

FACULTY AND RECTOR INSTRUCTIONS

University of Notre Dame - Office of the Registrar

COMMENCEMENT MASS

Joyce Center, Purcell Pavilion

Saturday, May 16, 2026

ACADEMIC ROBES MUST BE WORN BY ALL WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

Faculty/Rector lines assemble in the Joyce Center, North Dome, enter through Gate 3.

- 3:30 p.m.** Faculty who are not serving as Marshals, or are on stage for the Sunday University Commencement Ceremony, should assemble in the Joyce Center, North Dome.
- 4:20 p.m.** Two lines will form (directed by the Office of the Registrar staff and the Chief Marshals):
- ❖ Line “A” includes faculty. The PLC, deans, trustees, honorees and their hosts, coming from the Robing Room.
 - ❖ Line “B” includes faculty, and Rectors and faculty serving as Ministers of the Mass. Ministers of the Mass and then Rectors should be at the front of the line.
- 4:25 p.m.** Lines “A” and “B” will leave the assembly location.
- 4:30 p.m.** The two faculty/rector academic processional lines will be led into the Purcell Pavilion. Line “A” will sit in the floor section, to the left of the center aisle. The PLC, deans, trustees, honorees and their hosts will sit in the front rows of this section. Line “B” will sit in the floor section, to the right of the center aisle. Those serving as Ministers of the Mass will sit in the front rows of this section.
- 6:30 p.m.** After the Mass, members of the faculty/rectors will follow the Celebrants of the Mass down the center aisle and out of the Pavilion. You may then exit the Joyce Center at any convenient gate. (The PLC, deans, trustees, honorees, and their hosts, who are seated in the first rows of the faculty seating, will be escorted back to the Robing Room.)

FACULTY AND RECTOR INSTRUCTIONS

University of Notre Dame - Office of the Registrar

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY

Notre Dame Stadium

Sunday, May 17, 2026

ACADEMIC ROBES MUST BE WORN BY ALL WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE ACADEMIC PROCESSION

(If rain is falling or is likely [but not severe weather] the University Commencement Ceremony will still be held at Notre Dame Stadium and a rain poncho will be provided at your assembly area.)

- 7:45 a.m.** Faculty and Rectors should report to **Decio Faculty Hall** (west entrance) and enter the Hesburgh Library mall to the faculty line up location across the street from the tunnel.
- 8:50 a.m.** At the direction of the Office of the Registrar staff and faculty Marshals, the faculty will cross the street and assemble along the walkways outside of the stadium. The faculty line will build from the tunnel gate out toward the Hesburgh Library. As additional faculty arrive, the line will continue to build out toward the Hesburgh Library. The faculty will frame the walkway so that the student procession lines will pass between the two faculty lines. The student procession will enter the stadium by college/school in two procession lines. Faculty may wish to line up along the side on which their students will pass. As you look at the Hesburgh Library, the students in Arts & Letters, Engineering, Law, and Keough will be on the left sidewalk and the students in Science, Business, and Architecture will be on the right sidewalk. This is a good time for faculty and students to interact, give congratulations, and wish them well as the students are processing past you.
- 9:00 a.m.** Graduates begin to process into the stadium.
- 9:25 a.m.** As the end of the student lines pass by, the two faculty lines will follow the students down the tunnel and into the stadium at the field level. You will be directed by the faculty Marshals to your seats on the field. The new emeriti being honored should be in the front of the line.
- 11:15 a.m.** At the end of the ceremony the Platform Party will leave the stage and recess out of the stadium and through the tunnel. The faculty will follow the Platform Party and recess out of the stadium through the tunnel. After exiting the stadium gates, please move beyond the gates so that the over 3,200 graduates coming behind you can exit the stadium without slowing. The graduates will be dismissed in place.

***SEVERE WEATHER PLAN:** In the case of severe weather, the decision to declare and implement the Severe Weather Plan and to move the event indoors will be made and announced by 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. If the ceremony is moved to the Joyce Center, Purcell Pavilion, or delayed, a message will be sent to faculty email addresses. A notice will also be posted on the Commencement website and announced on the local television stations.

If the Severe Weather Plan is implemented, there will not be an academic procession. Faculty and students will enter the Joyce Center starting at 8:45 a.m. using Gate 10. The faculty will go directly to the faculty seating area (Section 13) in the Purcell Pavilion. There will be signs, staff, and faculty Marshals to guide you to your seat.

The afternoon college/school and department baccalaureate diploma ceremonies are conducted in covered areas, so they will go forward as published. If the University Commencement Ceremony is delayed because of weather (by as much as an hour) the undergraduate diploma ceremonies will still be held, but may also be delayed.