



Amie's GUIDE TO COMMENCEMENT



KIRKLAND
HOUSE

Dear Class of 2024,

I've worked on college campuses for many years, so here are some tips to help you get through the next few weeks!

- 1** **The second you pick up your cap and gown, try them on.** Especially the cap. Does the cap look good? Is it easy to take on and off? Do you feel confident adjusting it without a mirror? All three of these answers should be "yes." The cap can be the most frustrating part of the day.
 Tip: Go on YouTube and look at tutorials to adjust or remake the inside of your cap for your specific hairstyle or hair texture - especially if you have thick, curly, coily, or textured hair. It's amazing what hot gluing a plastic headband to your cap can do!
- 2** **Don't wait until the day of the ceremony to take photos.** It puts a lot of pressure on everyone. Instead, make a list of everyone you want to take photos with, if you want to be in your regalia, and where you want to be on campus - then schedule it with your friends. During all the Commencement and Senior Week excitement, it can be easy to miss opportunities for photos. Doing this will take the pressure off! It will also save the day of Commencement to take photos with your family. Think of fun places to take photos outside of the popular spot on the bridge.
 Tip: Take advantage of every opportunity Kirkland gives you with a professional photographer. We have someone coming in at 6am the morning of Commencement specifically for you to get pictures with friends. It's worth getting up early.
- 3** **Wear fancy clothes under your regalia for photos, but *not for the actual ceremonies.*** The robes are black, and they can bleed if they get wet from rain or sweat. I've seen a lot of fancy clothes get ruined on hot and humid days. Instead, wear comfortable clothing - you're going to be walking to the yard and sitting down for hours without the guarantee of shade, you can always come back to the house and change for photos. A student wore gym shorts and a Kirkland shirt under their robe last year and no one could tell. Think about this with footwear too - concrete, wobbly brick, and grass; your footwear has to work with all three. If you wouldn't walk a mile in them to class, don't walk a mile in them for Commencement. Wear comfy shoes for the ceremony, fancy ones for photos.

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- 4** **Get a waist bag, or something similar, to wear underneath your robe.** Make sure it holds your phone and anything else you might want to bring with you for the morning exercises. What are good things to bring? Lip balm, sunglasses, tissues, sunscreen. Bring a snack. If you plan on ignoring #3, pack blister bandages just in case.
- 5** **Try not to lose your ID the night before the Ceremony.** You'll still need it to enter the Yard in the morning. If you lose it make sure you tell one of the Commencement Workers as soon as possible.
- 6** **Take as many pictures and videos as possible.** The walk up to the Yard with the Minutemen and the rest of your class is a 0.5 mile walk that you won't make again. Document all of it.
- 7** For the love of all that is good in this world, **please stay hydrated.**

Important dates & times

- **Senior Family Reception** in Kirkland Courtyard
Wednesday, May 22nd at 5pm
- **Senior Photos** in the Courtyard
Thursday, May 23rd starting at 6am
- **Senior Breakfast** in Kirkland Courtyard
Thursday, May 23rd 6:30am
- **Commencement Luncheon** in Dining Hall
Thursday, May 23rd 12:30pm
- **Kirkland Diploma Ceremony**
Thursday, May 23rd 1:30pm

Notes for your Family

- Arrive early to events
- Utilize van service and Harvard shuttles
- Hydrate!
- If your family has accessibility needs, get in touch with the house asap
- Pay attention to directions and flow of foot traffic signs
- Keep the house ramps clear
- Keep in mind that everyone has a student graduating, be kind and courteous to all