



# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

## COMMENCEMENT 2026

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13 AT 5 P.M.  
PRUDENTIAL CENTER  
25 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEWARK, NJ



### ARRIVAL

#### IMPORTANT TRAVEL ADVISORY:

We anticipate heavier-than-normal traffic in and around Prudential Center. Plan to allow ample time for traffic, parking, and security screening at the venue.

### ENTRANCE for GRADUATES & GUESTS

- Graduates **MUST** arrive at **M&M Tower** (Mulberry Street and Lafayette Street) and by the designated arrival time. Don't be late!

Guests should arrive when Prudential Center doors open and can enter through the following entrance:

- **Citizens Tower** (Mulberry Street and Edison Place)

### SECURITY SCREENING

- All attendees will be subject to a courteous screening via a walk-through metal detector to ensure safety and security for all.
- **IMPORTANT: Prudential Center security will deny entrance to guests with any prohibited items. The following items are prohibited at Prudential Center: alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, balloons, signs, banners, flags, beach balls or balls of any kind, horns, noisemakers, laser pointers, flashlights, fireworks, selfie sticks, and outside food/beverages. For a Prudential Center Arena Policy.**
- Bringing prohibited items will cause significant delays in entering Prudential Center.

### PARKING & TRANSPORTATION

- Parking will be available at lots and garages surrounding Prudential Center. Costs are determined by each parking facility.
- Consider taking public transportation through NJ Transit, carpooling, or a rideshare service.
- For detailed directions and parking locations, visit the [Prudential Center Directions website](#).

### BAG POLICY

- Limit any personal items you bring, as they must always remain on you. Graduates cannot leave belongings in the graduate lineup or seating areas. Graduates and guests may carry small handbags up to 10" x10" for personal items. Anything larger (e.g., backpacks), except childcare or medical bags, are not allowed.
- Bags that do not meet these expectations must be returned to the guest's vehicle or stored in a Prudential Center-supplied locker at the guest's expense. Lockers are located outside M&M's Tower and Lafayette Street entrances. Strollers that fit underneath seating are permitted in the arena; all larger strollers must be checked at the entrance.

### ACCESSIBLE ACCOMMODATIONS

- Guest Services staff are located at all entrances. Guest Services staff will assist guests needing accommodations, including wheelchair escorts, providing elevator locations, and ADA seating. Entrance ramps are located at M&M's Tower and Lafayette Street Entrance.
- For more information on accommodations available, please visit [Prudential Center Access Accommodations](#).
- For additional questions, email [guestservices@prucen-ter.com](mailto:guestservices@prucen-ter.com). Any **graduate** who needs accessible accommodations should contact the Disability Support Services Office on their home campus by Monday, May 4 at either [metroddss@fdu.edu](mailto:metroddss@fdu.edu) or [florhamdss@fdu.edu](mailto:florhamdss@fdu.edu).

**M&M TOWER**  
Graduate Entrance

**CITIZENS TOWER**  
Guest Entrance



This Know Before You Go is a summary of the information needed for Commencement. All graduates and guests must review all necessary information available on the Commencement website before the ceremony on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

## LIVESTREAM

- The ceremony will be livestreamed for family and friends who cannot attend. The livestream link is posted on the [Commencement website](#).

## CONCESSIONS

- Food and beverages are available at concession stands located in Prudential Center. We encourage graduates to eat before arriving, as the concession stands are not accessible from the student line-up area. Guests and graduates cannot bring outside food, beverages, coolers, bottles or cans into the arena. All concession stands are cashless, and guests must pay for concessions with a debit card, credit card, Apple Pay or Google Pay.

## REGALIA

- Only Fairleigh Dickinson University-approved academic regalia is permitted. This includes cap, gown, hood (hoods are only for doctoral and master's candidates), Fairleigh Dickinson University zipper pulls and approved stoles, cords, and pins.
- Graduates should wear flat, comfortable shoes as they will need to walk throughout the arena for line up, graduate processional, and across the stage during the ceremony.
- Every graduate will receive a Fairleigh Dickinson University zipper pull in their regalia package. Attach the zipper pull to your regalia to show off your FDU pride at Commencement!

## CEREMONY NAME READER CARDS

- Your name will be announced as you walk across the stage at Commencement by way of your reader card.
- Please take care of this card and bring it with you to Commencement. Do not lose, damage, fold, rip, crumble or write on it, as we cannot replace them. It is important that you **PRINT** your name **PHONETICALLY** and **CLEARLY** for the name reader to properly pronounce your name.

## GRADUATE GIFTS

- Graduate gifts including flowers, graduate t-shirts and other gift items will be available for purchase on course levels at the top of the escalators towards the left of entering Citizens Tower.

## PHOTOS

- Grad Images will be capturing the moment graduates walk across the stage.
- Photos outside Prudential Center: if graduates and guests wish to take pictures outside Prudential Center, we strongly suggest arriving early to take photos before the ceremony.

## CEREMONY TIMING & VENUE EXIT

- The ceremony will last approximately 3 hours.
- The University expects all graduates to remain in the arena until all degrees have been conferred and the platform party has departed. We ask that you be respectful to all graduates attending Commencement. Event staff will cue you to begin the recessional from the arena.
- Before the ceremony begins, plan a spot where you and your guests will meet after the ceremony. After the ceremony, the Prudential Center requests that all guests and graduates vacate the building.



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DICKINSON  
UNIVERSITY**