

## **FAQs:**

### **How many Commencement tickets do I get?**

Harvard issues only 4 tickets per student for the Yard Exercises. You can give them to any friend or family member you choose. However, selling Morning Exercises tickets is forbidden by the university -- please do not advertise to sell them. If you would like to request extra Morning Exercises tickets, you will need to contact the commencement office directly. <https://commencement.harvard.edu/ticket-information> There are no tickets needed for the afternoon Cabot House diploma ceremony.

### **What if I have more than four people coming? What do I do about the morning?**

The Yard Exercises are broadcast in many places on campus. Your family and friends are welcome to view it in multiple places. One of those designated places is the Cabot DHall, so it is recommended that any extra family members come here, sit comfortably and enjoy some coffee/tea and pastries while watching the Yard Exercises.

### **Where do I get tickets for senior week activities and everything else?**

Senior Week events, Family Reception, Class Day Picnic and Exercises, Commencement and House Luncheon tickets can all be picked up by Seniors and walkers in person at the "Senior Desk", located at 124 Mount Auburn Street, 6th floor. This Senior Desk is run by the Harvard Alumni Association and is the central point for \*all\* major ticketing for senior week and commencement events. It is open from May 8 - 24 from 11:00am - 3:00pm.

### **Where do I get my cap and gown?**

You are required to wear customized academic caps and gowns, aka "regalia", for Commencement Exercises Harvard Yard and for the Cabot House diploma ceremony. Cap and gowns are available for purchase between May 18-25 at the Coop, 1400 Massachusetts Avenue, 3rd Floor. NO reservations or pre-orders are required for Harvard College seniors! Cost is \$55.00 for a bachelor gown. The Coop is also open early on Commencement Day (6:45am) for regalia pickup.

### **What is the Cabot House "Diploma Ceremony?"**

The Cabot House diploma ceremony is when you receive your Harvard diploma! It is given to you by the Faculty Deans and the Resident Dean. Following a luncheon on the Quad Lawn, the ceremony begins promptly at 2:00pm and will last about 90 minutes. Please arrive by 1:45pm! You will remain in cap and gown for this important event.

### **What is listed on the Cabot House Commencement Program?**

All degree candidates and participants are listed in the Cabot House commencement program, even if they cannot attend. As space permits, we list as many College prizes and awards as possible, too.

### **Do term bills affect my graduation?**

If you have any outstanding bills or fees, or financial holds, you must settle them with the Student Accounts Office <https://sfs.harvard.edu/degree-holds>. Make sure all university bills are paid on time or you will not receive your actual diploma! All you will get is a big, empty, white envelope.

### **What is this Commencement Lunch and who is invited?**

It is a ticketed event but anyone is welcome. You will automatically receive 1 ticket for your own lunch and 2 free guest tickets. Any other tickets are considered 'extra' and you will need to purchase them at the Senior Desk. Tickets will also be available on Commencement day at the luncheon.

### **What is Senior Week and what really happens?**

Senior Week is a fun, traditional week of all-Class events that takes place after the underclassmen move out on May 14th. Events include the Senior Soiree, Senior Olympics, and Senior BBQ (and more). It's a packed week!

[https://www.boxoffice.harvard.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=senior-week&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context\\_id=](https://www.boxoffice.harvard.edu/Online/default.asp?BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::permalink=senior-week&BOparam::WScontent::loadArticle::context_id=)

### **Are the Dining Halls open during Senior Week and Commencement?**

Only a few dining halls, including Currier in the Quad, are kept open for limited meals during Senior Week, but they all close for Commencement Week. Keep in mind there will be a lot of gatherings and various College events that offer food during this last week, so you won't go hungry!

### **Is there a Cabot House reception for Seniors?**

Yes, of course! A reception for Cabot seniors and their families will be held on Wednesday, May 24 from 5 to 7 pm in the Faculty Deans' residence and back yard. Light appetizers and drinks will be available; please come! Everyone is welcome.

### **Commencement Rehearsals & Security**

There are no actual rehearsals for the big day; House Staff, Aides and Commencement Workers will be around to guide you every step of the way. Regarding security: you must have your Harvard ID in hand at the Senior Breakfast--we will be giving each of

you a special security lanyard into which you will insert your ID as you line up to march to the Yard. This is how you gain access to the Yard without being searched. So don't forget your ID! Also please be sure NOT to bring extra bags or purses with you to morning exercises.

### **What happens at the actual Diploma Ceremony?**

Seniors should plan to line up alphabetically at the end of Briggs Hall by 1:45pm. There will be House Staff, Aides and Commencement Workers to help you get in order and monitor the line formation. Led by a bagpiper, you will proceed along the pathway in front of Briggs and Barnard Halls and then seated in front of Bertram Hall. Ian, Crate and Ken will be standing on the patio of Bertram ready to call your name and give you your diploma (you should wait until you hear Michelle announce your name before you start walking, please) The professional photographer will snap a picture of you receiving your diploma, and then you will walk back to your seats. Please remember to be courteous and refrain from celebrating with friends or departing the ceremony until all diplomas are awarded. After everyone has received their diplomas, the photographer will take one big group photo, so please don't leave early!

### **Rain plan:**

The weather looks great for Thursday, but if it does rain, then an announcement will be made at breakfast and via email. We will move the ceremony underneath the tent in the Quad.

**Photos:** Arrangements have been made for GradImages Inc. to photograph each Senior as the diplomas are presented and to take one large group photo after everyone has received their diploma. Photos will be available for purchase, and information about them will be sent to your email address in late May. The information will also be available on our website. You are under no obligation to buy any photos. If your family wants to do its own photography, please ask them not to interfere with the professional photographers and not block anyone else's viewing.

### **Is the Diploma Ceremony going to be recorded?**

Harvard ESS will be managing the videography. They will caption the video and upload a link to the recording within about 48 hours. We will then post it on the Cabot House website. We do not plan on livestreaming the House ceremonies.

### **How long can I stay in the House after graduation?**

Seniors are expected to move out the day after Commencement, May 26, by 5:00pm. It is a hard deadline since the cleaning/move in for Harvard Reunions occurs right away, but remember, once a fish, always a fish!

