

# UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

# DIPLOMA CEREMONY FAQs

## 2025

**University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Diploma Ceremony**  
**Heinz Hall for the Performing Arts, 600 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222**  
**Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 1pm.**

Listed below are answers to your Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about the 2025 School of Dental Medicine Diploma Ceremony.  
**Please carefully read the following.** Should you have any questions, please email [dentalstudentaffairs@pitt.edu](mailto:dentalstudentaffairs@pitt.edu).

### WHERE SHOULD I PARK?

Parking information may be found at the following websites:

- [Visit ParkPGH](#)
- [Get Parking Information](#)

### WHERE DO GUESTS ENTER AND WHEN?

- Heinz Hall main entrance doors open for guest seating at 12pm.
- All guests will enter through the main entrance along 6th Street.

### WHERE DO PARTICIPANTS ENTER AND WHEN?

**All graduates** and **faculty** are to enter through the main entrance on 6th Street.

- Doors will open at 11am for graduates and faculty.
- Graduates and faculty must be in the building no later than 11:30am. Graduates will proceed immediately to the entrance check-in and then down to the Regency Room (downstairs level). Faculty will proceed immediately to the Mozart Room on the 2nd floor to check in and assemble.
  - **Important Note: All graduates and faculty should refrain from bringing bags, backpacks, or purses with them to the ceremony as there is no place to securely store these items.**
- Please stay in your line up area. The Office of Student Affairs staff and/or volunteers will assist you with lining up and direct graduates and faculty to the floor level to process in.
  - Procession will take place in the following order: Student Speakers, Vocalists, Dental Hygiene Class, Dental Class, Dental Residents, OCS Masters Graduates, and OCS Doctoral Graduates.
  - The graduates will fill each row in alphabetical order, right to left, as you enter the auditorium.

### WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I ARRIVE?

All graduates and faculty should check in with Office of Student Affairs staff and/or volunteers who will be available to assist you in the Grand Lobby and Regency Room in Heinz Hall.

- Graduates are to arrive with their regalia (tam, gown, and hood) and their academic hood on (with the exception of doctoral/professional graduates who will be hooded during their ceremony).
- The Pitt Dental Medicine backdrop will be available in the Regency Room for photos.
- The Dental Hygiene Class will line up for a class photo at 12:15pm in the Regency Room.
- All faculty and graduates must be lined up, in order, **30 minutes** before the start of the ceremony, at 12:30pm.
- The Office of Student Affairs staff and/or volunteers will be on-site to assist as needed and to show you how to hold your hood (for professional and doctoral graduates).

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CEREMONY

- Current 2025 academic year graduates of the Dental Hygiene, Doctorate of Dental Medicine, Dental Residency, and Oral and Craniofacial Sciences Graduate Programs are eligible to participate in the ceremony.
- Graduates must have [completed their RSVP](#) and purchased or rented regalia (tam, gown, and hood) to participate or they will not be able to walk across the stage during the ceremony.

## DOES EVERYONE WEAR REGALIA?

- The University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Diploma Ceremony is an academic ceremony and, as such, academic regalia (tam, gown, and hood) is required to participate in the ceremony. All graduates who ordered rental regalia must **pick up regalia directly from The University Store on Fifth before the ceremony**. You will be contacted by the bookstore once regalia is ready for pickup, which will be approximately one week prior to the ceremony.
- Only those graduates and faculty in full academic regalia will be permitted to participate.

## HOW DO I WEAR MY REGALIA AND WHAT IS PERMITTED?

- **Graduates may only wear academic cords issued by the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine.**
- You are not permitted to personalize regalia (tam, gown, hood).
- Professional dress attire is required under gown.
- For professional and doctoral graduates, the tassel is worn on the left side throughout the ceremony.
- For associate or bachelor degree graduates, the tassel is worn on the right and then is moved to the left as instructed.

## WHAT HAPPENS DURING THE CEREMONY?

- All graduates will process into the auditorium by following the grand marshal and remain standing in their designated row until faculty process in and proceed on stage.
- When it is time to receive diplomas, graduates will rise together by row, one row at a time, and be directed to the right side of the stage (facing stage).
- As graduate names are announced, each graduate will proceed across the stage (right to left) and return to their seat to sit down.
  - Once on stage, doctoral and dental graduates will stop first at the hooders to be hooded facing the audience, and then proceed across the stage to receive your diploma and return to your seat.
- It is important for graduates to move swiftly across the stage.
- Photographers will be present to take your photo as you are hooded and receive your diploma. Graduates should not pose for photographers in order to not affect the flow of graduates.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE CEREMONY?

- During the recessional after faculty have exited, graduates will exit to the left and proceed to the reception. Please remain on the main level—do not return to the Regency Room.
- A reception will be held in the Heinz Hall Grand Lobby and Garden (weather permitting). Rain location is the Heinz Hall Grand Tier.
- Dental graduates will pick up any **student awards** in the Grand Lobby (near the exit).
- All graduates must **return their regalia** (tam, gown, and hood) to the University Store staff on site in the Grand Lobby (near the exit) **prior to 4pm**.

## WHAT ACCOMMODATIONS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES?

- Pitt Dental Medicine is committed to providing access to its services, activities and programs. If you have questions about the event or if you require an accommodation (such as dietary restrictions, seating access, etc.) to participate in this event, please contact [dentalstudentaffairs@pitt.edu](mailto:dentalstudentaffairs@pitt.edu) by April 18, 2025.
- Heinz Hall main entrance on 6th Street is an accessible entrance.
- Heinz Hall offers accessible seating for guests.

## HOW DO I WATCH FROM HOME?

- The diploma ceremony will be livestreamed for guests who are unable to attend via the School of Dental Medicine YouTube channel and website.
- Visit the Graduation page on the School of Dental Medicine's website for more information and to watch the ceremony at the scheduled time.

## HOW DO I ORDER PHOTOS?

- Photos of your hooding, receiving your diploma, and/or exiting the stage will be available for purchase from the photography vendor after the ceremony. You will receive additional information about your photos via your Pitt email.

## ANYTHING ELSE?

- Please be sure to remove your regalia (tam, gown, and hood) from the bag and hang prior to the day of the ceremony to allow wrinkles to settle out of the fabric.
- No one is permitted to take alcohol into the Diploma Ceremony in Heinz Hall
- Items that can interfere with the ceremony (e.g., beach balls, bullhorns, etc.) are not permitted in Heinz Hall and will be confiscated.
- The ceremony should last approximately 90 minutes.
- Share your photos! Graduation photos taken before, during and after the ceremony may be shared to your social media using **#PittGrad25** and **#PittDentalMedicine** before, during and immediately after the ceremony.
- Attendees are required to follow all [Heinz Hall Policies](#) including, but not limited to the following:
  - Heinz Hall is a smoke-free/vape-free facility.
  - Weapons are not permitted in the venue and/or public spaces.
  - All attendees are required to enter through security scanning equipment.