

# Commencement 2026 Orientation

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# CUNY SPH

TODAY'S EVENT IS BEING PHOTOGRAPHED AND/OR RECORDED ON VIDEO

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# Meg Krudysz, Director of Admissions

# Important notes to get you oriented

- Venue
- Tickets
- What to wear
- Students in the platform party
- Arrival
- Guests
- Accommodations
- Preparing to Process
- Processional
- What if I am late?
- Receiving your “diploma”
- Receiving and returning your regalia

# Venue

- Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center – 1941 Broadway @ 65<sup>th</sup> Street
- Closest subway is the #1 train stop at 66<sup>th</sup> Street



# Tickets

- YOU need a ticket to enter Alice Tully Hall.
- YOUR guests (including lap infants and children) need tickets to enter Alice Tully Hall.
- Tickets will be distributed with caps and gowns.
- We will try to honor requests for additional tickets for those who RSVP'd by April 1. All other requests are on a first come first serve basis, as available. *We cannot guarantee extra tickets due to limited space at Alice Tully Hall.*
- **You are responsible for getting tickets to your guest(s) and ensuring that they arrive with them. If you are unable to pick up your regalia on these dates, reach out to [Commencement@sph.cuny.edu](mailto:Commencement@sph.cuny.edu).**

# What to wear?

- Your regalia! Which you must pick up on campus



- You may arrive at the Alice Tully Hall already robed, or you may choose to put on your regalia once you are there (if you're going to be robing at the Alice Tully Hall, it will be wise to come exactly at **12:30pm**). There are restrooms/dressing rooms available for your use.
- Do not forget your regalia! You won't be permitted to march in commencement without it, and we won't have "spare" regalia available on the day of commencement.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Masks are optional

# Graduates receiving special awards

If you are receiving any of the following awards, you will follow separate instructions that will be emailed to you by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Alumni Relations, Dr. Lynn Roberts:

- Valedictorian & Achievement Award
- Dean's Merit Award for Commitment
- Dean's Merit Award for Research
- Dean's Merit Award for Service

Graduates receiving Departmental Awards will be recognized in the commencement program and possibly by their departments.

# Graduate Arrival

- Arrive at **12:30 pm** at the Alice Tully Hall
- It's SO important not to be late – there's lots to accomplish before you actually process with your fellow grads into the Theater Hall. You will be checking in and receiving your name card.
- Don't forget your government issued photo ID (or CUNY SPH ID).
- Enter through the Alice Tully Hall front door at 1941 Broadway @ 65<sup>th</sup> Street
- You will be directed to the front lobby to prepare and assemble.

# What about your stuff?

- The Lincoln Center can't guarantee the safety of personal belongings left in the venue during the ceremony.
- Do NOT leave anything in the theater. Take all belongings with you to your seat in the Orchestra section of the Alice Tully Hall.
- **Balloons are not permitted in the theater.** Please inform your guests.

# Guest Arrival

- Guests enter through the Alice Tully Hall front door at 1941 Broadway @ 65<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Doors open to guests at 1:30 pm
- There will be staff available to guide guests to the proper entrance.
- Children must be supervised by an adult.
- Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The holding of seats for other guests will not be permitted.
- Special seating accommodations must be requested in advance: [accessibility@sph.cuny.edu](mailto:accessibility@sph.cuny.edu)
- Balloons are not permitted in the theater.

Remember, no balloons!



# A note about parking: don't count on it!

- Grads and guests are strongly advised to use public transportation.
- The School is not able to provide parking, and street parking is very limited.
- Parking apps such as [Spot Hero](#) and [NYC Best Parking](#) may be helpful if public transportation is not an option.



# Commencement chronology

- Processional (faculty then graduates)
- Welcome and Remarks
- Keynote address
- Deans Awards
- Valedictory address
- **Doctoral Graduates**
- **Masters Graduates**
- **Roll call of Graduates attending remotely**
- Alumni Network welcome
- Public Health pledge
- Closing remarks

# Preparing for the procession

- Once you are in the lobby of Alice Tully Hall, check in with CUNY SPH Staff to collect **your name card**.
- Keep your **name card** with you at all times! You will need it so that your name is read as you walk across the stage
- Assemble next to your designated marshal who will have a sign with the name of your degree program.
- DPH/PhD students will line **up in a specific order** directly behind their marshal.
- MPH/MS students will line up **in any order** but **directly behind their program's marshal**.
- The Valedictorian will process and be seated with the Platform Party; and Master's students receiving Deans Awards will process behind the DPH/PhD students and be seated in the first row. Instructions will be sent by Dean Roberts.

# Processional

- 2:00pm processional begins.
- Stay in line behind your program marshal.
- Follow your marshal who will direct you to your designated seat according to your program.
- Don't forget your **name card!**

*This information is necessary so that your name can be read quickly and correctly as you cross the stage to be recognized.*

**KEEP THIS CARD WITH YOU AND BRING IT TO THE PLATFORM WITH YOU**

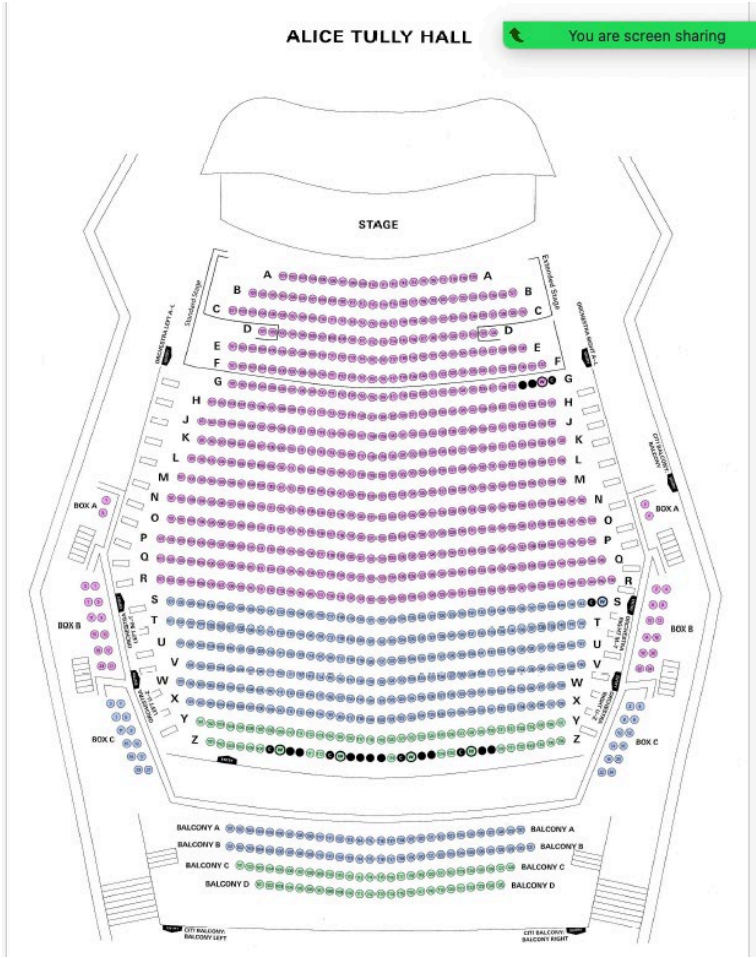
**DO NOT FOLD**

**First, Last Name**

***Pronunciation***

**Degree/Dept.**

# The Theater



# What if I am late?

- You will not be seated until after the Procession and the National Anthem have been completed. There will be a wait of approximately 15-20 minutes before being seated.
- Late students will not be a part of the processional.
- Late guests will be ushered into the theater at an appropriate time, so as not to interrupt the ongoing ceremony. Theater doors will close at 2:00pm and re-open after the anthem.



# Receiving your “diploma” (DPH/PhD)

- You will be prompted to move from your seat and follow your program marshal
- You will walk up a short flight of stairs to the platform
- When your name is called, walk across the stage and pause facing the audience to allow time to be hooded.
- Greet your department and dissertation chairs and Dean El-Mohandes and pause for a professional photo.
- Walk off the stage and return to your seat.

# Receiving your “diploma” (MPH/MS)

- You will be prompted to get up and follow your program marshal
- Don't forget your **name card!**
- You will walk up a short flight of stairs to the platform, hand your name card to a staff member
- When your name is called, walk across the stage and greet your department chair and Dean El-Mohandes and pause for a professional photo.
- Walk off the stage and return to your seat



# James Warren, Student Life Coordinator

# How to get your regalia

- Regalia can be picked up between **May 14, 18, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28** between **10am and 7pm** on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor.
- The School has purchased regalia for all graduates.
- The gowns you are picking up will be collected back from you to be dry-cleaned and stored for use by future graduating classes. **Please be mindful of the condition of the gown.**

# Returning your regalia

- Regalia must be returned **no later than June 15, 2026**. You may begin returning regalia as early as **June 8, 2026** to Student Affairs on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor between 10 am and 5pm Monday-Thursday.
- Make sure that the bag in which you return your regalia has your name and EMPL ID on it somewhere.
- Master's grads:
  - Please return your gown and hood. The cap and tassel are yours to keep. This is your gift from Dean El-Mohandes.
- Doctoral grads:
  - Please return your gown. The doctoral tam, hood, and tassel are yours to keep. This is your gift from Dean El-Mohandes.

# Lynn Roberts, Assoc Dean of Student Affairs & Alumni Relations

# GSGA Graduate Gift

- Please be on the look out for an email from *United Print Group*. In that email, you will be able to click on a link that says: "**Go to store**".
- Once you click on the link, you will be prompted to enter "**redemption code**". Please use your **EMPL ID** or your **SPH email address**, as this will allow you access to the page to place the order for your sweatshirt.
- Before submitting your order, please be sure the size and color are correct, you will NOT be able to reorder.
- Please allow 10-15 days for your sweatshirt to be mailed directly to you after the **May 20, 2026** deadline.

# House Rules

**Please share this information with your guests:**

- Do not bring any large personal items with you (e.g., backpacks or large purses). They might be subject to search.
- No balloons, signs, posters, or anything that will disrupt the line of sight is allowed in the venue. Strollers, walkers, etc. will be stored by the ushers as they are not allowed in the theater.
- Students are permitted to decorate their mortar boards and attach decorative items to their robes that are appropriate for the occasion (e.g., affinity stoles) and not harmful to others (e.g., foul language or language that incites violence towards any individual or group).
- Walkers and wheelchairs are allowed. Please submit a request to [Accessibility@sph.cuny.edu](mailto:Accessibility@sph.cuny.edu) for any special accommodations.

# Virtual Commencement and Livestream

The names of all graduates' joining remotely will be called during the ceremony after all the in-person graduates have walked across the stage.

The Commencement will be livestreamed via YouTube. Everyone will receive the link on the day of the event to share with their guests, and it will be posted in the SPH YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/cunysph>

# Special Guidance for Commencement 2026

We want our Commencement to be a safe and celebratory event in recognition of this most significant milestone that has been achieved by each of our graduates as they stand before their fellow graduates and the family, friends, faculty, and staff who have supported them during their time preparing for this singular moment.

~ and ~

We will protect the democratic right of all members of the University community (students, faculty and staff) to express their opinions and oppositions under the First Amendment to the Constitution and through the freedom of expression. We will safeguard criticism and lawful dissent while protecting against disruption and unlawful activity that will interfere with the celebratory aspects of this milestone occasion for our graduates and their guests.

# Henderson Rules

1. A member of the academic community shall not intentionally obstruct and/or forcibly prevent others from the exercise of their rights. Nor shall s/he interfere with the institution's educational processes or facilities, or the rights of those who wish to avail themselves of any of the institution's instructional, personal, administrative, recreational, and community services.
2. Individuals are liable for failure to comply with lawful directions issued by representatives of the university/college when they are acting in their official capacities. Members of the academic community are required to show their identification cards when requested to do so by an official of the college.
3. Unauthorized occupancy of university/college facilities or blocking access to or from such areas is prohibited. Permission from appropriate college authorities must be obtained for removal, relocation and use of university/college equipment and/or supplies.

# Henderson Rules, contd.

4. Theft from or damage to university/college premises or property, or theft of or damage to property of any person on university/college premises is prohibited.

5. Each member of the academic community or an invited guest has the right to advocate his/her position without having to fear abuse, physical, verbal, or otherwise, from others supporting conflicting points of view. Members of the academic community and other persons on the college grounds shall not use language or take actions reasonably likely to provoke or encourage physical violence by demonstrators, those demonstrated against, or spectators.

# Henderson Rules, contd.

6. Action may be taken against any and all persons who have no legitimate reason for their presence on any campus within the university/college, or whose presence on any such campus obstructs and/or forcibly prevents others from the exercise of their rights or interferes with the institution's educational processes or facilities, or the rights of those who wish to avail themselves of any of the institution's instructional, personal, administrative, recreational, and community services.

7. Disorderly or indecent conduct on university/college-owned or -controlled property is prohibited.

Any questions?

# See you at the Alice Tully Hall or On-Line!

It's going to be awesome.

- Please keep tabs on your **SPH email account** for important updates.
- Send any questions you have to [commencement@sph.cuny.edu](mailto:commencement@sph.cuny.edu)

