

2025 FOSTER GRADUATION CELEBRATION FAQs

The **Foster Undergraduate Graduation Celebration** is an annual event to recognize all of our Foster graduates. This event is separate from the [UW Commencement](#), which is the weekend after.

Does the Foster School plan any events for graduating seniors?

Yes, the Foster School hosts the Foster Undergraduate Graduation Celebration on Sunday, June 8, 2025, from 1:00-3:00 pm in the Alaska Airlines Arena in Hec Edmundson Pavilion. Eligible graduates will receive an email to RSVP in early spring quarter. For more information about the celebration, check the [Foster graduation website](#).

Is this a Foster School 'Graduation/Commencement Ceremony'? What happens at the event?

No, it is not. The Foster Undergraduate Graduation Celebration is an event hosted by the Foster School to give individual recognition to each of our Foster graduates. The Dean of the Business School, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, a keynote speaker, and a student speaker will make remarks. There will be a processional, faculty will be present, and students will walk across the stage in cap and gown when their names are read. But it is not a "graduation ceremony," meaning there will be no diplomas handed out and degrees will not be conferred.

Can I attend both the UW Commencement and the Foster Undergraduate Graduation Celebration?

Yes, you are welcome to attend both events! These events are meant to be complementary and not mutually exclusive. Please note that you must register for both ceremonies separately.

When will degrees be conferred? When will I get my diploma?

Degrees for all UW graduates from the 2024-2025 school year will be conferred at the UW Commencement on Saturday, June 14, 2025. For more info about the UW Commencement, visit uw.edu/graduation. For info about diplomas, visit registrar.washington.edu/students/diplomas.

Do I have to wear a cap and gown to the Foster School's Celebration?

Yes, you should plan on wearing a cap and gown to the celebration. Find more info about ordering academic apparel on the UW Commencement website: uw.edu/graduation

How do I meet eligibility requirements for the 2025 Foster Graduation Celebration?

Students who earned a degree in Summer 2024, Autumn 2024, or Winter 2025, or have applied to graduate with a departmental advisor for Spring 2025 or Summer 2025 are eligible. Make sure you **apply to graduate by April 11** to guarantee your name is printed in the Foster program.

Note: Summer graduates may choose to participate either before or following their August graduation date. In order to be included in the printed program, the deadline to RSVP is May 15, 2025.

Students who do not wish to be listed in the program should contact kohashik@uw.edu.

I'm graduating in Autumn 2025. Can I walk in the Spring 2025 celebration?

Autumn 2025 graduates are not eligible to participate in the 2025 Foster Undergraduate Graduation Celebration. However, there may be exceptions to the rule, please reach out to your adviser or kohashik@uw.edu for more info.

How do I RSVP to walk in the Foster graduation celebration?

The RSVP form will open early in spring quarter. If you applied to graduate, a link will be sent to your email. The deadline to RSVP to walk in the ceremony is **Friday, May 30 at 11:59 pm**.

The RSVP form auto-filled my name and I want to change it. Is that possible?

The name on the RSVP form won't be used for the program or for the name reading at the Foster celebration; it is only used for attendance purposes. The name going in the Foster graduation program will be listed as the name in the UW registrar's system. For more information about changing your name with UW, go to registrar.washington.edu/students/personal-data/names

On the day of the event at the Foster celebration, you will be able to choose the name you want announced as you walk across the stage. Upon arrival, you will receive a card to write your name and the phonetic pronunciation, and that card will be handed to a name reader right before you go on stage.

How many guests can I invite? Do they need tickets?

There are no tickets required to watch the Foster graduation celebration. You can invite as many people as you wish. All seating is first-come first-served. If your guests want to be able to have more choice over where they sit, we recommend they come at 12:00 pm when the doors open to the arena for spectators, about an hour before the ceremony starts.

Do graduates need to arrive early?

Yes, graduates need to arrive no later than 12:30pm.

What items are graduating students allowed to bring in? What about guests?

Please note that gowns, bags, etc. will be searched by security at check-in. **Alaska Airlines Arena has a [clear bag policy](#)**. Metal detectors will be present and we will be following the same security inspection procedure as UW Commencement (uw.edu/graduation/security-information). In particular, these items are prohibited at the Foster celebration: filled water bottles, balloons, signs, artificial noisemakers, confetti poppers, backpacks, and alcohol.

There is stroller parking on the concourse (unmonitored; park at your own risk).

There is no coat check and staff can not hold onto personal items during the event.

Will concessions be available at the celebration?

Yes, concessions will be open. Water will be provided to graduates.

Will I be photographed walking across the stage? How can I purchase those photographs?

Yes, GradImages Photography will be on site to take your photo in multiple areas. These photos will be available for purchase a few weeks after the event. You will provide your contact info on the back of your name card so that GradImages can send you your photo proofs in the mail or electronically.

Can I get a physical invitation to the event?

Students can request a printed Foster invitation via our request form (link will be available on the [Foster graduation website](#) in spring quarter and invitations printed in May). You can also order personal graduation announcements from UW: uw.edu/graduation/virtual-graduation-fair

My family is coming from out of town. Where can they stay? What about directions to the UW?

For details about travel and lodging: uw.edu/graduation

I need help with my family's visa applications to attend the event. What should I do?

For help with inviting family members to the US, visit UW's International Student Services website or office for more information. The office can help you to write a letter of invitation and they recommend including your enrollment verification and details about the commencement ceremonies. Visit the links below for more info.

iss.uw.edu/invite-family

uw.edu/graduation/international-travel

Is there parking on campus?

PLEASE NOTE: These instructions may change depending on instructions from UW's 2025 Commencement Office. Last year's instructions are below for your reference – however, they may change closer to spring quarter.

2024 instructions: If you wish to park on campus, parking permits will be required for this event. Students should purchase these permits for themselves and their guests through the [Commencement Registration/Order Form](#), May 1st to May 19, 2024. Day of parking may be available for additional cost, but lot selection and availability are not guaranteed. Since lots often sell out, we highly recommend pre-purchasing permits on the form. This is the only way to guarantee you have parking in the lot you desire. Visit the UW Commencement website for more parking info:

<https://www.washington.edu/graduation/parking-2>

I, or one of my guests, need accommodations to attend the event. What should we do?

The University of Washington is committed to providing access and accommodation in its services, programs, and activities.

Graduating students: To make a request connected to a disability or health condition contact Kristen Kohashi (206-616-1226, kohashik@uw.edu) at least 2 weeks before the event. For further support, please contact the Disability Services Office at: Voice: 206-543-6450 (Voice), 206-543-6452 (TTY), 206-685-7264 (Fax), 253-642-0142 (VP), or e-mail at dso@uw.edu.

Guests: All entrances at Alaska Airlines Arena are ADA accessible. There will be ADA Seating available. There will be a large screen visible by all sections with closed captions, and assisted listening devices are available at no charge at a table between the two main guest entrances. Those needing disability and limited mobility parking may purchase a Graduation Event Parking Pass through the UW's [Registration/Order Form](#).

A family member will be seated in the ADA section. How many guests can accompany them?

ADA guests may be accompanied by 1 family member. If the rest of your group wants to sit nearby, we recommend they come at 12:00 when the doors open to the arena for spectators, so they will have more choice over where they sit. All seats are first-come, first-served.

Can my family and friends watch the celebration remotely?

Yes, we will be livestreaming the event via the [UW Foster School's Youtube Channel](#).