

Hi Grads and Walkers,

The 366th Commencement Exercises are less than a week away and I wanted to share a summary of the key points with you seniors. You should read this carefully and also review the commencement website <https://commencement.harvard.edu>. It can be confusing because there are three kinds of events – Leverett events, events for your class, and University events. You can see almost everything at <http://alumni.harvard.edu/college/undergraduates/graduation>

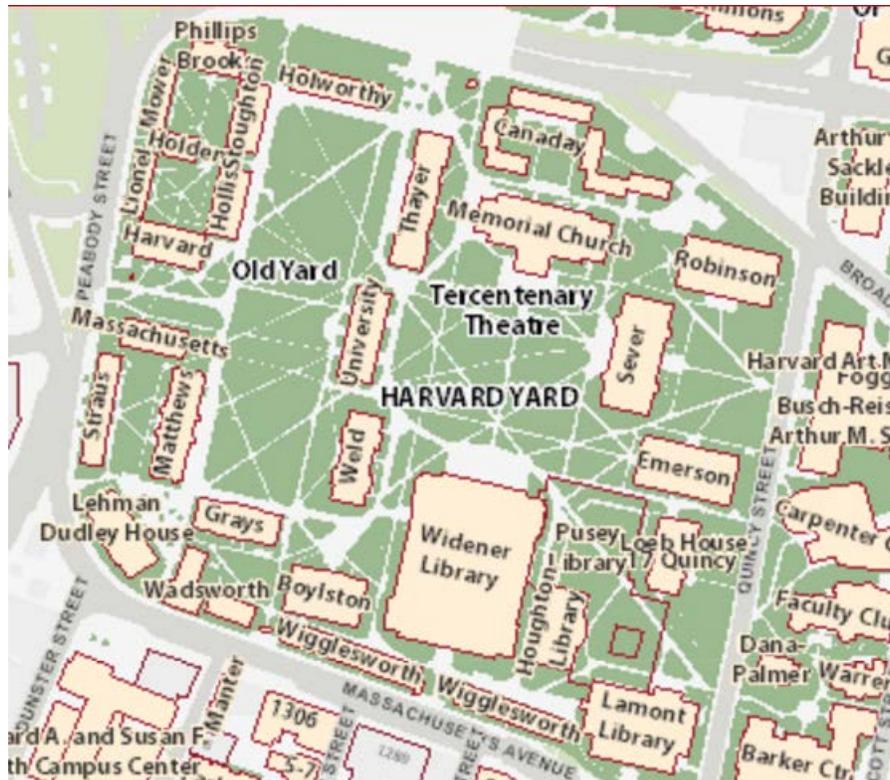
The important Leverett events are on Wednesday and Thursday.

Wednesday, May 24

Parents Reception – Wednesday, May 24 - McKinlock Stapleton Courtyard 5PM-6:30PM (lots of good food but not a formal dinner). The main event is in the tent in the McKinlock Stapleton Courtyard, but the Faculty Deans Residence will be open so you can show your guests around and give them a little taste of Monkeybread.

Thursday, May 25 --- Commencement Day

- First a little terminology which you probably already know, but it never hurts to review it. The “Morning Exercises” take place in Harvard Yard, ending at 11:30am. Two parts of Harvard Yard are critical for the Commencement celebration. The “Tercentenary Theatre” is the area between Widener and Memorial Church and between University Hall and Sever, as shown on the map below. This is where we and thousands of others will eventually sit and watch the ceremony. The “Old Yard” is the part of the Yard to the west of University Hall, Weld and Thayer. This is the staging area for all the goings on in Tercentenary Theatre.



- Security / Credentials – When you enter the Yard and while you are there, you are expected to wear a crimson lanyard and place your Harvard ID in the clear casing. If you have lost your HUID (not a good idea), please place a government-issued ID with photo in the casing. Backpacks are strictly prohibited from the Yard and all other smaller bags will be inspected. You should let your family and friends know this, and also remind them that strollers, while allowed in the Old Yard, are not permitted into the Tercentenary Theatre.
- Champagne breakfast – 6am SHARP in the dining hall! Be there or you will miss good food and good fun. And you **MUST** be there by 6:45am when we start lining up to march to the Yard. **DO NOT MISS THIS.** Among other things, **the breakfast is where you get your Lanyard that gets you into the Yard.** If for some reason you must miss it, it is your responsibility to make other arrangements to get your Lanyard.
- Procession into the Yard (before 7AM!!!!) – We will be walking up Mill Street to Plympton Street and up Plympton to Mass Avenue, following our Dixieland band. We will cross Mass Avenue – stopping traffic – and enter the Yard by the McKeon Gate (through Wigglesworth and passing on the left side of Boylston), and walk through the Old Yard and around Thayer to enter Memorial Church. The route through the Old Yard is approximately shown in the map below. If you get separated, follow that route rather than attempting to cross Tercentenary Theatre which is a mad-house as parents and other guests are claiming their seats. This is one of the really fun parts of the morning, but please be vigilant. We do not want any non-Leverites sneaking in with us.

the rest of you should remain standing during this time. When the President confers the degree, she is conferring it upon all the standing seniors at that moment.

- **After the morning exercises – as soon as the President’s party has marched out of the Tercentenary Theatre, you should make your way back to Leverett House as quickly as you can, and take your seats in the Tower Courtyard. At noon, I will say a few words and we will begin handing out your diplomas on the steps leading up to the Library entrance. This will be mostly in alphabetical order, but not exactly, so it is important that you find the seat with your name on it.** Shortly before your name is called, you should get up and join the line of students waiting to come up the south side the steps and get their diplomas from me. After you get your diploma, Coach and Bilal will congratulate you and you can go down the north side of the steps and return to your seat.
- As soon as we get the diplomas to you, we will break for lunch. Lunch will be served in multiple lines in the Dining Hall and McKinlock and you can take your lunch and sit anywhere you like except by the entrance to the Library, where we will be having a lunch for the tutors and staff.

General issues

- Academic Regalia – You must all wear academic regalia (cap and gown) at the Commencement Morning Exercises. If the weather is bad (either hot or wet) you should avoid wearing light clothing under your academic robes, because they sometimes bleed color onto the garments worn underneath when exposed to moisture.
- Emergency Preparedness/Extreme Weather – Commencement usually takes place rain or shine (though shine is nicer), but if the weather is really terrible (ie flooding or lightning), we will all be notified of the alternative plan during the champagne breakfast
- Simulcast of the Morning Exercises – We will make viewing of the Morning Exercises available at Leverett for your guests that are not able to join us in the Yard. Your guests can view the simulcast in the F or G Hutchs, in the Janulis Common Room and in the Dining Hall. The simulcast is web streamed on the Harvard homepage as well as available via Comcast Cable station 283.
- Simulcast of the Diploma Ceremony at Leverett - The Diploma Ceremony will be live streamed via this link that will be available on May 25
<http://media.video.harvard.edu/core/commencement/2016/leverett-house.html>.
The ceremony can be viewed in F and G Tower Common Rooms, Library Theater and the Dining Hall.
- Afternoon program – The Annual Meeting of the Harvard Alumni Association begins at 2:30 PM. Here you can hear remarks by President Drew Faust and our Commencement Speaker, Mark Zuckerberg.