

Instructions for Attending the History Department Commencement

Date: Saturday, May 2, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Place: [Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre](#)

Department ceremony information: <https://www.colorado.edu/history/commencement>

Please do not arrive more than 30 minutes early, as staff will be setting up the venue.

[Mary Rippon Outdoor Theatre](#) is ADA-accessible from the southwest gate (near the CU Museum and Denison buildings), and from the northwest ADA entrance to Hellems. If you or someone in your party needs an ADA accommodation for mobility or communication, please fill out our [accommodation request form](#) and return it to the department *at least two weeks prior to the event*.

Parking for Commencement and Recognition Ceremonies will be offered free on a space-available basis at all campus lots. Lot 206/208 (the 'Museum lot') has accessible parking and is close to the venue for drop-off or pickup if all the spaces are occupied. You may park in any campus lot, but the Euclid Parking Garage (lot 205) and the University Club (lot 204) are probably the closest options for our event. Off-campus street parking in the University Hill neighborhood is limited to 2 hours and is that is strictly enforced by the City of Boulder. For detailed information about parking & shuttles for commencement, see: <https://www.colorado.edu/commencement/families-guests/arrival-parking>

Graduating students are encouraged to wear regalia* (a.k.a. cap and gown) but it is not required.

When you arrive at the event, please do the following:

- ❖ Have your guests seat themselves anywhere in the theater other than in the seats marked as reserved for graduating students.
- ❖ Check in at the table just inside the arch at the southwest entrance to the theatre and pick up both your name tag & your personalized 3x5 information card. If you are concerned your name may be mispronounced, please write how to pronounce it correctly on the card. If you don't want part of your name used or want to use an alternate name, please indicate that on the card as well. Put on your nametag and hold onto your card to hand to the presenter during the ceremony.
- ❖ Line up in the west corridor of the Hellems building using name tags to determine alphabetical order, with PhD students at the head of the line, followed by MAs, then BAs, then Minors. Once lined up, you can remove your nametag before you enter the venue so you will be more photogenic. *(Be kind to the custodians – please don't drop name tags on the floor or stick them to walls, as they are hard to remove. We will have a trash receptacle near the entrance to the theater for you to use.)*
- ❖ History staff will let you know when it is time to process into the theater. You will walk down the right-center aisle of the theater and take seats in the reserved section, starting with Row C (leave rows A & B empty). After the Chair's Remarks and the awarding of prizes, you will be instructed to process onto the stage from the west side, then stop at the podium where you will hand your information card to the presenter so that you can be announced and receive your diploma cover. Please exit the stage on the east side and go up the east ramp and around the back of the theater to return to the reserved section on the west side of the theater until the ceremony is over.
- ❖ Because our venue is outdoors, we strongly suggest attendees bring a raincoat or poncho if rain is predicted. While umbrellas are not banned, we politely request that attendees refrain from using them during the ceremony if doing so would interfere with the ability of other attendees to view the event. In the event of dangerous weather (lightning/high winds) the ceremony may be postponed slightly or canceled entirely, however if it's just raining the event will proceed. There is no alternate location because there are no spaces on campus large enough for our event which are not already in use by other units.
- ❖ Graduating students should monitor their official CU email on the day of the ceremony for potential announcements regarding delays or changes.

The ceremony itself usually lasts about one hour and will be followed by a reception on the Hellems-Mary Rippon Patio.

* Information on how to obtain regalia is available from the Commencement Office. The phone number is (303) 492-7205 and their website is located at: <http://www.colorado.edu/commencement/spring-ceremony>

Participation in commencement is not a guarantee of graduation. Official graduation is not confirmed for several weeks following the ceremony and may be affected by course performance and other factors. Upon successful completion of all college and major requirements your authentic diploma will arrive via surface mail 2-3 months after graduation.