

NC STATE UNIVERSITY
EST. MARCH 7, 1887



**COMMENCEMENT
CEREMONIES**
SPRING 2021

STUDENT AND GUEST **PROCEDURES**

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Carter-Finley Stadium

4600 Trinity Road
Raleigh, NC 27607

commencement.ncsu.edu

commencement@ncsu.edu
(919) 515-6278

TIMES

Parking lot open times:

Parking lots will open for ticketed students and guests **90 minutes** prior to the start of the ceremony (5:30 p.m. for the Friday ceremony, 7:30 a.m. for the Saturday ceremony).

Tailgating prior to the ceremony is **strictly prohibited**.

Stadium gate open times:

Gates will open for ticketed students **75 minutes prior** to the start of the ceremony (5:45 p.m. for the Friday ceremony, 7:45 a.m. for the Saturday ceremony).

Gates will open for ticketed guests **60 minutes prior** to the start of the ceremony (6:00 p.m. for the Friday ceremony, 8:00 a.m. for the Saturday ceremony).

Be in the stadium:

All graduating students and guests should plan to be in the stadium no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony (6:30 p.m. for the Friday ceremony, 8:30 a.m. for the Saturday ceremony). Please plan your travel and arrival accordingly.

PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION

Where to park:

Students driving themselves should arrive through Parking Gate B off Trinity Road and park in the North Stadium Lot. Guests arriving separately from their students can not park in this lot.

Guests should review their mobile tickets, where they will be assigned an entry Stadium Gate. If the designated entry Stadium Gate is 2-4, park on the West Side of the stadium through Parking Gate C off of Trinity Road. If the designated entry Stadium Gate is 8-9, it is recommended that you park on the East Side of the stadium through Parking Gate B.

Guests who requested accommodations should park in the Murphy Center Lot through Parking Gate B and arrive through Stadium Gate 6.

Stadium parking maps:

A Carter-Finley Stadium parking map is available from the [GoPack.com](https://www.gopack.com) website.

Rideshare drop off and pickup:

Students or guests arriving via rideshare services such as Uber or Lyft should enter through Parking Gate B.

ENTRY AND ARRIVAL

Which gate(s) to enter the stadium from:

Students should park in the North Stadium Lot and arrive through the service ramp on the North end. University staff and volunteers will be available to direct students where to proceed.

Guests will receive a specified entry Stadium Gate on their mobile ticket. This is to alleviate parking bottlenecks and crowding at entry gates.

Where to go once you enter the stadium:

Students should arrive through the service ramp on the North end of the stadium. University staff and volunteers will be available to direct students where to proceed.

Guests should have their tickets scanned at the listed Stadium Gate(s) when entering the stadium before collecting their seat assignments and programs. Ushers and university staff or volunteers will be available to assist with finding seats.

Have your mobile ticket out:

Students and guests will not be permitted to enter the stadium without a valid mobile ticket for the appropriate date.

Guests are required to have a ticket for entry; all tickets must be scanned upon arrival. Guests should arrive with their entire party to enter the stadium and will be seated in pods of four.

Security:

All students and guests will be subject to security screening upon entering the stadium.

Students are strongly encouraged to leave personal belongings outside of the stadium.

Bags/No bags:

It is strongly recommended that students leave personal belongings in your vehicles or with your guests.

Carter-Finley Stadium has a **Clear Bag Policy** that is in effect for commencement. If you bring a bag, it must adhere to the Clear Bag Policy, including size limits.

GUEST TICKETING AND SEATING

Guests are required to have a ticket for entry; all tickets must be scanned upon arrival.

Guests should arrive with their entire party for entering the stadium. You will receive your seat assignment upon arrival, and seat assignments will be in pods of no more than four.

Guests will be seated from the lower bowl to the upper bowl in order of arrival.

Accessible seating: See ACCESSIBILITY section on P. 4

STUDENT ATTIRE

Regalia:

All graduating students are expected to wear the appropriate NC State commencement regalia for the commencement ceremonies. Regalia is available for purchase from the [NC State Stores](#), in person at Talley Student Union or online.

Comfortable shoes recommended:

Students will be seated on the field at Carter-Finley Stadium, and as such should plan to wear appropriate footwear. We recommend that students wear flat-soled, comfortable shoes.

Weather appropriate:

The field at Carter-Finley Stadium is outdoors and uncovered, and all attendees and guests are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather. The commencement ceremonies will take place rain or shine, except in the event of severe inclement weather. Students and guests are permitted to bring umbrellas into the stadium for commencement.

CEREMONY PROCEDURES

There will not be a traditional procession of graduates during the ceremony; students will take their seats upon entry into the stadium. Student Marshals will be available to assist students entering the field.

There will be designated seating for graduating ROTC cadets as well as graduating doctoral and veterinary medicine students closest to the stage. ROTC, doctoral and veterinary medicine students should arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the start of the ceremony to guarantee a seat in the front section. Student Marshals will be available to assist all students with finding an appropriate seat.

Students will not walk across the stage or have their names individually called during the ceremonies. Students will be asked to stand and be recognized with the other graduates of their respective colleges when degrees are conferred by their college deans.

All students and guests in attendance will receive a souvenir printed program outlining the events of the ceremonies. Souvenir programs will include a link to view and download the complete digital commencement program which will include a listing of all graduating students' names and degrees.

DO'S AND DON'TS

Attendees and participants of the commencement ceremonies must follow the health and safety guidelines provided in [NC State's Protect the Pack Community Standards](#) and [Personal Safety Rule](#), and understand the practices and policies implemented by NC State to help reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

In order to maintain appropriate physical distancing and avoid crowding and bottlenecks, all students and guests should avoid crowding popular photo locations i.e. Wolf Statues

Face coverings are required. Masks have been donated by the NC State Nonwovens Institute and will be distributed to students upon arrival.

Students and guests should sit in the appropriately assigned seat in order to maintain proper physical distancing between individuals.

WEATHER AND EMERGENCIES

WolfAlerts:

Students and guests are encouraged to sign up for mobile and text alerts via the WolfAlert Emergency Communication System. In case of emergency, NC State will utilize the WolfAlert system to notify attendees of any changes to commencement operations.

To sign up for day-of commencement emergency notifications and alerts, text "WOLFPACK" to 67283.

Delays or cancellations:

In the event of a delay or cancellation, students will be notified via the WolfAlert Emergency Communication System. The ceremony could be delayed by up to one hour if weather conditions are not suitable for safe gathering. In the event of severe inclement weather, a ceremony may be cancelled.

Inclement weather:

The commencement ceremonies will take place rain or shine, except in the event of severe inclement weather prohibiting gathering safely outdoors.

ACCESSIBILITY

Closed Captioning:

Both ceremonies will feature the availability of live closed-captioning to mobile devices. To view live captioning on your mobile device during the ceremony, visit go.ncsu.edu/captions.

Accessible Student Parking:

Handicap accessible parking is available for students parking in the North Stadium Lot for individuals with the appropriate state-issued placards.

Accessible Guest Parking:

Guests whose students requested guest seating accommodations should have received instructions to park in the Murphy Center Lot.

Additional handicap accessible parking is available for guests parking in the East and West Stadium Lots for individuals with the appropriate state-issues placards.

Accessible Student Seating:

Students will enter the stadium through the North Lot and the North Side service ramp; no stairs are required. Students will be seated on the field, and seats will be available for students with accessible seating needs. Students with any questions regarding accessible seating should contact commencement@ncsu.edu.

Accessible Guest Seating:

Guests whose students requested guest seating accommodations should see an accessible seating designation on their mobile guest tickets. Upon arrival into the stadium, guests with accessible seating designations on their mobile tickets will be provided with the appropriate seating accommodation(s). If a guest requires accessible seating, all members of a party will be seated together.

Accessible and wheelchair seating is located on the concourse (main) level.

If you have any questions about accessible seating, please contact commencement@ncsu.edu.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The commencement ceremony will include the use of some loud noises, including pyrotechnic displays.

Guests are permitted to bring a sealed or empty water bottle into the stadium. No concession items (including beverages) will be sold during the ceremonies.