

2019 Commencement Weekend Frequently Asked Questions

VISITING BROWN

What accommodations are available to guests?

Off-campus: For information about off-campus hotels and other lodging, please refer to [Brown's Travel Portal Page](#) and look for communications from the Executive Program team.

(On-campus/dormitory housing is available to undergraduate reunioning classes only.)

[Providence Visitor Info](#), [Rhode Island Visitor Info](#)

Parking and Navigating Campus

To ease your travel back to Brown, the University has made additional parking spaces available on and around campus.

In addition to the streets around the Brown campus, you and your visitors may park in any of the University lots anytime beginning at 5:00pm on Friday through the weekend. The Power Street lot (both lower and upper levels) at the corner of Power and Thayer streets is the largest lot on the College Hill campus. The top level is entered on Power Street and the bottom level is entered on the corner of Williams and Brook streets. Parking is prohibited on George Street from Prospect Street to Brown Street, on Brown Street from George Street to Charlesfield Street, and on Waterman Street from Prospect Street to Thayer Street.

Please observe city parking laws; any cars parked in a temporary emergency no parking tow zone, in marked handicapped spaces without a placard, in violation of a fire hydrant, blocking driveways, or obstructing Brown Police or Providence Police sawhorses will be ticketed or towed at owner's expense. There is no parking on any Providence city street from 2:00am - 5:00am.

Accessibility

Will there be shuttle service?

Yes. The Student & Employee Accessibility Services ([SEAS Shuttle](#)) provides rides on request to locations throughout campus for people with disabilities or medical conditions. Wheelchair-accessible on-call shuttles are available throughout the weekend and [handicap parking permits](#) are available with advance notice.

On-call shuttle phone: +1 (401) 225-9572

Will food be available during Commencement weekend?

Yes. Eateries such as the Blue Room and the Brown Faculty Club will be open during the weekend. Check the weekend brochure or Guidebook for specific times of operation.

Can I use Brown's fitness center?

You are welcome to use the [Nelson Fitness Center](#) during Commencement Weekend. Guest passes cost \$10 per person per day and [can be purchased online](#) or at the front desk (debit or credit only -- no cash accepted).

Social Media - What hashtags should I use?

#BrownExec

#BrownEMHL

#BrownCyber

#BrownEMSTL

#ieBrown

#Brown2019

EVENTS

Overview

Friday - Program Hooding Ceremony (3 programs), SPS Welcome Reception, Campus Dance

Saturday - Forums, Award Ceremony (EMBA specific)

Sunday - Procession, Diploma Ceremony, University Ceremony

What is a "Hooding Ceremony" and when does it take place?

The Hooding Ceremony is a recognition ceremony for Class of 2019 graduates of EMCS, EMHL, and EMSTL where graduates will be presented with their master's hoods (an EMBA ceremony takes place on Saturday). This event for these Executive Master's programs along with their families, is held from 6pm - 7:30pm on Friday, immediately preceding the Welcome Reception. Seating is first-come, first-served with overflow seating available for simulcast in an adjacent room.

What is the SPS Welcome Reception and when does it take place?

An event for students, graduates, and alumni of Executive Master's programs along with their families, friends, and faculty is held from 7:30pm - 9pm on Friday, immediately preceding the Campus Dance. An invitation will be sent to your inbox with more details.

What is Campus Dance, when is it, and how do I get tickets?

One of Brown's best-loved Reunion and Commencement traditions, Campus Dance brings over 11,000 people to Brown to dance the night away under a sky lit with over 600 paper lanterns. The event is from 9pm - 1am on the Friday of Commencement Weekend. The evening joins together graduating seniors and their families, alumni of all ages, and Brown faculty and staff. Call (401) 863-7783 for more information, or visit the [Campus Dance website](#). Online ticket sales begin April 15.

What is appropriate attire for the weekend?

Guests are strongly encouraged to dress according to the weather - layers are usually a good recommendation overall. While some guests enjoy getting dressed up for Campus Dance, there is no formal dress code. Comfortable shoes and flats are strongly recommended for graduates and guests.

What are the forum topics, times, and locations?

Forums will take place on Saturday at 9am, 11am, 12:30pm, and 3:30pm. They are led by Brown faculty, alumni, industry professionals and honorary degree candidates. For a complete schedule, check the weekend brochure of Guidebook.

Where can I purchase my cap & gown?

You can rent or purchase [academic regalia](#) from the Brown Bookstore. You must wear regalia appropriate for your degree to participate in the procession and ceremony. Master's and PhD candidates need a gown, cap or tam, and a hood (SPS will provide the hood -- do not order a hood). The Bookstore charges a late fee for rental orders placed after April 15, 2019. Rented regalia must be returned to the Bookstore directly following graduation.

What color will my master's hood be?

Trim colors are per the American Council on Education's code for academic regalia.

Executive Master of Healthcare Leadership: Salmon

Executive Master Business Administration: Tan

Executive Master in Cybersecurity: Gold

Executive Master in Science and Technology Leadership: Orange

SPS will provide your hood to keep. Do not rent or buy a hood.

Where is the ceremony?

The Master's Diploma Ceremony takes place at Meehan Auditorium, 225 Hope Street.

When will I receive my Diploma?

All Master's degree recipients receive their diplomas at the Master's Ceremony. The diploma is not in the case handed to you on stage. Graduates will proceed to an area to collect their official diploma; it is written in Latin.

Do my guests need a ticket for Commencement?

Tickets are not required for Commencement ceremonies. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. There is ample seating in Meehan Auditorium (approximately 3000 guest chairs for 500 graduates).

How does the procession work?

We ask all students commencing to report to Waterman Street for 9 AM. Check-in with the Graduate School representative for your degree and alphabetical section (look for the appropriate sign). The procession will begin around 9:45 a.m. The procession is led by the chief marshal, who is a member of the 50th Reunion class, followed by the color guard and alumni aides and marshals from various reunion classes. The faculty, graduate students, medical students, undergraduate students, present and emeriti members of the Brown Corporation, invited guests, and the presidential party round out the procession.

Separate lines of doctoral and master's degree recipients will process. After processing through the Van Wickle Gates, participants will be directed to the separate ceremony venues.

How long is the ceremony, what does it consist of?

Ceremonies last about 80 minutes and include a student address, awards presentation and conferring of degrees.

Where else can I watch or listen to the Commencement ceremonies?

There will be a live video broadcast of Saturday's undergraduate Baccalaureate, and of Sunday's Procession, to the College Green, Salomon Center, and Sayles Hall. Many ceremonies will also be [live-streamed on the web](#) -- a link may be provided at a later date for the Master's Ceremony.

What happens if it rains?

View the [Storm Plan](#) page for more information.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Emergencies, Medical

The Brown University police dispatch emergency personnel and coordinate all emergency services. For medical emergencies or urgent medical care, call +1 (401) 863-4111. From campus phones, which are designated by blue lights, press the red emergency button. Any uniformed police officer, security officer, or emergency medical technician can assist you in obtaining care.

For non-urgent medical care, see "Health Services" below.

Emergencies, Public Safety

The Brown University Department of Public Safety dispatch emergency personnel and coordinate all emergency services.

To obtain help for any emergency in the Brown community, call +1 (401) 863-4111. From campus phones, which are designated by blue lights, press the red emergency button.

To report a non-emergency, or to seek other assistance from the Brown University police, call +1 (401) 863-3322 (extension 3-3322 from any University phone).

Health Services - What hours are they open?

[Health Services](#) is expected to be open during the weekend. Check the weekend brochure or Guidebook for times. +1 (401) 863-3963

First aid - What if I have a minor medical issue?

During major on-campus functions throughout the weekend, a first aid station for minor problems will be located in the Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center (the building formerly known as Faunce House).

Where can I get more information throughout the weekend?

Before the weekend, you can contact the Executive Programs team at executiveprograms@brown.edu, or, for general information during the weekend, visit the Commencement Welcome Center, located on the first floor of the Stephen Robert '62 Campus Center. A schedule visible with the Guidebook app will also be made available by the University.