



LIVESTREAM

A WEIU livestream of each ceremony will be available at eiu.edu/commence/online.php for guests unable to attend commencement.

FALL 2026 COMMENCEMENT GUIDE

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU DID IT!

Eastern Illinois University is excited to honor our graduating students, their families, and guests with a memorable commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 19, in Charleston, Ill., at Groniger Arena in the Lantz Complex.

NEED ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE WEEKEND?

Go to eiu.edu/alumni/lodging.php for a listing of local hotels and restaurants.

COMMENCEMENT DAY SCHEDULE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19

- 9 A.M.** Student check-in begins
(Lantz Fieldhouse)
- 10 A.M.** Ceremony Begins
(All Undergraduate/Graduate Degrees)
 - College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
 - Lumpkin College of Business & Technology
 - College of Education, Health & Human Services
 - Interdisciplinary Studies

COMMENCEMENT LOCATION

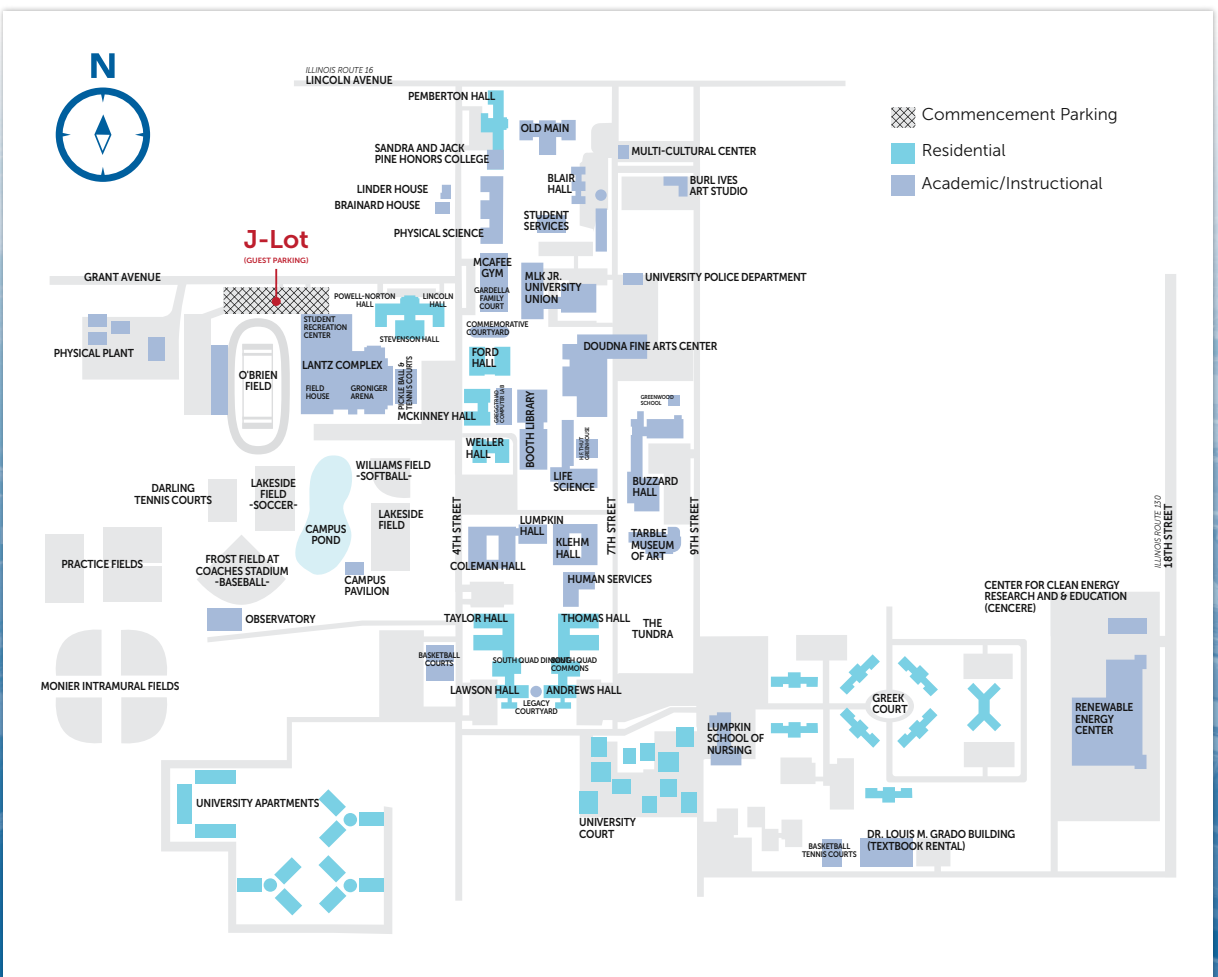
All commencement ceremonies will be held at:

**GRONIGER ARENA
LANTZ COMPLEX
100 GRANT AVE
CHARLESTON, IL 61920**

COMMENCEMENT PARKING

Parking will be available for graduates and guests in the north lot (**J-Lot**) outside of O'Brien Field and in surrounding lots.

CAMPUS MAP



Go to eiu.edu/map to access Google Maps and driving instructions to the campus of Eastern Illinois University.

COLLEGES UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Bachelor of Arts

- Art
- Chemistry
- Communication Studies
- Criminology and Criminal Justice
- Economics
- English
- History
- Journalism
- Mathematics

- Music
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Public Relations
- Sociology
- Television and Video Production
- Theatre
- World Languages and Cultures

Bachelor of Fine Arts

- Art

Bachelor of Music

- Music

Bachelor of Science

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- Clinical Laboratory Science

- Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering
- Engineering
- Fashion Merchandising
- Geography
- Geology
- Health Communication
- Neuroscience
- Physics
- Science with Teacher Licensure

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Bachelor of Science

- Career and Technical Education
- Communication Disorders and Sciences
- Emergency Management
- Exercise Science (Pre-OT, Pre-PT, and Pre-AT Options)
- Health Administration
- Health Practice
- Human Services/ Social Work
- K-12 Physical Education

- Nursing (RN-BSN or Traditional Program)
- Nutrition
- Public Health
- Sport and Recreation Management

Bachelor of Science in Education

- Early Childhood Education
- Elementary Education
- Middle Level Education
- Special Education

LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Bachelor of Science

- Computer and Information Technology
- Construction Management
- Digital Media Technology
- Engineering Technology
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Organizational Development

Bachelor of Science in Business

- Accounting
- Business Administration
- Business Analytics and Information Systems
- Finance
- Management
- Marketing

STUDENT SUCCESS

Bachelor of Arts

- Interdisciplinary Studies

GRADUATE SCHOOL GRADUATE DEGREES

Graduate students will be hooded on stage during the commencement ceremony.



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Specialist in Education

- Educational Leadership

Master of Arts in Teaching

- Elementary
- Secondary
- Special Education

Master of Science

- Aging Studies
- Communication Disorders and Sciences
- Counseling
- Exercise Physiology
- Health Promotion
- Higher Education and Student Affairs
- Human Services
- Sport Administration

Master of Science in Education

- Curriculum and Instruction
- Educational Leadership
- Elementary Education
- Special Education

LUMPKIN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY

Master of Business Administration

- Business Administration

Master of Science

- Cybersecurity
- Sustainability
- Talent Development
- Technology

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Specialist in School Psychology

- School Psychology

Master of Arts

- Art
- Clinical Psychology
- Communication Studies
- English
- History
- Music
- Political Science

Master of Science

- Biological Sciences
- Chemistry
- School Psychology

Professional Science Master's

- Geographic Information Sciences

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS PRIOR TO THE CEREMONY

• APPLY FOR GRADUATION.

Students must apply for graduation through PAWS. The application link is found under the Student tab in PAWS. You will select the term of your graduation, provide the address for your diploma and enter exactly how you would like your name to appear. There will be a one-time charge of \$40 per degree.

THE DEADLINE TO APPLY TO GRADUATE IS NOVEMBER 3.

If you have applied to graduate (and will complete degree requirements) in the next term, but meet the eligibility criteria to participate in this term's ceremony, please complete the exceptionality request for your college.

• The Graduate School

- go.eiu.edu/gradexp
- Melanee Bates: 217-581-2220, mbates@eiu.edu

• College of Education, Health & Human Services/School of Extended Learning

- go.eiu.edu/eduexp
- Michelle Rhine: 217-581-2524, mdrhine@eiu.edu

• College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

- go.eiu.edu/libedu
- Brian Meyers: bdmeyers@eiu.edu

• Lumpkin College of Business & Technology

- go.eiu.edu/lumedu
- Tiffany Swalls: 217-581-6902, taswalls@eiu.edu

Students may reapply for graduation through PAWS. No additional fee is charged for reapplication.

Reapplication should be done if you need to change your graduate term, the degree or the major you are pursuing, or want to alter the way your name appears or the address your diploma will be sent. Do not reapply just because you want an updated degree checklist; contact your certifying dean's office.

2. ORDER YOUR CAP AND GOWN.

Order your cap and gown through the EIU Bookstore at go.eiu.edu/HerffJones. Renting a cap and gown signifies your intent to participate in commencement and allows for your involvement. Late charges will apply if ordered after the deadline. Do not order a cap and gown if you have not applied to graduate through PAWS or submitted the exceptionality form to participate.

THE DEADLINE TO ORDER CAP AND GOWNS IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6 AT 10:59 P.M. FOR IN PERSON PICK UP. A \$20 LATE FEE WILL BE CHARGED AFTER THE DEADLINE.

To order your cap and gown, you will need to know the college you are graduating from, degree earned, and height, weight and cap size. Instructions on how to find your cap size are available at go.eiu.edu/HerffJonesCap.

Students have the option to pick up their cap and gown starting December 8 in the EIU Bookstore, located in the MLK Jr. University Union, during store hours.

Students can also select to have their cap and gown shipped home for a \$18.10 shipping fee. The shipping fee includes a prepaid return label (\$19.95 shipping fee for late orders). Please contact 2456mgr@follet.com with any questions about your cap and gown.

3. RSVP FOR COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY PARTICIPATION AT [GO.EIU.EDU/COMMENCERSVP](https://go.eiu.edu/COMMENCERSVP)

Let the commencement coordinator know you intend on participating in a ceremony or not by completing the RSVP form by Noon on December 16, 2026. Completing the RSVP form allows graduates the opportunity to submit name pronunciations and accessibility needs for ceremony participation. Commencement participation is not required to graduate, but participation is the only way to get a diploma cover.

Completing the RSVP is separate from the Graduation Application.

STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS COMMENCEMENT WEEK

1. TICKET PICK-UP

Each student will be allotted **seven guest tickets** for their ceremony. Graduates don't need a ticket.

Students can pick up their tickets during ticket distribution in the Bookstore Lounge, located in the MLK Jr. University Union, on December 14 and 15, from 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.



Graduates not on campus can request tickets for pickup at Will Call on Saturday, December 19 one hour before the ceremony begins. Will Call tickets will be at the information table in the lobby of Groniger Arena.

Will call requests can be made by filling out the will call form (go.eiu.edu/willcall) on the commencement website by 4 P.M., December 16.

Opportunities for any extra tickets will be announced via email communication by December 15.

2. CAP AND GOWN PICK-UP

Cap and gown distribution will be held in the EIU Bookstore on December 8 and 9, from 8 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Graduates not on campus can have their regalia shipped to their homes for an additional fee. Graduates may continue to pick up cap and gown in the EIU Bookstore after the initial distribution dates.

3. ACCOMMODATIONS

If you are a graduate with special needs and need accommodation, please contact the Commencement Coordinator (Dean of Students Office) at commencement@eiu.edu to make arrangements in advance.



Your school. Your style. Your choice.

Create a ring that's all about your college experience. [Design Now](#)



STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS DAY OF THE CEREMONY

1. ARRIVE TO THE LANTZ FIELDHOUSE ONE HOUR BEFORE CEREMONY

The doors will open one hour prior to each ceremony for graduating students. Graduates should arrive dressed in their regalia. Link to a video of how to properly wear regalia below:

BACHELOR'S REGALIA – go.eiu.edu/bachelor

MASTER'S REGALIA – go.eiu.edu/graduate

MASTER'S HOOD – go.eiu.edu/mastershood

Please leave personal items in your vehicle. There will not be a place to store belongings.

2. GRADUATES WILL PICK UP THEIR NAME CARDS IN THE LANTZ FIELDHOUSE.

Each graduate will take their name card with them to receive their diploma cover. This card will be used to read their names as they cross in front of the stage to receive their diploma cover. If the student's name is difficult to pronounce, the announcer will be available to discuss proper pronunciation.

3. GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION

Participants graduating with distinction will be awarded a medallion that can be picked up December 14 and 15, from 9 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. during ticket distribution. Medallions will also be available for pickup in the Lantz Fieldhouse one hour before the ceremony.

4. GRADUATE SEATING

Graduates will be seated by college. Student seats will be filled in the order they walk.

5. CONFERRING OF DEGREES

Each graduate will have their name announced and will be handed a diploma cover. Actual diplomas will be sent in the mail approximately 8 to 12 weeks after the ceremony.

6. CEREMONIAL RECESSIONAL

Following the ceremony, graduates will be marched off the floor by the platform party and faculty. Please make plans on where to meet after the ceremony.



7. CAP AND GOWN RETURN

The return area will be in the EIU Bookstore until 3 P.M. immediately following the ceremony. If you had regalia shipped to your home, you can return it with the prepaid label that came with it.

The tassel and cap included with your regalia is yours to keep.

GRADUATING WITH DISTINCTION

Undergraduate students graduating with distinction are designated by medallions with corresponding ribbons of gold, white or blue. Undergraduates must have completed 56 hours at EIU to be recognized with distinction.

Summa Cum Laude – Gold

“With Highest Honors” – GPA: 3.90-4.00

Magna Cum Laude – White

“With High Honor” – GPA: 3.80-3.89

Cum Laude – Blue

“With Honor” – GPA 3.65-3.79

Medallions may be picked up during ticket distribution and are determined by the Office of the Registrar. Medallion distinctions are based on the cumulative GPA at the start of a student’s final semester.

HONORS PROGRAM

Eastern’s Sandra and Jack Pine Honors College celebrates students who have graduated with University and/or Departmental Honors.

University Honors graduates are distinguished as either University Honors Laureates (with 26 hours of Honors coursework) or Honors Scholars (With 15 hours of Honors coursework).

Departmental Honors Program graduates have typically completed a minimum of 12 hours of coursework in a Departmental Honors Program including a senior thesis.

To be recognized Honors graduates must have a GPA 3.5 or higher.

CORD AND STOLES

Honor cords and stoles are allowed. If you’re receiving one from a department or organization, please contact that area to pick it up. The Commencement Office does not supply cords or stoles.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students should not wear honor cords. The hood, adorned with the colors of their major, represents their academic accomplishments as recognized by the university. Each graduate student will be hooded on stage.

Graduation honors are not bestowed upon students receiving master’s degrees; therefore, graduate degree recipients do not receive or wear honor cords.

CAPS

Messages on or attached to any part of a graduate cap must be appropriate, or they will be asked to be removed.



STUDENT INSTRUCTIONS AFTER COMMENCEMENT

Congratulations to the newest members of the Eastern Illinois University alumni family, with more than 120,000 strong and growing. As you embark on the next phase of your life, know that you will not be alone. There are EIU alumni in every county in Illinois, every state in the nation and more than 75 countries worldwide.



STAY CONNECTED

Wherever your travels take you, please keep in touch with your alma mater. With your current contact information, Alumni Relations is better able to serve you and keep you informed of developments on campus, news regarding fellow classmates, upcoming special events and much more!

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION

Update your information at go.eiu.edu/update. Your eiu.edu email given to you as a student will be inactive one year after graduation. Be sure to transfer over all the information you need from that account and let Alumni Relations know your new email.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The EIU Alumni Association provides many opportunities for you to get involved after graduation and keep connected to your alma mater no matter where you are located. Learn more about the EIU Alumni Association at eiu.edu/alumni/membership.php.

REMAIN INVOLVED

Whether it is serving on a campus board or committee, volunteering in the classroom, attending alumni events, or providing financial support for a scholarship, you can join the thousands of alumni who work together to preserve the excellence of Eastern Illinois University.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

- **Registrar's Office** 217-581-3511
+ eiu.edu/registra
- **Career Services** 217-581-2412
+ eiu.edu/careers
- **EIU Alumni Association** 217-581-6616
+ eiu.edu/alumni
800-ALUM-EIU
- **Graduate School** 217-581-2220
+ eiu.edu/graduate
- **EIU Bookstore** 217-581-5821
+ eiubookstore.com 2456mgr@follett.com



GUEST INSTRUCTIONS

DAY OF THE CEREMONY



1. DOORS OPEN ONE HOUR BEFORE CEREMONY

Doors for guests should open one hour before the ceremony begins.

2. SPECIAL NEEDS SEATING

Seating accommodations are available for guests in wheelchairs or who have a difficult time navigating the stairs.

When your graduate picks up their tickets, they need to ask for a special seating stamp. An additional family member will be able to sit with that person to help those in need.

3. PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL

To maintain the dignity and decorum of the commencement ceremony, we ask that everyone remain through the entire ceremony.

4. OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

One photograph will be taken as the graduate reaches the stage and two others after receiving

his or her diploma. Proofs and online ordering information will be sent to the graduate within two weeks of the ceremony. Grad Images is EIU's photography provider. Preregistration at gradimages.com.

5. AFTER THE CEREMONY

Once the ceremony concludes and the graduates have been marched out, guests will be asked to leave the stands. Make a plan to meet your graduate outside. There will be no re-entry after the ceremony.

PRE-REGISTER FOR YOUR GRADUATION CEREMONY PHOTOS AND **GET 20% OFF.**

Receive a coupon for 20% off your entire order when you pre-register before graduation day.

Visit the address below for details.
www.gradimages.com/Preregistration



GRADIMAGES





ABOUT THE DIPLOMA

Degrees are awarded once all grades have been turned into the Office of the Registrar. Actual diplomas will be mailed to the address listed on your graduation application approximately 8 to 12 weeks after you graduate.*

Note: Participation in the commencement ceremony does not mean you have completed your degree requirements and graduated. Your graduation is not official until your certifying dean's office has sent notification of completion of all degree requirements to the Registrar's Office and the degree has been posted to your record.

INFORMATION STATED ON DIPLOMA

- + Student name
- + Degree earned
- + Date degree was awarded

DIMENSIONS

- + Undergrad degrees are 8" x 10"
- + Graduate degrees are 11" x 14"

DIPLOMA FRAMES

Each graduate who participates in commencement will receive a soft cased diploma cover. Order a diploma frame through the Herrf Jones at go.eiu.edu/HerrfJones.

* Please be sure your address is updated with the Office of the Registrar to reflect where you want your diploma sent 8 to 12 weeks after you graduate.



MESSAGE FROM THE EIU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Congratulations to the fall 2026 EIU Graduates from the EIU Alumni Association Board of Directors!

We are honored to welcome you to the Panther Alumni family. You worked diligently and with dedication to achieve your degree. At EIU, you acquired the knowledge and skills to launch your career or to pursue an advanced degree. You learned to persevere when unforeseen challenges were presented. And you found lifelong friends and associates among your fellow students and the EIU faculty and staff members. Wherever life takes you, know that Eastern Illinois University will always be a place you can call home. Please stay in touch and visit often.

You will always be a Panther!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Cody Czmyz". The script is fluid and cursive.

Cody Czmyz '10
President, EIU Alumni Association Board of Directors

P.S. You're eligible to join the Alumni Association at a discounted rate with the \$20 Recent Graduate Annual Membership if you sign up within 24 months of your graduation date. Do yourself a favor. Go to go.eiu.edu/joinalumni and sign up today.



PUT IN YOUR ORDER FOR A GRADUATION MESSAGE TODAY!



GRADUATION MESSAGE | \$20

Display a photo and message for your graduate on the Groniger Arena video board on commencement day. Message submissions accepted through Dec. 8.

