

# GRADUATION CEREMONY INFORMATION

Spring 2026 Commencement will be held on May 6, 2026, at 10 AM or 2 PM, depending on your major. Read below for details.



## CEREMONY TICKETS

Up to **6 ceremony tickets** will be available to each candidate for pickup from **April 6<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>** in the Registrar's Office. Every guest must have a ticket to enter the arena (including small children and infants). Students must have a photo ID to pick up their tickets. If you are unable to come to campus to pick up your tickets, more options will be made available to you and will be announced at a later date.



## GUEST INFORMATION & CLEAR BAG POLICY

The arena doors will open one hour prior to the start of the ceremony. Entrance to the arena will be closed 15 minutes before each ceremony. Handicapped guests are encouraged to arrive early to be seated. These seats are provided on a first-come, first-served basis. These guests can be dropped off at the circular drive close to the arena entrance.

Lander University will be enforcing a clear bag policy for the commencement ceremony. Guests will be allowed to bring in one clear backpack or bag, subject to search. Clutches are not permitted. Exceptions will be made for guests with medically necessary items. Balloons are not permitted inside the arena.



## GRADUATES ARRIVE

Graduates of the College of Business & Technology and the College of Nursing, Human Performance, & Health Sciences will attend the 10:00 AM ceremony and should arrive in the PEES auxiliary gym by 8:45 AM for rehearsal.

Graduates of the College of Education, the College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, and the College of Science & Mathematics will attend the 2:00 PM ceremony and should arrive in the PEES auxiliary gym by 12:45 PM for rehearsal.



## LOOK THE PART

All graduates must be in a Lander University issued cap and gown to participate in Commencement. The tassel should be on the right side of the cap prior to the ceremony; it will be moved to the left side during the ceremony as directed. Beneath the regalia, candidates are asked to dress in a professional manner, like what you might wear to a formal business interview. Please keep in mind you will be walking a short distance from the PEES gym to the arena.

Please do not bring any personal belongings with you to the gym. We recommend that you leave these with family members or friends in the general admission area.



## GET SNAPPED

Commencement photography is provided by GradImages. Photographers will be taking photographs during the ceremony. GradImages will email graduates after the ceremony with information about how to obtain their photos.



## KEEP WALKING

Once your name is called, that will be your signal to cross the stage. You will shake hands with your right hand and pause to take a picture with the University President. You should keep walking in a respectful manner, processing with the line back to your seat. We ask that graduating students and guests refrain from shouting out names or other forms of boisterous behavior so all students' names can be heard.



## DIPLOMA INFORMATION

Diplomas will be available for pickup in the Registrar's Office from **May 26<sup>th</sup> to June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Please be sure to bring a photo ID when picking up your diploma. Diplomas will not be released to anyone other than the student. Any diplomas that are not picked up will be mailed the **week of June 8<sup>th</sup>**. Please know that diplomas are mailed at the student's discretion, and we will not be mailing diplomas outside the United States. Tracking will not be provided. If you are in immediate need of your degree, an official transcript can be requested online after degree conferral.

# GRAD FAIR FAQs



## GRAD FAIR REGISTRATION

**Before you visit any tables, please check in with the Registrar's Office Table.** You will need to verify the following information: your name for your printed diploma, your hometown for the program, and your mailing address in case you do not pick it up during the allotted time (see DIPLOMA INFORMATION). You will also need to verify any applicable major(s), minor(s), and concentrations at this time.



## CHECK IN TABLES

You will be required to visit a **minimum of 5 tables** at the Grad Fair. Each table provides valuable information about your journey post-graduation. Once you have visited, they will stamp your card. After you have the minimum number of stamps, you may pick up your cap and gown. On commencement day we will have a drawing where a graduate from each ceremony will win a diploma frame valued at over \$200!



## CAP AND GOWN PICKUP

Herff Jones will be in the Student Center Auditorium distributing caps and gowns. **You will be required to hand in your check in card before you can enter.** Your cap, gown, and tassel were included in your application fee. Academic honors will be distributed on ceremony day. Any other organizational awards will be presented through that organization.



## QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS

Please visit the Registrar's Office table at the Grad Fair for any immediate questions or concerns. If you are unable to pick up your cap and gown on Grad Fair day, you will be able to pick it up at the Bearcat Shop during normal business hours or email them for other options at [bearcatshop@lander.edu](mailto:bearcatshop@lander.edu). For any other graduation-related concerns, please email [graduation@lander.edu](mailto:graduation@lander.edu).

