



Winter Commencement Ceremony

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Friday, December 20, 2024



**FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Dear graduate,

On behalf of our entire Fitchburg State community, please accept our congratulations as you prepare for your upcoming commencement ceremony. This moment reflects years of commitment and focus, and this will be our opportunity to celebrate your achievement with friends and loved ones, as well as your fellow graduates.

The winter commencement ceremony is scheduled for **Friday, December 20 at 4 PM.** in the Athletics and Recreation Center, 130 North Street. This booklet contains additional details about the program and information you and your guests will want to know as the ceremony approaches.

Please be on the lookout for additional updates that will be shared to your student email account, and know that we will also be posting details to the university website at fitchburgstate.edu/commencement. Should we need to reschedule the ceremony because of weather, that decision will be posted on the university homepage no later than the morning of Friday, December 20.

In the meantime, I wish you the best in the final weeks of the semester, and I look forward to congratulating you in person at the ceremony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Hodge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing "D" and "H".

Donna Hodge, Ph.D.
President

ACTION ITEMS

■ Clearance for Graduation and Confirmation of Attendance

To confirm that you have been cleared to participate in graduation, as well as to verify your ceremony attendance status, please log into your MyFalcon account at myfalcon.fitchburgstate.edu. Click on **View Application to Graduate**. If, while your file is being reviewed for graduation, the Registrar finds that you meet requirements for participating in the ceremony, you will be invited to attend the ceremony.

It is essential that we know the exact number of students attending the ceremony. If you will not be able to attend, please contact the Registrar's Office by **Friday, December 6** at **978-665-4196** or registrar@fitchburgstate.edu.

■ Important Reminders

If you took courses at another university, transcripts from that university must be received in the Registrar's Office by **Friday, January 3**. Grades for incompletes must also be in by January 3.

■ Caps and Gowns

Caps and gowns will be available for purchase through the bookstore in Hammond Hall and online at fitchburgstateshop.com. The cost for the entire package is \$60 for bachelor's, \$65 for master's and \$67 for CAGS. The sleeves of the gown indicate the degree the individual has completed. The bachelor's degree has long, pointed sleeves, while the master's has oblong sleeves, open at the wrist, with the front part cut in an arc. The hood distinguishes the institution from which the wearer is graduating and the degree being awarded. Please contact the bookstore directly with any questions concerning academic regalia at **978-665-4026** or email 0163mgr@follett.com.

■ Graduates and Guests with Disabilities

Graduates and guests who have a disability can request accommodations through the Disability Services Office. To request an accommodation, please complete the online form found at fitchburgstate.edu/disabilityaccommodations by **Friday, December 13, 2024**. All requests will be reviewed, and seating and/or parking passes will be emailed to the address provided on the form. The event will be captioned live online at fitchburgstate.edu/captioning and the ceremony will be ASL interpreted. To discuss seating near the ASL interpreter, please contact the Disability Services Office. You can reach us at 978-665-4020 or [Ambray Ernst, aernst2@fitchburgstate.edu](mailto:AmbrayErnst_aernst2@fitchburgstate.edu).

Guests with a disability are allowed to have one additional guest seated with them in the accessible seating area.

■ Ticketing

The Winter Commencement Ceremony is a ticketed event. Information for reserving tickets will be sent to graduates through your university email on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

CEREMONY INFORMATION

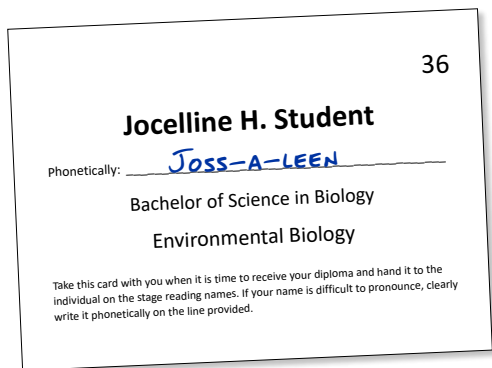
■ Commencement Ceremony Schedule

Commencement is scheduled for **Friday, December 20 at 4 PM**. There is no rehearsal. **Please arrive at the Athletics and Recreation Center no later than 3 PM**. Volunteers will be available to assist you. The ceremony will be approximately two hours long.

The guests' seating area will open at 2:30 PM. Graduates will be lined up alphabetically within their division and major. Your name will be read as you cross the stage to receive your diploma cover from President Hodge. You will be given an index card on which your name has been typed. If you have a name that is difficult to pronounce, please provide the phonetic spelling. Please do

not lose this card! When you approach the platform, this card will be handed to the reader. The chair of your program will lead the graduates on stage and present them to the president and the chairman of the Board of Trustees. Please return to your seat promptly upon exiting the stage.

Commencement can also be viewed streaming online by going to **fitchburgstate.edu** and clicking on Commencement 2024.



■ Parking

Directions to the campus and designated parking lots for the ceremony can be found at **fitchburgstate.edu/commencement**.

Shuttle buses will be in operation between the Intermodal Center and the McKay Front parking lot, making its regular stops along North Street and the Athletics and Recreation Center.

■ Photographs

During the ceremony, access to the stage area for picture-taking or videotaping by guests will be prohibited. Please relay this information to your guests. A professional photograph will be taken as you receive your diploma cover and congratulations from the President, and you will receive a digital copy of the photograph courtesy of the Fitchburg State University Alumni Association.

You can
pre-register
to receive your
photo here:



■ Diplomas

All diplomas will be mailed to graduates in January 2025 to be placed in the diploma cover you will receive at the ceremony. Your name will be engraved on your diploma as you indicate on your commencement application. Care is taken to accurately produce your diploma. In the event that we make a mistake, promptly contact the Registrar's Office and a corrected diploma will be issued.



ACADEMIC HONORS

■ Undergraduates

Academic honors are awarded to undergraduates based on a minimum of 45 semester hours of courses taken at Fitchburg State University.

Cum Laude – 3.2+ GPA | **Magna Cum Laude** – 3.5+ GPA | **Summa Cum Laude** – 3.8+ GPA

Honors designation in the commencement program will be based upon the student's cumulative grade point average at the time of program production. All undergraduate students who are eligible for honors will receive honors medallions to wear with their commencement robes. Students graduating with honors will be given their medallions at the ceremony check-in table the night of the ceremony.

Final honors status will be determined by the Registrar and will be identified on your final transcript and diploma.



Transfer students with a minimum of 30 semester hours of courses taken at Fitchburg State University will be eligible for academic honors as calculated by the Registrar's Office, taking into account their GPA from previous institutions.

Students completing their graduation requirements in the Fitchburg State University Honors Program will have their thesis listed in the commencement program.

REGALIA COLORS BY SCHOOL

■ Graduate

ARTS & SCIENCES

Applied Communication – White
Arts Education – Light Blue
Counseling – White
Criminal Justice – White
English Studies – White
History – White
Interdisciplinary Studies – White

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Business Administration – Drab
Computer Science – Golden Yellow
Occupational Education – Light Blue

EDUCATION

Curriculum and Teaching – Light Blue
Early Childhood Education – Light Blue
Educational Leadership
and Management – Light Blue
Elementary Education – Light Blue
Education 5-12 – Light Blue
Pedagogy and Learning – Light Blue
Special Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

Forensic Nursing – Apricot

■ Undergraduate

ARTS & SCIENCES

Communications Media – White
Creative Arts Enterprise – White
Creative Arts Therapies – White
Criminal Justice – White
Digital Media Innovation – White
Economics – Copper
English Studies – White
Game Design – White
History – White
Human Services – White
Interdisciplinary Studies – White
Political Science – Light Gold
Sociology – White

BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Business Administration – Drab
Computer Information Systems – Golden Yellow
Computer Science – Golden Yellow
Industrial Technology – Golden Yellow
Occupational/Vocational Education – Light Blue
Technology Education – Light Blue

EDUCATION

Education – Light Blue

HEALTH & NATURAL SCIENCES

Biology – Golden Yellow
Chemistry – Golden Yellow
Earth Systems Science – Golden Yellow
Exercise & Sports Science – Golden Yellow
Geographic Science & Technology – Golden Yellow
Mathematics – Golden Yellow
Nursing – Apricot
Psychological Science – Golden Yellow



CONTACTS

Commencement Website:

fitchburgstate.edu/commencement

Academic Affairs: 978-665-3168

Alumni: 978-665-3441

Bookstore: 978-665-4026

Disability Services: 978-665-4020

Registrar: 978-665-4196

School of Graduate, Online

& Continuing Education: 978-665-3182

University Police: 978-665-3111



Dear Class of 2024,

Congratulations on your upcoming graduation from Fitchburg State! When you walk off stage, you become a lifelong member of the Alumni Association.

As you take your next steps in life, embarking on a career or continuing your education, you will do so with the support of the 52,000-member Fitchburg State University Alumni Association. The association has a proud tradition of serving the university and its graduates. Alumni throughout the country form the lifeline of the university, and the involvement of graduates is vital to the growth and betterment of the institution.

At Fitchburg State you receive far more than just a world-class education. Being an alumnus/a entitles you to a wide range of benefits and services both on and off campus. In addition, the Alumni Association provides each graduate with a gift from commencement—your photo with Dr. Hodge as you cross the stage. Remember to visit fitchburgstate.edu/alumni to update your alumni information, view upcoming events, and more.

Again, congratulations. I wish you great success in all of your future endeavors and hope that you will return to your alma mater often.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tanya Hoos Crowley'.

Tanya Hoos Crowley, MS '21
Director of Alumni and Family Relations



**FITCHBURG STATE
UNIVERSITY**

160 Pearl Street ■ Fitchburg, MA 01420-2697

**IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT
INFORMATION INSIDE**



SCAN THIS CODE OR VISIT
fitchburgstate.edu/commencement