

2026 FOSTER UNDERGRADUATE GRADUATION CELEBRATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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 will host the Foster Undergraduate Graduation Celebration on **Sunday, June 7, 2026**, 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 an official "graduation ceremony" or "commencement," meaning there will be no diplomas or degrees conferred at the event. The Foster School hosts the Undergraduate Graduation Celebration as a special event to give individual recognition to each of our Foster graduates. There will be a processional and students will have their names read as they walk across the stage in cap and gown. Faculty will be present and the Dean of the Business School, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, a keynote speaker, and a student speaker will make remarks.

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 2025-2026 UW graduates will be conferred at the UW Commencement on Saturday, June 13, 2026. For more info about the UW Commencement, visit uw.edu/graduation. Diplomas are usually received after your graduation quarter. 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 must wear a cap and gown to the celebration. The Business School's tassel color is Royal Blue. You can order academic apparel and other souvenirs on UW Commencement's Registration/Order Form (available in early May): uw.edu/graduation/cap-gown

How do I meet eligibility requirements for the 2026 Foster Graduation Celebration?

Students who earned a degree in Summer 2025, Autumn 2025, or Winter 2026, or have applied to graduate with a departmental advisor for Spring 2026 or Summer 2026 are eligible. Make sure you **apply to graduate by April 17** – we can only put those who have officially applied to graduate with the UW registrar into the program. You apply to graduate with your assigned advisor in Foster.

- *Summer graduates may choose to participate in the celebration either before or after their summer graduation date.*
- *RSVP before **Friday, May 1** to be included in the printed program. Students who do not wish to be listed in the program should contact kohashik@uw.edu.*

I'm graduating in Autumn 2026. Can I walk in the Spring 2026 celebration?

Autumn 2026 graduates are not eligible to participate in the 2026 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 Foster Graduation Celebration is **Friday, May 29 at 11:59 pm**.

*(RSVP before **Friday, May 1** to be included in the printed program.)*

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 match 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 early: Doors open at 12:00 pm, about an hour before the ceremony starts.

Do graduates need to arrive early?

Yes, graduates need to arrive no later than 12:30pm or we cannot guarantee that you'll be able to walk.

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 only policy](#). Any non-compliant bags must be checked into the UW Bag Check for a \$15 fee.** 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 inside the building on the concourse level (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 one complementary printed Foster invitation card via our request form (link will be available on the [Foster graduation website](#) in spring quarter, with 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?

Campus parking for UW Commencement and for all graduation events will require a parking permit. Students should purchase these permits for themselves and their guests through the UW Commencement [Registration/Order Form](#) (available in early May). Day-of parking may be available for additional cost, but availability is not guaranteed. Since lots often sell out, we highly recommend pre-purchasing permits on the form as it is the only way to guarantee that you'll have parking. 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: There are ADA accessible entrances available for 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:

- Disability and limited mobility parking is available for purchase through UW's [Registration/Order Form](#).
- Guests with limited mobility may be dropped off at the [Graves Hall parking lot](#) next to the Alaska Airlines Arena for a shorter walk to their seats. There is no parking by Graves Hall.
- All entrances are ADA accessible, with ADA seating on the same level. ADA seating is first come, first served; while space is typically sufficient, we recommend arriving when doors open at 12:00 pm for the best seating options. One companion may accompany guests in the ADA seating area.
- A large screen with closed captions is visible from all sections. Assisted listening devices are available at no charge at the table between the two main guest entrances.

A family member will be seated in the ADA section. Who can sit with them?

ADA guests may be accompanied by 1 companion in the ADA seating area. If the rest of your group wants to sit nearby (outside the ADA section), 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](#).