**School of Professional Studies Convocation and NU Commencement**

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# Convocation and Commencement

* **Are Commencement and Convocation the same event?**

No, Commencement is a University-wide ceremony for all students of Northwestern University and Convocation is a ceremony held by each individual school of Northwestern University.

# Must I attend both Convocation and Commencement?

Although you are encouraged to attend both ceremonies, it is not mandatory that you participate. Students can elect to attend either or both events.

# When is the Northwestern University Commencement Ceremony?

Commencement is **Friday, June 16, 2017** at **9:30 a.m.** at Ryan Field (1501 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60208). For additional information, please visit: <http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/ceremonies-and-events/commencement/index.html>

# When is Convocation for the School of Professional Studies?

Convocation for the School of Professional Studies is **Friday, June 16, 2017** at **2:00 p.m.** at the Symphony Center (220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604). For additional information, please visit: <http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/convocation.php>

* **Who is eligible to participate in Commencement and Convocation?**

Undergraduate and graduate students who complete their degree in the summer 2016, fall 2017, winter 2017 and spring 2017 quarters may participate.

* **Are students who complete their degree in summer 2017 eligible to participate in Commencement and Convocation?**

No, students who complete there degree in summer 2017 are not eligible to participate in 2017 Convocation.

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# Where can I find a list of SPS graduates?

During Convocation, guests will receive a program listing the names of graduates and the program that they completed.

# Will graduates sit with their families during Commencement and Convocation Ceremonies?

# No, SPS graduates will enter Commencement in a procession and sit in a designated section. During Convocation, students will enter the theatre by program area and will sit with their program group in no particular order.

**Questions about Diplomas**

* **Must I attend Convocation in order to receive my diploma?**

No, all diplomas will be mailed to the address that students provide on their Application for Degree or Program Completion Form. If the address supplied on your Application for Degree or Program Completion Form has changed, please email the Registrar with your updated address for the diploma mailing: [onlinereg@northwestern.edu](mailto:onlinereg@northwestern.edu)

**Accommodations at Convocation for the School of Professional Studies**

* **Is accessible seating available during the Convocation Ceremony?**

Yes, the entrance into the Symphony Center is wheelchair accessible. By prior arrangement, guests that are hearing impaired and guests who use their own wheelchairs will be seated in a designated area in the venue. Graduates whose guest(s) require wheelchair accommodations and need the assistance of a companion will use two of the student’s allotted tickets.

# Will there be an interpreter present during the Convocation Ceremony?

An interpreter will be present from CAIRS (Chicago Area Interpreter Referral Service) for the hearing impaired.

**Lodging and Transportation**

* **Is lodging available in Evanston for Commencement and Convocation?**

Yes, lodging is available at several hotels in Evanston. For additional information, please visit this website:[http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/staying-in-](http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/staying-in-evanston/index.html)  [evanston/index.html.](http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/staying-in-evanston/index.html)

If you or your guests wish to stay in downtown Chicago to be close to the School of Professional Studies Convocation Ceremony, please follow the link to a list of [hotels.](http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/pdfs/Chicago_Hotels_for_Convocation.pdf)

The attached list contains suggestions regarding where to stay in proximity of Northwestern University and School of Professional Studies events.

# How do I get to Ryan Field for Commencement?

Ryan Field is located at 1501 Central Street, Evanston, IL, 60208. Since traffic will be heavy and parking at Ryan Field is limited, we recommend taking public transportation. Ryan Field is an equally convenient distance from the CTA Purple Line or the [Union Pacific North](https://metrarail.com/maps-schedules/train-lines/UP-N). If you are planning to drive, [click here for driving directions and campus parking information.](http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/transportation/index.html)

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# Will there be transportation to Commencement on the Evanston campus?

Yes, the University will provide continuous complimentary shuttle bus service to Commencement from designated stops on the Evanston campus. Guests are urged to park in campus lots and use the shuttle bus service. For additional information, please visit.

http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/families-and-guests/general-info/index.html

* **How do I get to the Symphony Center for Convocation?**

The Symphony Center is located at [220 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60604](https://goo.gl/maps/atWg15xjWr72). We recommend taking public transportation. The Symphony Center is an equally convenient distance from many CTA “L” transit lines. Visit [CTA website](http://www.transitchicago.com/planatrip/) to plan your trip to the Symphony Center. If you choose to drive, please visit [http://cso.org/plan-your-experience](http://cso.org/plan-your-experience/) for a map and information on public parking.

# Will there be transportation to SPS Convocation?

No, transportation is not provided. Students and their guests are responsible for their own transportation to the Convocation Ceremony.

# Caps and Gowns

* **Must I wear a cap and gown to Commencement and Convocation?**

Yes, a cap and gown must be worn to the Commencement and Convocation Ceremonies. Caps and gowns **must not be altered or adorned**. The last day to order your cap & gown online is Friday, May 19, 2017. Orders placed after this date may incur additional fees. Please be sure to order your caps and gowns through Herff Jones: <http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/cap-gown-rental/index.html>

# How are caps and gowns distributed?

New this year, SPS graduates may choose to have their cap and gown shipped domestically to them (international shipping is not available). To obtain information regarding cap and gown distribution, please visit the Commencement website at <http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/cap-gown-rental/index.html>

**Tickets for Commencement**

* **How many guest tickets will I get for Commencement?**

Students will receive 10 tickets for Commencement.

**Tickets for School of Professional Studies Convocation Ceremony**

* **How many guest tickets will I receive for Convocation?**

Students participating in the Convocation Ceremony may reserve tickets for up to **4** guests. Information regarding extra tickets will be released in May via email. Please no phone inquiries regarding extra tickets. For additional information and the ceremony schedule, please visit <http://sps.northwestern.edu/resources/student-services/convocation.php>

* **Are tickets required for children attending Convocation?**

Yes, whether they are held in a lap or occupy a seat children one year of age and older will need a ticket.

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**Photography**

* **Will a photographer be on-site to take pictures?**

Yes, a photographer from GradImages will be on-site to take pictures of graduates during Convocation and pictures will be available for purchase. Students will be contacted by a GradImages representative to place orders for Convocation pictures.

**Ordering Commencement Merchandise**

* **How do I order announcements, thank-you notes, and memorabilia?**

Students may order Northwestern University graduation announcements, thank you notes, class rings and memorabilia by visiting these websites:

Northwestern University Bookstore: [Northwestern University Bookstore](http://northwestern.bncollege.com/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/BNCBLocationAndContactView?catalogId=10001&langId=-1&storeId=30553)

Features school spirit merchandise, books and other gift items. For information, call 847-491- 3990.

Northwestern Alumni Association: [Northwestern University Alumni Association](http://www.alumni.northwestern.edu/s/1479/02-naa/naa/naa-interior-2.aspx?sid=1479&amp;gid=2&amp;pgid=710)

The Alumni Association website offers special access to high-quality products and class rings.

Herff Jones: [Herff Jones Website](http://www.northwestern.edu/commencement/students/cap-gown-rental/index.html)

Herff Jones offers Northwestern University graduation announcements, custom thank you notes and related memorabilia.

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