

MAY 2016 GRADUATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- Question:** I applied late for graduation will I have a diploma on May 23, 2016?
Answer: Diplomas will be ordered on February 26. The Office of the Registrar cannot guarantee arrival of the diploma if the application for graduation was submitted after the deadline date.
- Question:** My name has changed and I want to have it reflected on my diploma is it too late?
Answer: If you are requesting a change of name after February 26, then it is too late because diplomas have already been ordered. You will be required to complete a Replacement Diploma Form, a fee will be required. You also will be required to submit to the Office of the Registrar official documentation to support the change of name.
- Question:** Where does Commencement take place?
Answer: Commencement will take place at the Xfinity Center on the University of Maryland, College Park campus at 10:00 am. The Xfinity Center is located on Terrapin Trail, College Park, MD, 20742.
- Question:** How do I get to the Xfinity Center?
Answer: The Xfinity Center has no street address, but you can still search for turn-by-turn driving directions using "The Xfinity Center, Regents Drive, College Park, MD 20742."
- Question:** Where do I park on Commencement day—is there a fee?
Answer: Parking for Commencement 2016 is free. As you approach the Xfinity Center, you will see signs and police officers directing traffic into the College Park campus. Follow their direction to the parking lots. Graduating students and their guests will park in the same lots. No parking passes or permits are required for the lots.
- Question:** Is there handicapped parking close to the Xfinity Center?
Answer: Yes. The lots around the Xfinity Center have marked handicap parking spots for those with a state-issued disability placard, sticker or special license plate. In addition, graduating students with special needs—and any of their guests who need special accommodations—will receive a parking pass that will allow them to park in the Terrapin Trail Garage adjacent to the Xfinity Center. Parking in the Terrapin Trail Garage is by permit only.
- Question:** Why do I need tickets for Commencement?
Answer: The Commencement ceremony is held in the Xfinity Center on the University of Maryland, College Park campus. This facility maintains state and federal capacity and fire code guidelines to ensure the safety of all guests. Tickets are required for every guest of all graduates (including infant and children) to ensure compliance with safety protocols.
- Question:** How do I receive Commencement tickets?
Answer: Tickets will be distributed during Commencement week.
- Question:** How many tickets will I get for Commencement?
Answer: Fifteen (15)
- Question:** Can I buy additional tickets?
Answer: Commencement tickets are not for sale. Tickets should not be sold by any BSU student or BSU official. Students are encouraged to contact other graduates who may not use their full allotment of tickets. BSU is not responsible for facilitating this exchange.
- Question:** Do children need tickets if they can sit in an adult's lap?
Answer: For safety reasons and fire code regulations that require an accurate count of everyone in Xfinity Center, children of all ages require a ticket.
- Question:** What time is check-in on Monday, May 23, 2016?
Answer: Check in begins at 8:00 a.m. Be prepared to remain in the gym once you enter.
- Question:** What happens if it rains on Monday, May 23th will Commencement be cancelled?
Answer: No
- Question:** If I don't plan to attend the ceremony, do I have to apply for graduation?
Answer: Yes. All students whether planning to participate in the ceremony or not have to apply and pay all fees to be academically reviewed and cleared by the Office of the Registrar.

- Question:** I haven't ordered my regalia; can I still participate in the graduation ceremony?
Answer: Only students with complete regalia (cap, gown, and hood) will be allowed to participate in the ceremony. It is not too late to obtain your regalia. Anyone who has not placed an order can buy their regalia at the bookstore during clearance week in May.
- Question:** Can I be cleared for graduation and allowed to participate in the ceremony if I have an outstanding balance?
Answer: **No.** To be eligible for graduation clearance, all fees **must be paid**, including the graduation fee, student accounts, parking, and library fines. Academically, all grades must be posted to your transcript and all degree requirements must be satisfied before clearance will be obtained.
- Question:** I am a transfer student with 59 Bowie credits; will I be eligible for Latin Honors?
Answer: You need 60 or more Bowie State credits to be considered for Latin Honors. However, a transfer student who has earned 30-59 semester hours at Bowie State University and has a GPA of 3.5 or above will graduate with Academic Recognition.
- Question:** When will I receive my Honors cord?
Answer: Honor cords will be distributed on the morning of graduation at check-in with your name cards.
- Question:** How long is the ceremony?
Answer: The ceremony will last approximately two hours.
- Question:** Is there a secure place to leave my purse or wallet during the ceremony?
Answer: We do not have a secure area for your personal belongings. We encourage you to leave all personal items with family members or friends attending the ceremony. The University is not responsible for lost or stolen items.
- Question:** How will I know that I have met ALL degree and financial requirements for graduation?
Answer: Check Bull Dog Connection to make sure that you do not have **ANY** Negative Service Indicators. If a negative service indicator exists, click on the indicator for additional instructions. Academically, make sure that all of your grades are in. (Check Bull Dog Connect) and monitor your outstanding grades. If a grade has not been posted more than 72 hours after your final exam, contact your instructor to be certain that you have completed all of the course requirements. If grades of *NG* or *I* are submitted as final grades, contact your instructor to make sure that you have completed all of the course requirements. You are not eligible for graduation with grades of "D" in a major requirement, "F", "NG" or "I".
- Question:** How do I know that I have been cleared for graduation and can pick up my academic regalia?
Answer: The Office of the Registrar will **POST** the graduation status on Bulldog Connection. Once you see that your status has changed to **APPROVED**, go the Bookstore for regalia and Auxiliary series for your tickets. Students must be **ACADEMICALLY** and **FINANCIALLY** cleared to participate in the ceremony.
- Question:** If I do not complete my degree requirements in May will my name automatically roll over to the December list for graduation?
Answer: **No.** You must reapply for December graduation. You will not be required to pay an additional graduation fee but you must go back to Bulldog Connection to reapply.
- Question:** I need a final transcript to verify that I have graduated. How soon can I request my final transcript?
Answer: Transcripts **will not** be processed the week of May 16th – 20th since the Office of the Registrar will be clearing students' records. You will be able to make transcript request starting May 24, 2016.

If this has not answered your graduation questions, please contact the Office of the Registrar at 301-860-3730.