

## **Psychology Graduation Reception FAQs**

### **I am graduating, what steps do I need to take?**

Review the [GRADUATION CHECKLIST](#).

### **Can I attend both the University Commencement Ceremony AND the Psychology Graduation Reception?**

Yes! Students are welcome to attend both the University Commencement Ceremony and the Psychology Graduation Reception. Each school, college, division, unit, organization or program may host its own event during commencement weekend.

### **Where can I find more information about the University Commencement Ceremony?**

Please check [commencement.wisc.edu](http://commencement.wisc.edu) for information about University Commencement and other [special events](#) during commencement weekend. NOTE: Students must [apply to graduate](#) before April 3, 2020, to ensure their name will appear in the commencement program.

### **How do I order my cap and gown?**

[Reserve](#) your graduation attire online by **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. View the [University Book Store's timeline](#) for picking up attire. Call (608) 257-3784, extension 5924 if you have questions.

Graduates facing financial hardship, who cannot afford to rent their academic attire, should contact the Commencement office for a scholarship application to support the costs associated with renting a cap and gown. Scholarship requests need to be submitted by a specific deadline that will be determined in the coming months in order to be considered for approval.

### **Is there a limit to the number of guests I can bring to the Psychology Graduation Reception?**

No. There is no limit to the number of guests a graduate can bring. Please indicate your number of guests in the [RSVP](#).

### **My number of guests attending the event has changed, what should I do?**

Please resubmit the [RSVP](#) form.

### **Are tickets required to attend the event?**

No. Psychology does not require tickets for our graduation event.

### **What is the recommended attire?**

Graduates are welcome to wear what they please. Typically, graduates will wear business/formal attire and their graduation cap.

### **Where do the graduates sit during the formal program?**

Graduates will sit together, while guests/families of graduates will sit in the auditorium seating. There are no assigned seats. NOTE: The auditorium will be full by the start of our program, so we recommend

arriving early and planning accordingly. The first two rows will be reserved for those with limited mobility.

**What if someone in my party has accessibility needs (wheelchair, cane, walker, etc.)?**

Please indicate the accessibility need in the [RSVP](#). Individuals who indicated an accessibility need on the RSVP will be contacted prior to the event with further information regarding seating and the following information about an accessible entrance:

The main entrance to the Madison Masonic Center on Wisconsin Avenue requires stairs. The side entrance to the Madison Masonic Center, located on Johnson Street, is accessible for those with limited mobility. Upon entering the side door, follow the signs to the elevator, take elevator to level 1, exit the elevator and turn left, continue down the hallway to the auditorium.

**Will my name be read at the Psychology Graduation Reception?**

Yes. Graduates' names will be read during the formal program as they cross a stage and receive their diploma cover and a gift from the Psychology department.

**Do you offer an opportunity for graduates to have their photo taken professionally?**

UW–Madison and the Department of Psychology is proud to continue to work with Empire Photography, a locally owned small business established in 1983 by UW–Madison alumni Mark and Maggie Smith.

Cap and gown portrait sessions will be provided by Empire Photography at Memorial Union before winter and spring commencements. Please check the [Today in the Union \(TITU\)](#) calendar of events for the room location.

**Spring Semester 2020 Graduate Portraits Dates & Times:**

Tuesday, April 28	8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 29	8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Monday, May 4	8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, May 5	8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 6	8:00 a.m.- 8:00 p.m.

At the Psychology Graduation Reception, each graduate is photographed as they receive their diploma cover. Proofs will be sent to graduates and their families within 48 hours of the reception. Please be sure to include your contact information in the [RSVP](#) so that Empire Photography can send you your photo proofs.

**Do I have to stay for the social portion of the event, following the formal program?**

You are not required to stay for the social hour, following the formal program. Light hors d'oeuvres will be served, and cash bar available.

**I did not receive a postcard invitation to the Psychology Graduation Reception in the mail, why?**

1. You did not apply to graduate, or did so after March 9<sup>th</sup>. Graduates who applied to graduate on or before March 9<sup>th</sup> were sent a postcard invitation to their home address. **Students must APPLY TO GRADUATE by April 3<sup>rd</sup>** to have their names included in the University Commencement program.  
OR
2. Your home or mailing address listed in the university system is not correct. [Notify the university of a change of address.](#)  
OR
3. [You have set a “FERPA hold” restriction.](#) If you have set a FERPA hold restriction on your education records, restricting its release to third parties, and chose not to override this for commencement then you will not receive a postcard invitation. Please review your selection in your student center because this may also indicate you chose NOT to have your name printed in the University commencement program.

### **I received the postcard invitation at my mailing address instead of my home address, why?**

Postcards were sent using the United States Postal Service (USPS), so International students' postcard invitations were sent to their mailing address rather than their home address.

### **Can I still attend the Psychology Graduation Reception if I am not graduating until Fall 2020?**

Yes. December 2020 graduates are welcome to attend the Psychology Graduation Reception in May 2020; however, their name will NOT appear in the program. Only Dec 2019, May 2020, and Aug 2020 graduates will be listed in our program. December 2020 graduates will be officially invited to attend the Psychology Graduation Reception in May 2021.

### **When will I receive my diploma?**

Diplomas are mailed approximately four weeks after your school/college has notified the Office of the Registrar that you have completed all your degree requirements.

Your diploma will not be mailed if you still have certain types of holds on your academic record. When you [clear your holds](#), your diploma will then be automatically released for mailing (you don't need to contact us first).

Your diploma will be mailed to your **Home** address as listed in Student Center. If you want your diploma mailed to a different address, please add a **Diploma** address in Student Center. **International students.** — To receive your diploma by mail, you must add a **Diploma** address in Student Center. The Diploma address can be the same as your home address, but some address needs to be listed in Student Center with an address type of “Diploma.”

### **What is the difference between graduation and commencement?**

**Graduation** means meeting all your degree requirements and your academic dean's office has confirmed this and conferred a degree to you. **Commencement** is the ceremony at the end of the fall and spring terms celebrating graduating students. Other graduation events, such as the Psychology Graduation Reception serve as an opportunity to celebrate. Graduation and commencement are different things and, for some students, happen at different times.