

Compiled Commencement Information for Spring 2020

Washington, D.C., area

Version #3 – May 11, 2020

What time are these events?

Friday May 15, 6:30 p.m. ET for the University virtual Commencement.

Sunday May 17, 1:00 p.m. ET for the DC area celebration event.

Do I need any special software to view the virtual Commencement?

No, as long as you have a modern web browser you should be fine. These virtual events are pre-recorded, as opposed to being livestreamed, so you won't need to install Zoom or other video conferencing software.

Can you tell me more about the virtual Commencement on Friday?

The University Commencement ceremony will be on Friday May 15 at 6:30 p.m. and can be accessed from the [university homepage](#). Links to videos from your college's dean will be available at that time as well. The pre-ceremony will showcase videos from alumni and families, photos from graduates, and more, starting at 6:15 p.m.. As a #HokieGrad, join your fellow classmates "live" during the virtual Commencement via the chat and a social media wall from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Find details on the [Commencement page](#).

Here is an official notice from the university:

We hope you will join Virginia Tech in celebrating the Class of 2020 at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, May 15, by going to vt.edu/commencement to watch the University Commencement Ceremony. We encourage you to begin viewing at 6:15 p.m. to see videos and messages from alumni, families, the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors, and photos from graduates. You can also participate by posting pictures and videos to social media using the #HokieGrad. There will be a chat feature available on the website from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. You will be able to navigate the site to hear messages from the college deans and General Fullhart and to listen to names of graduates being read.

Can you tell me more about the virtual celebration on Sunday?

The DC area event will be on Sunday May 17 at 1:00 p.m. and can be accessed from the [NVC homepage](#). You can also go to the [NVC Commencement page](#).

The video will also be posted on video.vt.edu under the channel "DC Area Graduation Videos". If you visit the channel early, you can subscribe to it and watch some video content from previous years. Channel links are shown below. Note that this channel currently requires VT login to view (we're working to make it open to the public).

<https://video.vt.edu/channel/channelid/163321321>

<https://video.vt.edu/channel/DC%2BArea%2BGraduation%2BVideos/163321321>

It will also be available on YouTube under this channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/VTncrGSSO>

This event will include some of our regional traditions, such as messages from student speakers, a slideshow of events from the previous year, and reading of student's names along with their photos.

Both the Friday and the Sunday events will be pre-recorded and will be available for viewing at any time afterwards. So don't worry that you might miss something if your internet goes down at an inopportune time. The University Commencement on Friday will be run "live" at 6:30 p.m. and viewable on-demand afterward

Are there other Commencement-related events?

A special message from the respective deans and the calling of names will be posted at vt.edu/commencement at the same time as the University virtual Commencement. We have heard of some other events being organized by Colleges, departments, and student groups but we are not aware of a centralized list of these events. Their respective websites may have links to those celebrations.

Where can I find the Commencement program or list of names and degrees?

The program for these events will be posted online shortly before each event goes live.

When and where will my name be read?

Some names may be read in multiple sessions. For example, a graduating PhD student might appear in both the DC session and the Engineering session on Friday night, and then also in the Sunday afternoon DC event. Unfortunately we don't have an advance list of names for all the possible events.

Friday evening Commencement

- In addition to the main ceremony, there will be breakout sessions for academic Colleges, the Graduate School, Corps of Cadets, etc. Within the Graduate School breakout, there will be sessions for Blacksburg and the DC area.
- DC session will only include students who are graduating in Spring 2020.
- MIT students and many MNR students will be read with Blacksburg. These students are considered virtual campus students, not DC area or National Capital Region.
- The list for Friday evening is derived from those students who applied for their degree through HokieSPA by the standard deadline of March 1, so this list was finalized in early April.

Sunday afternoon event

- This event is open to graduates from Summer 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Summer 2020, as would be our standard practice for the in-person ceremony.
- We will include virtual campus students from the MIT and MNR programs, which again is our standard practice for the in-person ceremony.
- Our list is derived from those who said they were participating in the DC area spring commencement through HokieSPA. Department staff also sent lists of their graduates to Susan Merten or Debbie Payne in the GSSO. We tried to cast a wide net and include many of our graduates.

How can I help make this celebration better?

Post photos or videos on social media and tag with #HokieGrad and #VTDCgrad

Share a video message with students, faculty and staff in the DC area

The primary mechanism that we have for collecting these messages is [Flipgrid](#), which is designed for classroom sharing of videos. There are several “topics” on the site corresponding to the various Colleges. Check the pulldown menu on the right hand side, just below the image when you first arrive at the site. If you need to input the “Flipcode” for this site, it is **wong2459**.

If Flipgrid doesn’t work for you, you can also join the following [open course](#) on Canvas and submit a video as an assignment. Or you can record a video through your own Zoom/Canvas account and then send the link to Susan Merten and myself.

Submit your photo to be included in our Commencement archive.

You can continue to send us photos. Ideally, this would be a picture of you in Commencement regalia (cap and gown), but a regular photo is also fine. The original deadline for sending these was May 1. At this point we are getting close to the ceremony, so if you send us a photo now we will do our best to include it in the video, but we might not be able to. However, the Graduate School is working on some commemorative projects about this semester, so there will be other opportunities to use these photos.

Please name the photo “FirstName-LastName” so that it’s easier for us to identify the files, and email it to Susan Merten (smerten@vt.edu).