Table of Contents

Getting Ready for Commencement Day.................................................................3
  Graduation Application..................................................................................3
  Diploma.......................................................................................................3
  Participation In Commencement Exercises..................................................3
  Commencement Fee.....................................................................................4
  Graduation Requirements..........................................................................4
  Student Accounts.........................................................................................4
  Library Fines..............................................................................................4
  Student Loan Exit Interviews.................................................................4
    Office Of Financial Aid..........................................................................4
    Bursar’s Office......................................................................................5
  School Email Account................................................................................5
  Student Health Insurance..........................................................................5
  Awards Day................................................................................................6
  Commencement Exercises..........................................................................6
  Tickets........................................................................................................6
  Academic Attire..........................................................................................6
  What To Expect On Commencement Day.................................................7
    Graduates...............................................................................................7
    Guests....................................................................................................7
  Awarding of Degrees...............................................................................7
  Photography Information...........................................................................7
  Following the Ceremony..........................................................................8
  Venue Rules..............................................................................................8

Questions?.....................................................................................................9
GETTING READY FOR COMMENCEMENT DAY

GRADUATION APPLICATION

The first step in preparing for graduation involves filing a Graduation Application online through Banner Self-Service, our student information system. We will send information to you by email in early-January 2023 about logging on to complete the Application. Please make sure you regularly check your Downstate email account. The information that you will be providing is used to order your diploma, and to collect information regarding your participation in Commencement Exercises. Upon completion of the Application, you will receive a confirmation and information about ordering your Commencement attire.

DIPLOMA

The diploma is ordered with your name as it appears on your student record. You may elect to use your middle name or initial on the Application without submitting official documentation.

If you anticipate formally changing your name before completing the requirements for the MD degree, and you wish your new name to be reflected on your diploma, you must present official documentation (e.g., marriage certificate, naturalization papers, etc.) to the Office of the Registrar by February 24, 2023. If your name becomes official after the February 24th deadline, you will be required to submit official documentation of the name change prior to receiving your diploma. Any questions regarding this procedure should be directed to the Office of the Registrar.

Please note: Diplomas are ordered in your official name at the time of graduation. Diplomas will not be ordered with a name that changes officially AFTER the graduation date.

PARTICIPATION IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

Complete the sections Curriculum Selection, Graduation Year Selection, Graduation Ceremony Selection, Academic Attire Order, and Diploma Name Selection on the on-line Graduation Application, whether or not you intend to participate in the Commencement Exercises. The Application must be completed on-line by Friday, February 24, 2024.

You will be able to print out a Graduation Application Summary following completion of the Application.

After this deadline, it may still be possible for you to participate in commencement, however you will incur a late fee, you will not be listed in the Commencement Program, and you will not have access to tickets to the ceremony on May 11th.

Please note: Students may march in one Commencement Ceremony. Those students who have or will complete degree requirements in May 2023, August 2023, or December 2023 are eligible to attend the May 2023 Commencement Exercises.
COMMENCEMENT FEE

The graduation fee for all graduating students is $90. Students pay this fee whether or not they attend Commencement.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To be considered for graduation, you must achieve the following:

- Satisfactory completion of all course requirements as defined by your program;
- Satisfactorily remediate any academic deficiencies.
- Be in good standing (i.e., not on academic or disciplinary probation at the time of graduation).
- Have a grade point average of B or 3.0 on a 4.0-point system.
- Have no disciplinary charges in progress or pending.
- Satisfy all financial obligations due SUNY Downstate.
- Satisfy all required course work.
- Complete a mandatory financial id exit interview if you received financial aid while at SUNY Downstate.

STUDENT ACCOUNTS

All graduating students must satisfy all financial obligations owed to SUNY Downstate.

LIBRARY FINES

Unpaid fines will result in a borrower's being blocked from checking out further materials and may cause a delay in graduation. Overdue fines may be paid by cash or check at the Bursar's Office. Any student who has not met all financial and administrative obligations to the institution will not receive his or her diploma until cleared by the appropriate office.

STUDENT LOAN EXIT INTERVIEWS

Office Of Financial Aid

The following information applies to students who have taken a Student Loan during their attendance at Downstate. Prior to graduation, you must complete the Student Loan Exit Interview.

You must be aware of the total dollar amount of Federal Student Loans you have accumulated before you begin the Student Loan Exit Interview.

1. To access your student loans data on the NSLDS, visit here:
   
   - https://studentaid.gov
   - Choose Log In
   - Enter your FSA ID & Password
   - Accept the Terms and Conditions
   - After you’ve entered the system, hover over your name which is in the top right of the screen.
   - Select My Aid
   - Next, select Download My Aid Data which is to the right.
• Select Continue.

This downloaded text file can now be sent to your financial advisor for analysis and recommendations based on your specific goals. Again, please protect this file as it contains personal financial information about your student loans.

2. Then click on the Exit Counseling tab and complete the Exit Interview.

The Financial Aid Office at Downstate, your lender, and your guarantor will all automatically be notified that you have completed the Exit Interview. No further paperwork is required. However, if you have further questions about loan forgiveness and payment plans, please make an appointment to talk to someone in the Financial Aid Office.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Office of Financial Aid should you have any questions.

➢ financialaid@downstate.edu
➢ 718-270-2488

Bursar’s Office

All loans (Perkins & NSL) borrowed through campus-based loan programs are exited by Bursar’s Office.

NSL Borrowers — are required to go through the exit interview process prior to graduation. You will be notified by email to come into our office to complete the NSL exit interview. If you have not heard from us via email by the end of March, or you will not be on campus during the Spring semester, call (718) 270-1078 to arrange for an appointment.

Perkins Borrowers — are exited electronically by the Bursar’s Office. No appearance or further paperwork is required by you...the student.

SCHOOL EMAIL ACCOUNT

Graduating students School email account will remain active for a period of six (6) months following your graduation date.

STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Any student who currently has health insurance through the SUNY Downstate School plan, and will not have other coverage through a job on August 1, 2023, is eligible to purchase continuing coverage from the broker who handles our insurance. You only have 30 days from the end of coverage (July 31, 2023), to complete your enrollment. Please contact:

Ms. Paula Hyman
HSA Consulting, Inc.
2477 Stickney Point Road, Suite 207B
Sarasota, Florida 34231
1-888-978-8355 Fax: 1-941-925-2001
E-mail: paula@hsac.com
AWARDS DAY
Tuesday Afternoon
May 9, 2023
1 - 3:00 pm
PHAB Hall Room A

The Awards Day program will include greetings from your class president as well as recognition of outstanding medical students with a variety of college and departmental awards. All graduating students are welcome to attend.

COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES
Tuesday Afternoon
May 11, 2023
3:00 pm
The Amphitheater at Coney Island
3052 W. 21st Street B
Brooklyn, NY 11224

The School of Public Health along with the College of Medicine and School of Graduate Studies will honor the Class of 2023 at its Commencement Exercises. The ceremony includes the academic procession, greetings from the President, and Commencement speakers. Each graduating student walks across stage and is recognized by name. Academic attire is required.

TICKETS

*Tickets are required for all guests.*

All participating students will receive 5 tickets for general admission into the Amphitheater. Requests for additional tickets must be submitted through the on-line Graduation Application and will be accommodated based on availability. All guests, including infants/toddlers who do not require their own seat, must have a ticket.

Ticket pick-up information will be available in mid-January.

ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Degree candidates who wish to participate in the Commencement Exercises are required to wear academic attire and to march with members of the faculty and honored guests in the academic procession.

Once you submit your Commencement Application, you will receive confirmation that it has been received. That confirmation will include a link to Oak Hall who is our contracted provider of academic attire. Click on the link and order your own attire which will be sent to an address that you provide. Each degree level has a drop-down menu displaying each program at Downstate. Find your degree/program which will have the appropriate attire. You will pay Oak Hall directly and they will ship to you. Oak Hall’s site will close on March 31st for guaranteed delivery by Commencement.

Please note: Academic attire will NOT be available at the Coney Island Amphitheater. You must bring your attire with you to graduation. You will not be allowed to march without attire.
WHAT TO EXPECT ON COMMENCEMENT DAY

Graduation will begin promptly at 3:00 pm and should last approximately two hours. This information will be important to you if you are making dinner reservations.

The Amphitheater at Coney Island is located at 3052 West 21st Street, Brooklyn. You will enter the venue from the Coney Island Boardwalk. There is a stairway and ramp to the Boardwalk at the end of 21st Street.

The closest parking is at the Cyclones Baseball field, Maimonides Stadium. Enter at 1904 Surf Avenue. Park at the back of the lot, closer to the Boardwalk, (near the famous Parachute drop ride.) You can get to the Boardwalk from the lot and walk about a block west. You will see the Amphitheater sign from the parking lot.

The venue is also accessible by public transit. Take the D,F,N, or Q train to the last stop: Coney Island – Stillwell Avenue. It is about a 15-minute walk on the Boardwalk from the station, or you can take the B36 bus two stops west from Stillwell Avenue to 21st Street.

Graduates

All graduates must report with their academic attire no later than 2:00 p.m. to the Boardwalk “Park” entrance to line up in the park behind the amphitheater. You will not be returning to this robing area. Do not carry personal belongings with you. Leave your belongings with one of your guests. Promptly at 2:15 pm, the staff will begin to line you up for the processional. At 2:45, the line will be moved to the back of the arena.

If you arrive late, you will not be sitting with your classmates and will cross the stage at the end of the School of Public Health graduates.

Guests

All guests will enter through the main amphitheater entrance off the Boardwalk. They will go through a metal detector. All seating is general admission, and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Guests will not be permitted to enter the venue before 2:00 pm, please keep this in mind if you want your guests to hold any personal belongings.

As the venue fills up, areas will be closed off and guests arriving will be directed to seating that is available. Please plan accordingly. To maintain the dignity of the ceremony, guests will be asked by the ushers to keep the aisles clear.

Once the faculty and student processions begin, guests who are not already in the venue will not be permitted to enter the venue until the graduates and the faculty are seated.

Awarding of Degrees

During the ceremony, each candidate will have his/her name read aloud, walk across the stage, shake hands with the President and the Dean and be hooded on stage. Graduates will not be permitted to bring or carry children with them on stage.

Photography Information

The event will be livestreamed and recorded for the pleasure of your friends and family who are not able to attend. A link will be sent in early May to
share. The recorded ceremony will be available on the Downstate website soon after May 11th.

It is recognized that many of the guests wish to have photographs showing their student during the time that they are on stage receiving their diplomas. We have contracted a professional photographer to be on stage to photograph each candidate as s/he shakes hands with the President, and again with their diploma cover. All graduates will be required to fill out a photograph information sheet on-line prior to May 11th. Guests may wish to take their own photographs as well, from their seats. Guests are permitted to use hand-held cameras and self-contained home video equipment using only the natural lighting from their seats. (No flash.)

**Guests may not stand in the aisles at any time to take pictures or videos.**

The ceremony is being sign-language interpreted.

**Following the Ceremony**

Audience members will remain at their seats as faculty and students recess out of the venue onto the Boardwalk. Following the recessional, you can meet your guests on the Boardwalk.

**Venue Rules**

Please alert your guests to the following important venue rules:

- **Every individual entering must have a ticket.** Infants and toddlers who will be sitting in laps must have a ticket.
- **No balloons.** You can tie them on a railing on the Boardwalk, or present them to your graduate at home.
- **No weapons AT ALL – including pocket-knives, even if you are off-duty law enforcement.** If you have a relative coming who is an off-duty police officer, they will not be allowed in with a weapon. If you have a relative who has a pocket-knife on their keychain, they will not be allowed in.
- **All attendees will have a bag check and will pass through a metal detector.** WE RECOMMEND YOU NOT BRING LARGE PURSES OR BAGS.

Please be sure to share all Commencement information with your guests and make arrangements as to where you will meet after the ceremony.
**QUESTIONS?**

Bursar ............................................................Avion Ambrose  (718) 270-1078

Exit Interviews for Campus-Based Loans

Financial Aid ..................................................Farah Burnett  (718) 270-2488

Financial Aid Exit Interviews

Library ............................................................Juannetta Le Gree  (718) 270-7401

Library Fines

School of Public Health.................................Francisco Colon  (718) 613-8720

Student Affairs/Registrar .........................Edward Graciano  (718) 270-4551

   Attendance at Commencement

   Completion of Graduation Requirements

   Graduation Honors

   Ordering and Receiving Diploma

   Health Insurance .......................Madiha Akhtar (718) 270-2187

Student Center ..............................................Info Desk  (718) 270-2487

Student Life .................................................Schuyler Hooke  (718) 270-2484

   Commencement Ceremony

   Guest Issues