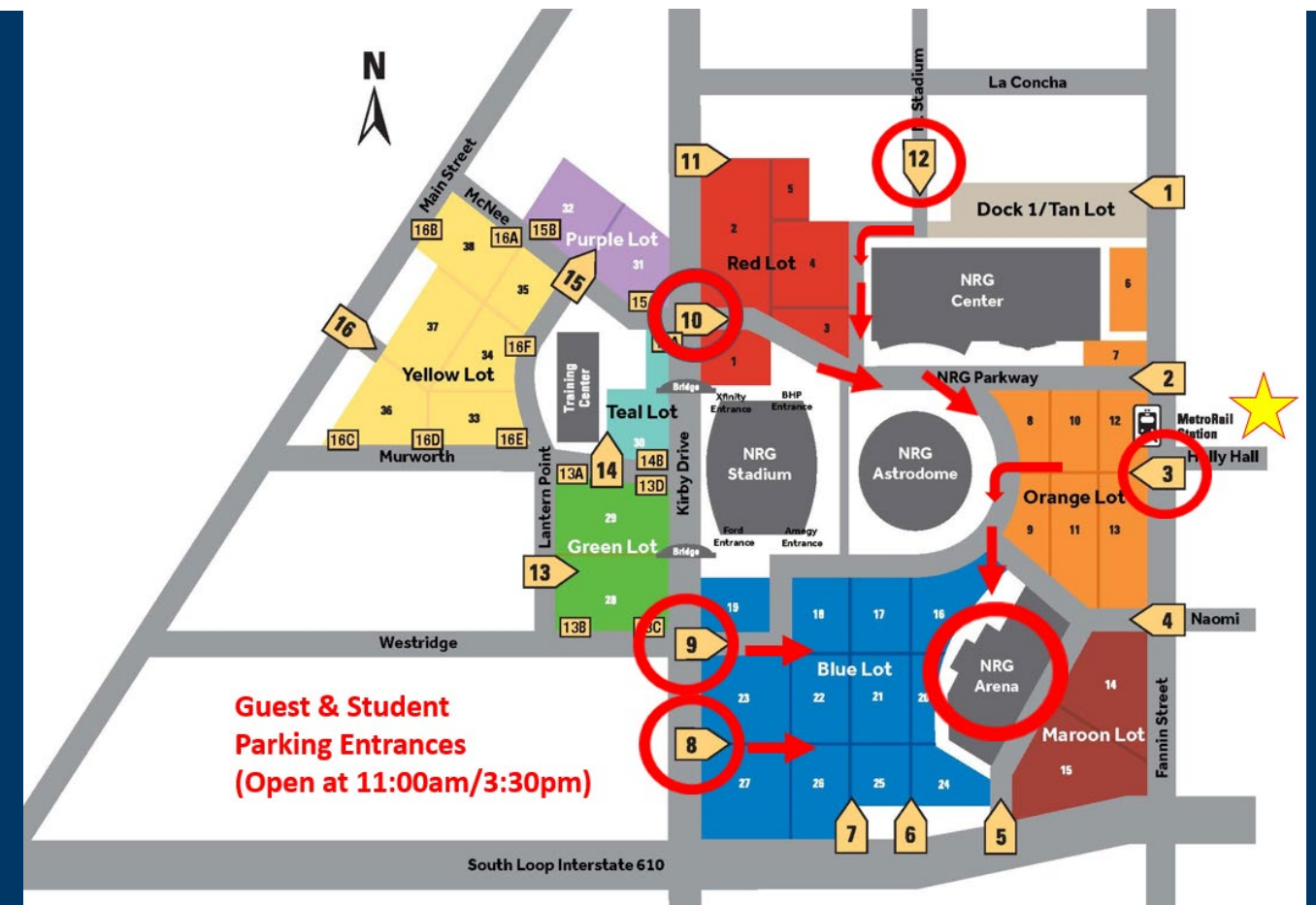
The Fall of 2024 marks a special milestone in your academic career. This semester, you are on schedule to complete your degree requirements and transition into the next season of your professional journey. I offer you my sincere congratulations for this accomplishment.

Our 77th Commencement Ceremony is scheduled for Monday, December 16, 2024 at the NRG Arena. There will be two ceremonies—1:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.—divided by academic colleges. For a detailed schedule and to stay abreast of all updates, including commencement speakers, guest tickets, parking, and more, please visit our [commencement website](#).

Again, congratulations on your achievement. I look forward to personally shaking your hand when you cross the stage on commencement day. Truly, I am proud of you, and I wholeheartedly believe you are well on your way to a brighter future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Loren J. Blanchard, Ph.D.
President



Important Events

Commencement Orientation

Monday, October 7

Presentation posted and available to all at

<https://www.uhd.edu/registrar/commencement/commencement-orientation>

Grad Fair

Thursday, November 21, 3pm, UHD Academic Building A300

Students can pick up their walk card and honors cords, decorate their cap, participate in mock interviews, and get assistance with preparing their resume.

Ring Ceremony

Saturday, December 7, 10am, Wellness and Success Center

Eligible students or graduates who have pre-ordered a class ring are invited to participate. For questions about the Ring Ceremony and registration, please email the Office of Alumni Relations at Alumni@uhd.edu.

Graduate Hooding Ceremony

Saturday, December 7, 3pm, Wellness and Success Center

This is an opportunity for all graduating Master's degree earners to be formally "hooded" by their program faculty with the graduate regalia before commencement.

Veterans Stole Ceremony

Friday, December 13, 6:30pm, Wilhelmina Cullen Roberston Auditorium A350

The Office of Veterans Services will be celebrating our Military Community's Fall 2024 graduates by presenting them a Veterans Stole.