

## Commencement 2010 Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. It is stated that the University Commencement Ceremony will be held in Notre Dame Stadium on Sunday morning “rain or shine.” What does that mean, “rain or shine”?**

It is the intent to conduct the University ceremony in the stadium even if it is raining. Also, the event could be delayed for up to an hour while a storm passes through the area. Only if there is severe weather (lightning, high winds, heavy and persistent rain, etc.) will the event be moved indoors to the Joyce Center Arena.
- 2. If the University Commencement Ceremony is moved indoors because of severe weather, who will be allowed to attend, given the more limited seating capacity in the Joyce Center.**

Each graduate who has stated that he/she will attend the University Commencement Ceremony will be allotted two “severe weather” tickets. Only graduates, faculty, and guests with a severe weather ticket will be seated in the Arena, in the event of severe weather. However, the event will be broadcast live to the classrooms in the DeBartolo classroom building and to other large classrooms in other buildings as announced.
- 3. When will the decision be made to move the event from the stadium in the event of severe weather?**

The decision to move the event indoors will be made and announced by 8:00 a.m. on Sunday. If the ceremony is moved to the Joyce Center Arena or delayed, a message will be sent to graduates and faculty members using cell phones registered with the ND Emergency system. A notice will also be posted on the Commencement Website. It is expected that graduates will notify their guests.
- 4. How will the decisions to move the University Commencement Ceremony indoors, due to severe weather, affect the undergraduate diploma ceremonies that are held that afternoon?**

The college/school undergraduate diploma ceremonies are held in covered areas, so they will go forward unless there is a weather emergency. If the University Commencement Ceremony is delayed by as much as an hour, the undergraduate diploma ceremonies may also be delayed. If severe weather has affected the Sunday morning ceremony, an announcement will be made at the University Commencement Ceremony concerning any changes to the times or locations of the college/school undergraduate diploma ceremonies.
- 5. If it is raining for the University Commencement Ceremony in the Stadium, can guests, graduates, or faculty use umbrellas?**

Umbrellas are not permitted inside Notre Dame Stadium. Faculty and graduates will be issued rain ponchos but it is also acceptable for each participant to wear their personal rain gear. Guests are encouraged to come prepared should rain be in the forecast and to use personal rain

gear. For those guest who wish to view a live broadcast of the ceremony indoors, a live broadcast will be broadcast to the DeBartolo classroom building and to other classroom buildings as announced.

**6. Are guest tickets necessary for the University Commencement Ceremony in Notre Dame Stadium?**

Tickets are not required for admission to the University Commencement Ceremony in Notre Dame Stadium. The Stadium gates will open at 8:00 a.m., and guest can select their seats with the aid of Stadium ushers and Commencement ushers.

**7. When will the Notre Dame Stadium gates open to guests for the University Commencement Ceremony on Sunday?**

The Stadium gates will open at 8:00 a.m. and guest may select their seats on the West side (Press box side) of the Stadium. Ushers will direct seating by sections, making certain that seats are efficiently used to assure the best viewing opportunities for all attending.

**8. When will the Schedule of Events for the May 2010 Commencement weekend be finalized?**

With the new structure of the major events for May Commencement, announced by Father Jenkins, academic departments and colleges are considering how best to celebrate and honor their graduates given the addition of diploma ceremonies in each college and school. It is expected that the times and locations for most of the events will be scheduled by January, 2010. As events are added to the schedule by departments and colleges, each will immediately be posted on the Commencement website. It is expected that departmental and honors recognition ceremonies will occur on Friday and Saturday. Sunday will be reserved for the University Commencement Ceremony and the undergraduate diploma ceremonies.

Please contact the Office of the Registrar at 574-631-7043 or [registrar.1@nd.edu](mailto:registrar.1@nd.edu) for further information.

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