



COMMENCEMENT GUEST PREPARATION LIST

We look forward to celebrating with you and your graduate on Saturday, May 16, 2026! Here are a few suggestions to consider when preparing for Commencement Day.

Prior to Commencement:

- Visit the commencement website at <https://cnu.edu/commencement/> to learn more about CNU's non-traditional Commencement style.
- Make lunch and/or dinner reservations to avoid the wait at local restaurants. Newport News and the surrounding areas of Yorktown, Williamsburg, and Hampton are all home to excellent dining options. You'll also be able to enjoy our diverse selection of food trucks on the York River Lawn on Commencement Day.
- Make a Commencement Day plan with your graduate: Will they be participating in the processional and Conferral Ceremony? If yes, designate a meeting place following the recessional. What activities do they want to participate in on Commencement Day? What time are they scheduled to join the Grad Walk Queue? What other events will they be attending- Latin Honors Ceremony, Candlelight, PLP Ceremony?
- Sign up for our AI Chatbot by texting "Hi" to (877) 376 - 3672 for live Commencement information! If you have any questions, Captain Chris can answer them all 24/7!

Commencement Day Packing List:

- Portable cellphone chargers
- Sunscreen or umbrella for portable shade
- Comfortable shoes
- Water bottle - Refilling stations are available in most campus buildings and marked on the Activities Map.
- There is no dress code for guests, but CNU blue is always encouraged!
- Any items that support the mobility needs of your party: walker, wheelchair, folding chair, cane, etc.
- Planning to make a purchase? The food trucks, flower sales, Captains Locker, and Einstein's Cafe are open for business! We suggest that you bring multiple payment options (credit card & cash), as the point of sale may be different for each vendor.

After Commencement:

- Order family portraits online by following the directions in the Mementos tab on the Commencement website at www.cnu.edu/commencement.

STILL HAVE QUESTIONS? CONTACT
UNIVERSITY EVENTS AT 757-594-8061 OR
CNUEVENTS@CNU.EDU