



Watson Institute for
International & Public Affairs

BROWN UNIVERSITY

COMMENCEMENT BULLETIN

Class of
20 **25**

THINGS TO DO BEFORE COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND



Inform [Anita Nester](#) if you are a midyear graduate (December '25) walking this May!



Get your cap and gown

Cap and gowns may be purchased from the Brown Bookstore. Students are required to wear their cap and gown for Baccalaureate Service on Saturday, May 24th, and the Commencement ceremonies on Sunday May 25. Academic regalia is also required for midyear graduates (Dec. '25) who are participating in the festivities this May.



What you're doing after Brown

Please let us know what your post-Brown plans are- we are curious about your endeavors and wish you the best!

[Go to the form](#)

COMMENCEMENT SUNDAY AND THE IAPA CEREMONY

Sunday, May 25th, 2025

Pre-Commencement Procession Breakfast

9:00 - 10:00 am

Sharpe Refectory

Undergraduates Line Up for the Commencement Reception

No later than 9:30 am

Faunce Arch

The Commencement Procession

9:45 - 12:00 pm

Faunce Arch

College Ceremony

12:15 pm - 12:45 pm

First Baptist Church

University Ceremony

1:15 - 2:00 pm

The College Green

Watson Diploma Ceremony

Olney-Margolies Athletic Center (OMAC)

2:30 - 4:45 pm

Seniors and family members should make their way separately to the OMAC IMMEDIATELY following the University Ceremony on the Main Green. This is NOT the time to search for family members in the crowd; make sure they know how to make their way over to the OMAC! [Give them a copy of this map!](#)

Where to sit

Graduates

Graduates will be seated according to the order in which they will be called to the platform. All seats will be labeled with the student's name and ordered alphabetically. **Row 1 is reserved for individuals with accessibility needs; the next several rows will be blocked off for graduating seniors only!**

Midyear Completions (Dec '25)

Midyear graduates are seated alphabetically among current graduates. Those completing in Dec. 2025, who have informed Anita Nester that they will participate this May, will be handed an unofficial diploma cover when they cross the stage for the purposes of continuity and photos. **PLEASE return the diploma cover** to Anita Nester, or anyone wearing a faculty robe or a red usher/staff ribbon during the reception! There is a \$25 recovery charge for non-returned diploma covers. **IMPORTANT!: If you are completing in Dec. '25 and plan on participating you must let Anita know ASAP.**

Family

Make sure your family members know where the OMAC is located and are capable of getting themselves to the ceremony on their own. Family will sit in **the section behind the seniors** on a first come, first served basis. Family members will have plenty of space to move forward and take pictures of you crossing the stage. Students Walk across the stage from right to left (facing the stage), so the best picture-taking is from the left-hand aisle.

Accessibility Needs

If you require any special seating needs or disability services (i.e. wheelchair, sign language interpreter, etc) please contact Anita Nester **ASAP** (anita_nester@brown.edu).

No Tickets Needed

There are no tickets for the diploma ceremony or limits on the number of family members who can attend. The auditorium is large. We have plenty of space for your grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and aunt's sister-in-law's niece twice removed. Seating is **first come, first served.**

Students with Multiple Concentrations

If you are graduating with more than one concentration, it is imperative that you know which ceremony you should attend. The Registrar sent numerous messages requesting your diploma ceremony preference and has placed your diploma cover accordingly. If you did not answer the Registrar, your diploma cover will be at the ceremony of the concentration that you filed first (i.e., the first concentration listed on your transcript). If you are in doubt, please check with the Registrar to ensure that you, your diploma cover, and your family are in the same place!

Stay Nourished

Graduation day is a very long day, beginning with the procession line-up. We don't want you or your family to pass out from exhaustion! Graduating seniors should have a hearty breakfast, carry some snacks, and bring water. While there are stands for refreshments across campus, there is no scheduled time for lunch on this day. Families should also bring snacks. Make sure you and your family think about this issue in advance and come prepared.

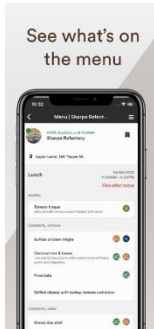
Brag on Social Media

Use #WatsonGrad2025 to comment on your preferred form of social media throughout the day! Tag @watsoninstitute in stories and posts for them to be shared by the institute. This is a big day, so let all your fans know how it is going!

Stay for the Reception

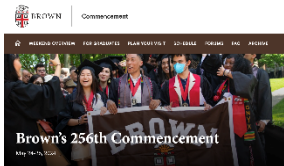
A reception is held in the rear of the auditorium following the diploma ceremony. This is a great time for picture taking and introducing your family to the faculty and staff! There will be light snacks such as sandwiches, salad, cheese, cookies, and lemonade for the graduates and their guests.

GENERAL COMMENCEMENT INFO



Get the App

For information at your fingertips, [download the BrownU Mobile App](#). Graduating students - please encourage your guests to download the app.



Visit the Commencement Website

[Get details on Commencement weekend](#), the procession through the Van Wickle Gates, the College Ceremony and the University Ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS!