



Dear Summer Graduate,

You indicated on your Summer 2026 graduation application that you will participate in the commencement ceremony on **August 8, 2026**. You may participate in the commencement ceremony even if you are still enrolled in 2nd 8-week online summer classes, but degrees will not be conferred until all requirements are met (see below for more information on conferral).

The commencement ceremony time is **Saturday, August 8th at 9:00am** in **Dunham Theater** in the Morris Cultural Arts Center and will include all colleges.

Graduates are expected to check in at the Morris Cultural Arts Center **one hour prior** to their commencement ceremony time.

PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY AND IN FULL. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FOLLOWING ALL GUIDELINES OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE.

[Tickets](#)

You may pick up commencement tickets at **Grad Fest** on **Thursday, July 30th, 4:00-5:30pm** at the **Hinton House/Alumni Office**. You must show a **photo ID** in order to pick up tickets. Each graduate may obtain up to 8 tickets. Due to theater capacity, ALL guests must have a ticket to attend, including children under 2 years. Your ticket will contain information about the planned ceremony time, and a QR code to pre-register with our external photographer who will take your photo as you walk the stage and accept your commemorative diploma tube at commencement. Please pre-register so that you can easily access your photo after the ceremony (more information will be sent by the photographer).

If you are unable to attend Grad Fest, you have two options for obtaining your tickets. You may send a proxy to pick up tickets on your behalf, but you **MUST** fill out this [PROXY FORM](#) informing us of the person's name and granting permission that they may pick up your tickets. Your proxy must provide their **photo ID** to obtain tickets. Alternatively, tickets may be obtained in the Office of Academic Records (Brown Administrative Complex, Room 152) during regular office hours from Friday, July 31st through Friday, August 7th. Regalia may be picked up from the HCU University Store.

If you are traveling from out of state and will not be in Houston prior to commencement, and you cannot arrange for a proxy to pick up your tickets, we can hold your tickets to be picked up at check-in on the morning of commencement, but you **MUST** provide prior written notification to grad@hc.edu letting us know of your plans and how many tickets (up to 8) that you will need.

If any tickets remain after regular pick-up, students may claim up to **2 additional tickets** on a first-come, first-served basis during regular office hours on Friday, August 7th in the Office of Academic Records (Brown Administrative Complex, Room 152).

For family, friends, and guests that are not able to attend, online streaming will be available for viewing the commencement ceremony at <https://hc.edu/live> on Channel 1.

Honor Cords

Undergraduate students who have completed a **minimum of 60 semester alpha-grade hours in residence at HCU** and have earned a **cumulative GPA of 3.50 or higher** may claim their honor cord at HCU's University Store during regular business hours beginning **Wednesday, August 5th**. The University Store will also have honor cords available on the day of commencement.

Approved honor cords from the following academic Honor Societies may also be worn during commencement:

- Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing)
- Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociology)
- Psi Chi (Education)
- Kappa Delta Pi (Education)
- Phi Alpha Theta (History)
- Delta Mu Delta (Business)
- Beta Beta Beta (Science/Math)
- Omicron Delta Kappa (Science/Math)
- Iota Sigma Pi (Science/Math)
- Alpha Epsilon Delta (Science/Math)
- Pi Sigma (Political Science)
- Theta Alpha Kappa (Christianity)
- Chi Alpha Sigma (Athlete)
- Alpha Mu Gamma (Spanish)
- Alpha Chi (National Honor Society)
- Honors College students may wear their Honors College medallions

All other cords, sashes, stoles, and medallions (including fraternity, sorority, athletic, and non-academic organizations) are NOT allowed to be worn during the commencement ceremony. You will be instructed to leave these items with your guests at the time of check-in. You are welcome to wear these items for personal pictures with your guests **AFTER** the ceremony has concluded.

Cap and Gown

Graduates receiving a **bachelor's or master's degree must arrive wearing their gown** (ironed and zipped up), hood, cap on their head, and tassel on the right front side of the cap. **Doctoral graduates should dress as outlined above except for the hood**, which should be carried separately.

Caps must not be decorated, and the elastic is worn at the back of the head. Bobby pins may be used to secure the cap. Graduates who received honor cords may wear them during the ceremony with the middle knot of the honor cord behind the neck and the honor cords on top of the gown. If you are unsure how to wear any of these items, HCU University Store staff will be available to assist after check-in. If you need to order regalia or are missing any needed items, please contact the HCU University Store at (281) 649-3258.

You may pick up your cap and gown at **Grad Fest on Thursday July 30th, 4:00-5:30pm** at the **Hinton House/Alumni Office**. If you are unable to attend Grad Fest, your cap and gown may be picked up from the HCU University Store during regular business hours beginning **Friday, July 31st**.

[Dress Code](#)

This is an important day, and each graduate's attire should reflect the occasion. White or light-color shirts, blouses, or dresses and dark slacks and shoes are appropriate; jeans are not appropriate. Heels are allowed. **Purses or other valuables must remain with your guests as these will not be allowed on the stage at Dunham Theater.** If you bring your phone with you, you **MUST** be able to put it in a pocket under your gown. **Phones are not allowed to be out at any point during the ceremony.** If you bring any personal or prohibited items and cannot leave them with a guest, you may leave them backstage at your own risk. HCU is not responsible for any personal items that are left unattended throughout the commencement ceremony.

[Parking & Drop Off Area](#)

Guests who need ADA accessible parking, with a disability parking placard, may park in Lot 5. Lot 5 is also available to drop off graduates and guests; vehicles will then be directed to park in adjacent parking lots. All other parking lots will be open for graduates and guests on a first-come, first-served basis. Please refer to the [HCU campus map](#) for parking locations.

[Special Accommodations](#)

Limited special accommodation seating for guests will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Guests in need of these seats must arrive at the Dunham Theater entrance **30 minutes** prior to the ceremony.

[Arrival and Check-In](#)

Graduates must arrive to check in at Dunham Theater by 8:00am in order to be seated. You will check in with an HCU staff member and be directed to your seat. **After checking in, you will not be allowed to leave Dunham Theater.** Please make sure any purses, tickets, etc., are given to family, friends, or guests before you check in.

Dunham Theater will be open for guest seating **at 8:00am.** Any guest without a commencement ticket will not be allowed entry.

[Announcing Names](#)

The name that will be announced during the ceremony is the diploma name you provided to our office in your graduation application. You can reference your application by going to your Campus Portal → Student Self-Service Dashboard → and selecting "View Graduation

Application” in the menu. If you want to make any changes to how your name is announced or printed in the program, please contact grad@hc.edu no later than **Friday, July 31st**.

To ensure your name is properly announced during the ceremony, please [Commencement Name Pronunciation Form](#). Please ensure that you enter your H# properly. This form must be submitted to our office no later than **Friday, July 31st**.

Degree Conferral

If you are currently enrolled in summer classes or lacking any other requirement for graduation, you **MUST** complete these for HCU to award your degree. Participation in commencement does not exempt you from these requirements. **All degrees will be conferred and noted officially on the transcript on Friday, August 28, 2026 by 4:00pm.** Should you need to request an official transcript, please visit: <https://hc.edu/academics/records/transcripts/>.

Diplomas

Diplomas will be available for pickup or mailing on a date to be determined (about 6-8 weeks from the date of conferral, depending on our vendor’s printing schedule). More information will be sent to your HCU email address when details are confirmed. We **strongly recommend picking up the diploma in person or by proxy** to avoid loss or damage due to shipping with USPS. The name that will appear on your diploma is the name you provided to our office in your graduation application. You can reference your application by going to your Campus Portal → Student Self-Service Dashboard → and selecting “View Graduation Application” in the menu. If you want to make any changes to how your name appears on your diploma, please contact grad@hc.edu no later than **Friday, July 31st**.

More information about spring commencement may be found on our website:
<https://hc.edu/academics/records/commencement/>.

The Alumni Office would like to connect with you. Please fill out their survey using the following link and bring your confirmation to Grad Fest to receive a special gift:
<https://forms.office.com/r/SBBbYkr78F>.

If you no longer plan to participate in commencement on August 8th, please let our office know by e-mailing grad@hc.edu so that we can update our records and plan our seating chart accordingly.

The HCU administration, faculty, and staff look forward to celebrating this significant achievement with our graduates and their families and friends. We are so proud of all our graduates for their hard work and dedication.

Dawgs Up!

Sincerely,
HCU Office of Academic Records

grad@hc.edu