Information for Graduate School Degree Candidates
Attending Commencement 2018

http://Commencement.yale.edu

GSAS Schedule of Events

Please review these important details below and attached about participating in GSAS Commencement Activities. Share this information and attached seating chart with family and friends as needed, download the App, and refer to websites as needed.

Download the “Yale Events” App for 2018 Commencement for smartphones

- Access schedules, maps, video streams, info & alerts
- To see the GSAS events schedule, Click Calendar, then Day
  - Click “Filter” on top right, Then Tracks, then click on GSAS; go back, click Apply to see GSAS only events for the day
- Please share the app with your family and guests
- Bookmark 2018 Yale Commencement website
- See GSAS Commencement page for all other info, including privileges after graduating (email, library, health care)

Safety and Security

Commencement weekend is a joyous occasion for our graduates, their families, and friends. To ensure that the weekend is safe for all involved, we strongly encourage guests to avoid bringing bags to all major ceremonies. Please note that bags or luggage 12” x 12” or larger in size will not be permitted at Sunday’s GSAS Convocation and Class Day, and Monday’s University Commencement and GSAS Diploma Ceremony at Woolsey Hall.

Bags larger than 12x12 will not be allowed, and all bags will be inspected at Old Campus. Security may ask a guest with a large bag to return it to their car or room. On Monday, when many of our guests have large bags with them after checking out of their rooms, guests will be able to check their bags at no cost in a truck outside of Phelps Gate prior to entering Old Campus. Unfortunately, large bags cannot be stored for other indoor ceremonies.

Heavy Traffic and Congestion Expected Monday - Plan ahead

With over 20,000 graduates and guests on campus, getting around may be challenging, especially in the downtown core around Old Campus. Road closures will be in effect on Monday, May 21, throughout the morning and early afternoon to accommodate the Commencement processions and related activities. College, Elm, High, and Chapel Streets surrounding Old Campus will be closed to traffic. Further street closures are possible, so we encourage you to allow plenty of extra time to travel around campus. See Commencement Directions and Parking and plan out your routes, and walk or take public transit where possible - see the Yale Events app for any last-minute news.

Old Campus will open at 8am, so we encourage you to have your guests go directly there to find seating (they should not come to HGS beforehand). Information stations are available at Old Campus. As a GSAS degree candidate, please come to HGS at 9:00am for procession assembly. As the ground may be uneven or even muddy from rain, we suggest comfortable flat shoes.
Commencement Protocol for Graduates - University Ceremony, Old Campus (morning)

Process from Cross Campus into Old Campus following your GS staff and student marshals. If you want to sit next to someone on Old Campus, walk behind of or in front of them in the Procession into Old Campus – Ushers will split GSAS students off the center aisle intro seating in right and left rows. Sit immediately and remove your cap. (See attached Old Campus Seating chart)

When you see Dean Cooley on stage, rise, cheer loudly, and put on your cap. She says the following: “I have the honor to present candidates for the degree of (name), xxx in number.” When all candidates for your degree are standing, the President confers degrees “…as designated by the dean”; student marshals accept symbolic diplomas.

For the Ph.D., and only the Ph.D., the Graduate Dean and President speak in Latin, a scholarly tradition revived in the 1920s by former GSAS Dean Wilbur Cross. Your Latin cue words are “Praeses Clarissime” - When you see Dean Cooley on stage and hear her say these words, stand and cheer wildly. All GSAS graduates can cheer - the awarding of diplomas is almost over!

As the marshals return to their places, remove your cap and sit down. After the benediction, replace your cap and stand until the President and members of the Yale Corporation have left the platform. Follow your GSAS student marshals out Phelps Gate and to Woolsey Hall, or for Jackson Institute graduates, to Horchow Hall, to receive your diploma. Tell your guests to meet you at your diploma ceremony. The GS Diploma Ceremony can be long, so you may wish to bring a snack (granola bar, water bottle), but consume it before entering Woolsey (no food or drinks permitted inside the Hall).

GSAS Diploma Ceremony at Woolsey Hall, ~12:15pm

Find Your Seat: Immediately following the All-University Ceremony in the morning, most Graduate School degree candidates* go to Woolsey Hall for the diploma ceremony. At Woolsey Hall, degree recipients sit in the middle section on the ground-floor, arranged alphabetically by department (A-S front to back), and then alphabetically by name. Each degree candidate has an individually labeled and numbered seat in Woolsey Hall.

*Horchow Hall: GSAS Candidates for master's degrees (MA, MAS) from the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs receive their diplomas in a ceremony held at Horchow Hall, 55 Hillhouse Avenue. A reception follows there.

**BA-MA/ MS degree candidates receive their diplomas in their residential colleges.

Please review the attached 2018 Woolsey seating list for your assigned seat: You have one seat for yourself only - guests and children are NOT permitted to sit with you in the degree candidate assigned seating. If you have questions now, email gscommencement@yale.edu or ask a GSAS staff usher on Monday at Woolsey Hall.

Receive your degree on stage: Faculty members representing departments, and the Graduate School deans sit on the stage. Degree candidates will rise when directed by ushers, go up the right hand aisle, and line up as directed to ascend the stage. For questions about accessibility accommodations to ascend or descend the stage at Woolsey, please email gscommencement@yale.edu in advance.

Photographs – A professional photographer (CPI- Commencement Photos, Inc) will take a picture of each graduate receiving the diploma at Woolsey Hall. You may contact them to purchase these photos or not as you wish. The entire GSAS ceremony is videotaped and livestreamed on Youtube. Family members and guests of graduates may take personal photos as long as they do not interfere with the flow of the ceremony or block the aisles. We don’t allow selfies on stage with the dean or faculty, as they would interfere with the flow and nature of the ceremony (it’s long enough already!).
**Children:** At Woolsey Hall, infants and children are expected to remain with non-graduating family members or other caregivers during the ceremony. **To ensure the safety of children, children are not allowed on stage with you when you accept your diploma.** There is no extra seating in the graduates’ section for children. Strollers are not permitted inside the hall and must be kept outside of Woolsey Hall in a designated stroller section to avoid blocking the aisles and fire exits. Baby changing tables are available in the first floor women’s and men’s restrooms at HGS, 320 York Street. As the Diploma Ceremony is quite long, family members may wish to take a break and entertain children in the plaza outside. Food and beverages also are not allowed in Woolsey Hall.

**Guest Seating:** At Woolsey Hall, guests sit on the ground floor at back and sides, and in upper balconies, with a few wheelchair spaces on the main floor. There is no assigned seating or tickets for guests. Graduate School ushers can answer questions and provide directions at Woolsey Hall.

**Restrooms** There are several restrooms at Woolsey Hall, but with over 2,000 attendees, lines can be quite long. We encourage you and your guests to use restrooms on Old Campus, WL Harkness Hall, HGS or in other campus building before the Woolsey Ceremony where possible. There is one accessible restroom at Woolsey Hall.

**Diploma mailed if unable to attend:** If at the last minute you are not able to attend the diploma ceremony due to an emergency, your diploma will be mailed to you starting in July by the diploma office of the University Secretary. Email gscommencement@yale.edu if needed. The Secretary's diploma website also provides information on diploma official translations and replacement diplomas.

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**Social Media and On-Line Resources - Follow #Yale2018 for a social Commencement**

**Graduate School Commencement online:** Information; afterwards GSAS Convocation & Diploma Ceremony Program PDFs & our GSAS informal photos will be posted here. Links to videos, Prof. Photography (Commencement Photos Inc)

**Schedule of GSAS Commencement Events:** [https://commencement.yale.edu/schedule-events-2018](https://commencement.yale.edu/schedule-events-2018) - (or filter by Track GSAS in Yale Events App)

**Yale University Commencement online:** [http://commencement.yale.edu](http://commencement.yale.edu)

**Live webstream - University Ceremony, GSAS Diploma Ceremony, Class Day**

**Graduate School Diploma Ceremony Livestream:** [Here](https://www.youtube.com/user/YaleUniversity)

During Commencement weekend, Class Day, Monday morning University Commencement exercises, and the Graduate School Diploma Ceremony at Woolsey Hall will be available for livestreaming from the Yale YouTube Channel, and archived thereafter. You and/or your guests may also view many of the ceremonies live from different indoor locations on campus - see the Commencement page for information.