

NSU Florida

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COMMENCEMENT

nova.edu/commencement

WELCOME

- Nova Southeastern University (NSU) welcomes graduating candidates, their families, and friends to its Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus for the 2025 commencement ceremonies.

This guide offers important information regarding NSU commencement, academic regalia, recognition events, and accommodations for your visiting family and guests.

Let the countdown begin!



SCHEDULE OF CEREMONIES

UNDERGRADUATE

Monday, May 5, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Halmos College of Arts and Sciences

Monday, May 5, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and
School of Criminal Justice

College of Computing and Engineering

College of Psychology

H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business
and Entrepreneurship

Shepard Broad College of Law

Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences

Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing



All commencement ceremonies will take place at the Rick Case Arena in the Don Taft University Center, located at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus, Florida.



For more information, please:

- Visit nova.edu/commencement, or
- Email us at commencement@nova.edu, or
- Call 800-541-6682, or (954) 262-7255 ext. 27255.
- Please include your NSU student ID number in all correspondence.

GRADUATE / PROFESSIONAL

Friday, May 9, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine

Friday, May 9, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

College of Dental Medicine

College of Optometry

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences
(PT, AUD, AA-Denver, and SS)

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Shepard Broad College of Law

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Friday, June 6, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

College of Psychology

H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business
and Entrepreneurship

Friday, June 6, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and
School of Criminal Justice

College of Computing and Engineering

Halmos College of Arts and Sciences

Friday, August 15, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences
(PA and AA, except AA-Denver)

Friday, August 15, 2025, 3:00 p.m.

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences
(except PT, AUD, SS, PA, AA)

Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing

Congratulations

Commencement is the recognition of your academic achievements and lasting contributions made to the university, which is celebrated with your fellow classmates as well as with the families who have supported you on your journey to one of life's most significant milestones.

You make us proud!



ATTENDANCE AND ELIGIBILITY

Candidates who were not invited to a past ceremony and had a degree conferred since the last commencement exercises are automatically invited to participate. Each college determines its participation requirements. When in doubt, check with your academic program or visit its commencement website for clarification on the requirements that must be met to be invited.

Commencement invitations are sent to all qualified students who have their degree conferred or who will be completed by the end of the 2025 summer semester.

However, if you received this invitation in error and do not plan on completing all your degree requirements before the end of the summer semester, you must contact your academic advisor so they can have your record updated and your name removed from the commencement list.

If your record is not updated and your name appears in the 2025 commencement program as a candidate, you will not be eligible to be invited to a future ceremony.

Abraham S. Fischler College of Education and School of Criminal Justice

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-8500

Barry and Judy Silverman College of Pharmacy

(954) 262-1300

College of Computing and Engineering

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-2031
	cecadvising@nova.edu

College of Dental Medicine

(954) 262-7500

College of Optometry

(954) 262-1658

College of Psychology

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-7563

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Allopathic Medicine

mbsprogram@nova.edu
mdstudentaffairs@nova.edu
(954) 262-0515

Dr. Kiran C. Patel College of Osteopathic Medicine

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-1029

Halmos College of Arts and Sciences

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-8420

Dr. Pallavi Patel College of Health Care Sciences

(954) 262-1205

Farquhar Honors College

(954) 262-7990 or (954) 262-8408

H. Wayne Huizenga College of Business and Entrepreneurship

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-5067

Ron and Kathy Assaf College of Nursing

Undergraduate	Graduate
(561) 805-2224	(561) 805-2224

Shepard Broad College of Law

Undergraduate	Graduate
(954) 262-7990	(954) 262-6128

Before the commencement

ORDERING CAPS, GOWNS, HOODS, AND TASSELS

Ordering proper academic regalia is the responsibility of each candidate who participates in NSU Commencement. Candidates who submit a Commencement Participation Form (CPF) will be automatically directed to the [NSU Bookstore](#) vendor, Oak Hall Cap & Gown order form. **Only regalia ordered through this site are acceptable wear at NSU Commencement.** The purchase price of regalia varies according to the degree attained.

Ceremony Date	Online Regalia Order Deadline	Distribution Start Date	Cost (plus tax)
UNDERGRADUATE			
Monday, May 5, 2025	Tuesday, March 18, 2025	Monday, April 21, 2025	• Keeper Gown (Cap/Gown/Tassel): \$65.98
Tuesday, May 6, 2025			
GRADUATE			
Friday, May 9, 2025	Sunday, March 23, 2025	Monday, April 28, 2025	• Masters Keeper Gown (Cap/Gown/Tassel/Hood): \$111.98 • Doctoral—Rental (Tam w/ tassel, Hood, Gown): \$225.00
Thursday, May 15, 2025			
Friday, June 6, 2025	Sunday, April 20, 2025	Tuesday, May 27, 2025	• Doctoral—Custom Purchase (Tam w/ tassel, Hood, Gown; Special order, allow 9 weeks for fulfillment): \$1,222.98
Friday, August 15, 2025	Sunday, June 29, 2025	Monday, August 4, 2025	

For questions regarding regalia, please call the [NSU Bookstore](#) at (954) 262-4750 or email regalia@nova.edu.

- All regalia will be available for pick up at the NSU Shark Store in the Don Taft University Center (UC) at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus up to and including the day of commencement.
- Candidates who wish to have their [undergraduate, master's, or specialist regalia](#) shipped domestically will be given that option but only if their order is placed by the posted deadlines. Individuals requesting international shipping must allow an additional 6-8 weeks from the purchase date for delivery. Domestic shipping costs start at \$15.95 for regular ground and \$60 for international delivery (contact the [NSU Bookstore](#) for more details).
- [Deluxe regalia](#) is NSU Shark Store pick up only. After the online deadlines, any academic regalia can only be ordered and picked up directly from the NSU Shark Store in the Don Taft University Center at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus (Check with the [NSU Bookstore](#) for pick-up dates and hours of operation).
- Doctoral candidates who rent deluxe regalia have seven (7) business days following commencement to return the tam, gown, and hood to the bookstore or Shark Store. Failure to do so will result in a charge of the full purchase price to the candidate's account.

HONOR CORDS

Honor cords are distributed for outstanding performance and accomplishments through your college program office prior to Commencement Day. Make arrangements beforehand as there will not be cords available for distribution on that day.

MILITARY STOLES

NSU honors graduating veteran and active-duty military commencement candidates with a commemorative stole, signifying the university's appreciation for their service and valor. The military stole, compliments of Nova Southeastern University, will be available at the [Veterans Resource Center](#) with the presentation of the email invitation to commencement and a valid military ID, Form DD 214, VA veteran's identification card, or state driver's license with a veteran's designation. Please be advised that the Veterans Resource Center is located on the first floor of the Carl DeSantis Building, Room 1045 at the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus.

HOODING VIDEO



Graduating doctoral candidates at the NSU Commencement ceremonies will be hooded on stage by a member of the hooding committee in front of their friends and family.

GRADUATION PRODUCTS

NSU Bookstore partner, [Herff Jones](#), provides a wide selection of invitations, announcements, class rings, frames, etc. with graduation packages specifically tailored for the NSU commencement candidates. Candidates may purchase customized diploma picture frames directly from the NSU Bookstore. Please call or email the [NSU Bookstore](#) at (954) 262-4750 with any questions or comments.

2025 GRAD FEST

The NSU Shark Store will host the 2025 Grad Fest at the Don Taft University Center (UC) to celebrate commencement candidates at the NSU Shark Store on the NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus. Grad Fest will take place on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** All are welcome. Representatives from NSU Shark Store partners, [Herff Jones](#), will be on site for personalized announcements and class ring orders. A wide variety of diploma frames will be offered for purchase. A wide variety of diploma frames will be offered for purchase. Additionally, representatives photographing candidates in academic regalia will be present. The portrait sitting is free of charge and picture proofs will be provided with no obligation to buy. [Email](#) the NSU Shark Store or call (954) 262-4750 for more information.

G etting to NSU campus



SPECIAL ACCOMODATIONS

We encourage candidates who need disability accommodations to notify the Office of Student Disability Services at (954) 262-7185 or disabilityservices@nova.edu at least two weeks in advance of the event. Visit the Office of Student Disability Services website at nova.edu/disabilityservices/ and review the accommodations information provided on the Commencement website, nova.edu/commencement/accessibility as well.

Accessible spaces are available for guests with disabilities on each level of the parking garage. Only vehicles legally using disabled license plates or window placards are permitted to park in these designated spaces. Golf carts will be in operation before and after the ceremony to transport guests to and from the parking garage and the Don Taft University Center.

Everyone entering the University Center will be subject to a physical search and metal detection. No animals, with the exception of certified [service animals](#), will be admitted.

Guests using wheelchairs can enter and exit the building through the north or east lobbies of the venue. There is an elevator located directly across from the box office for convenient access to the arena entrance. All wheelchair-accessible seating is located on the second floor of the arena. Wheelchair rentals are not provided by the University Center. Only one guest may accompany those who require wheelchair-accessible seating. For more information about the Rick Case Arena, contact (954) 262-5551 or email arenabooking@nova.edu.



INTERNATIONAL GUESTS

Family members and guests wishing to visit for commencement must apply for a tourist visa at the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in their home countries. [This template](#) may be used to write a letter of invitation that includes your name, your reason for living in the United States, the names of your family members who wish to visit, the purpose and approximate length of the visit, and whether you will provide room and board or any other financial assistance for the visit.

The U.S. State Department/Bureau of Consular Affairs hosts a website (travel.state.gov) with additional information about applying for a tourist visa.



TRAVEL ACCOMODATIONS

For information on area hotels, restaurants, maps, and travel arrangements, visit the NSU Travel Office at nova.edu/travel/.



PARKING

Parking is free and conveniently located in the public parking garage (see map: No. 2) located 200 yards north of the Don Taft University Center (see map: No. 1) at the NSU North Entrance on SW 30 Street and Ray Ferraro Jr. Blvd.

Accessible spaces are available for guests with disabilities on each level of the parking garage.

Only vehicles legally using disabled license plates or window placards are permitted to park in these designated spaces. Golf carts will be in operation before and after the ceremony to transport guests to and from the parking garage and the UC.

Patrons using wheelchairs can enter and

exit the Don Taft University Center through either the North or East lobby.

For more information, call (954) 262-5551 or visit nsuarena.com.

[Click here](#) for a printable map of NSU Fort Lauderdale/Davie campus.

DRIVING DIRECTIONS

TO NSU FORT LAUDERDALE/DAVIE CAMPUS from I-95 or Florida's Turnpike

Exit at I-595, proceed west to University Drive exit. Turn left (south) onto University Drive. Proceed approximately 1 ½ miles to SW 30 Street (Abe Fischler Blvd.), turn left (east). NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus will be on the right side.

DIRECTIONS FROM UNIVERSITY DRIVE

From North of I-595

Take University Drive south 1 ½ miles past I-595 to SW 30 Street (Abe Fischler Blvd). Turn left (east). NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus will be on the right side.

From South of Griffin Road

Take University Drive north approximately 2 miles past Griffin Road to SW 30 Street (Abe Fischler Blvd.). Turn right (east). NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus will be on the right side.

DIRECTIONS FROM I-75

From Miami Heading North or West Coast/Naples Heading East Merge onto I-595 eastbound (towards Fort Lauderdale). Exit at University Drive exit, turn right (south). Proceed approximately 1 ½ miles on University Drive to SW 30 Street (Abe Fischler Blvd.), turn left (east). NSU's Fort Lauderdale/Davie Campus will be on the right side.

Visit our website at NSU Arena for more information.



Garage Parking

Primary Parking Garage/Route

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WHAT TO DO and WHAT TO EXPECT



ASSEMBLY AND ROBBING—ARRIVE EARLY

Candidates should plan to arrive when the Don Taft University Center doors open, at least one hour prior to their ceremony start time and proceed to the second floor of the RecPlex to main assembly area. The procession will begin promptly at the scheduled time.

Be aware that the arena doors will temporarily close to guests during the opening processional and the playing of The Star-Spangled Banner and reopen afterwards on a space-available basis.



DOOR OPENINGS, SEATING, AND TICKETS

Families, friends, and guests are invited to attend NSU Commencement ceremonies. Tickets are not required but seating in the Rick Case Arena at the Don Taft University Center is limited and available on a first-come, first-seated basis. Large groups of guests, wishing to sit together, should arrive when the arena doors first open—one hour prior to the published start time of the ceremony.

Due to the size of the Rick Case Arena and as a courtesy to all guests, the saving of seats is strictly prohibited.

Please be advised that the arena doors will temporarily close to guests during the opening processional and the playing of The Star-Spangled Banner and reopen afterwards on a space-available basis.



NO CHILDCARE SERVICE ON SITE

Candidates are not permitted to bring children to the NSU RecPlex, on the arena floor, or on stage.



SIMULCAST LOCATIONS

Guests will have the opportunity to view a live telecast of the ceremony via closed circuit televisions at selected locations in and around the Don Taft University Center. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. The sign language interpreter is visible on the live telecast screen. The simulcast viewing is not closed captioned.

All NSU Commencement ceremonies are also video streamed in real time. Visit the [NSU Commencement website](#) and click on the “2025 Live-Stream Ceremony Links”. All commencement video streams are archived on the NSU Commencement website approximately one week after the ceremony.



PROGRAMS

An official printed program will be provided for all Commencement candidates at their seats. Commencement programs are available online for guests at nova.edu/commencement/.



WEAR APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC ATTIRE

Every candidate **must wear approved cap and gown** to participate in commencement. NSU regalia are blue for baccalaureate candidates and gray for all other degrees. No tennis shoes or sneakers should be worn, please.

Articles of clothing that will be visible at the neck and below the gown should be in keeping with the conservative style of the academic attire. For master's and specialist degree candidates, the hood should be secured so that it will not slip off the shoulders. The cap, which may need bobby pins to stay on your head, is worn parallel to the ground.

- **Baccalaureate degree candidates** will wear their regalia to the graduation lineup site with their tassel to the right.
- **Master's and Specialist degree candidates** will wear their hoods throughout the entire ceremony with their tassel to the left.
- **Doctoral degree candidates** will carry their hoods on stage where they will be hooded with their tassel to the left. ([watch Hooding Video](#))



DO NOT BRING PERSONAL ITEMS

For everyone's safety, all bags may be checked by security at the door. Do not bring purses or other personal items. Students are asked not to carry anything in the ceremony because, after crossing the stage, you may be placed in a different seat. There is no place to check or store purses, jackets, or other personal items.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Personal photographs may be taken only before and after the ceremony. Spectators are not permitted in the aisles, on the main floor of the arena or the stage during or after the ceremony.



RELAX AND ENJOY YOUR CEREMONY

The ceremony will last approximately two to two-and-a-half hours. Out of courtesy to all of our graduates, we ask that you remain for the duration of the ceremony.

SECURITY GUIDELINES

For the protection of all, **the following items are not permitted inside Commencement ceremonies** at the Don Taft University Center:

- wrapped gifts
- air horns
- balloons
- duffle bags
- backpacks,
- backpack-style purses
- diaper bags
- waist packs
- oversized/large purses
- alcohol
- bottles, thermos, cans, glass containers
- coolers
- food
- drugs
- weapons
- fireworks, noisemakers
- laser pointers
- chains, spikes
- strollers
- selfie sticks
- banners or signs larger than 2' x 3'
- **any other item deemed dangerous to public safety**
- No animals, except certified service animals, will be admitted.

All guests are subject to screening through metal detectors or metal detector wands by a security staff member, and all bags are subject to inspection upon entering the venue. No facilities are available for storing purses or other personal items. Candidates must leave these items with their guests. Neither the venue nor NSU is responsible for items left unattended.

THE CEREMONY

ACADEMIC PROCESSION

The academic procession, consisting of candidates, faculty, members of the Board of Trustee, and NSU administrators will assemble one hour before the ceremony begins. The procession will be led in by the Grand Marshal at the start of the ceremony. All candidates will be grouped by college and degree in the RecPlex on the second floor of the Don Taft University Center (the Don Taft UC) and will receive a card to write their name as they would like it to be read before going on stage. Candidates are also asked to please add their mailing and email addresses for where photo proofs are to be sent after the ceremony.

The faculty robing area is the Black Box Theatre on the north side of the Don Taft UC, directly across from the Alvin Sherman Library.

CANDIDATES: Please be advised that there are no facilities available at the Don Taft University Center for storing purses or other personal items you may be carrying. Please leave these items with your families and/or guests. The University is not responsible for items left unattended. Wear comfortable and appropriate shoes (no tennis shoes or sneakers, please) as you will be on your feet for extended periods of time and climbing stairs.

LINE OF MARCH

When called to the stage for the presentation of candidates for degrees, candidates will either be directed to the left (toward the University President) or right (toward the Dean). All doctoral candidates will be hooded on the stage by a member of the hooding committee. Please follow the directions of the stage attendants to ensure an orderly procession.



DIPLOMAS: At commencement, candidates receive a certificate of congratulations when they are called to the stage and recognized. For information on degree conferral and diplomas please visit the office of the University Registrar's website at nova.edu/registrar/services/index.html.

CEREMONY CLOSING

To signify the closing of each ceremony, the president will ask candidates to rise at their seats for the conferral of degrees. Some Health Professions Division (HPD) candidates are required to recite their professional oaths, which can be found in the back of the commencement program. NSU commencement ceremonies are usually less than two-and-a-half hours in length so, please make sure to schedule enough time.

At the conclusion of commencement, everyone will stand while the Grand Marshal leads the stage party from the arena, followed by the faculty and candidates. Graduates must leave the Don Taft UC through the back exit. Guests are asked to remain in their seats until everyone has left the floor. Guests will meet their graduates outside the Don Taft UC.

COMMENCEMENT

Checklist

BEFORE COMMENCEMENT

- ☐ **Confirm accuracy of your student record information—**When you receive your invitation, log into [NSU SharkLink](#) to verify accuracy of your personal information (i.e., spelling of name, preferred email, and correct permanent and/or mailing address).
- ☐ **Confirm your intent to participate at commencement—**All eligible candidates who plan on attending must complete an online Commencement Participation Form (CPF), which is sent to your [NSU SharkLink](#) email account. At that time, review CPF, your degree information and confirm the proper spelling of your name for the commencement program.
- ☐ **Order your cap and gown from the NSU Shark Store—**After completing the CPF, candidates are responsible for ordering their academic regalia. For questions, please call the NSU Shark Store at (954) 262-4750 or email regalia@nova.edu.
- ☐ **Invite your guests—**Families, friends, and guests are cordially invited to attend Commencement. Arena doors open one hour before the ceremony begins. Tickets are not required but seating is limited and large groups of guests wishing to sit together should arrive and enter the arena together early.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the size of the Rick Case Arena at the Don Taft University Center and as a courtesy to all candidates and their guests, **the saving of seats is strictly prohibited.**

AFTER COMMENCEMENT

- ☐ **Order your graduation photographs—**Arrangements have been made with professional photographers to record the moment you walk across the stage. There is no obligation to purchase. Your contact information will be obtained from the name card you complete at Commencement. Please ensure that you provide valid email and mailing addresses.
- ☐ **Return your rented deluxe regalia—**Doctoral candidates can return their rented deluxe regalia after the ceremony at the UC or have seven business days to return regalia to the bookstore during normal operating hours. Failure to do so will result in a charge of the full purchase price to the student's account.
- ☐ **Help NSU Gain its Rightful Place among the Nation's Best—**Look for a survey from NSU Center for Academic and Professional Success (CAPS) that seeks information about the activities you plan on engaging in after graduation. The First Destination Survey (FDS) is a national instrument that not only helps NSU develop career opportunities for current and future Sharks but also allows the university to better compete in the prestigious *U.S. News & World Report* Best College Rankings. You can find more information at the [NSU Center for Academic and Professional Success \(CAPS\)](#).



SHARK PINS and MEDALLIONS



Shark pins and medallions are a special tradition at Nova Southeastern University (NSU).

These memorabilia items serve as a token of pride for graduates as they excel in their career and personal lives. They are meant to remind graduates of their incredible accomplishments as alumni of NSU.

Alumni Shark pins display our beloved Mako with the words "NSU Alumni" below, while medallions reflect NSU overall and specific colleges. Graduates have the option to choose an Alumni Shark pin, NSU medallion, and/or college medallion. Select all three to showcase the ultimate Shark pride!

Graduates are encouraged to wear Shark pins and medallions during commencement.

Click here to purchase your class memorabilia to wear at Commencement!

Stay connected with the Alumni Association, learn about alumni benefits and initiatives, and more by visiting nova.edu/alumni/.

LEAVE YOUR MARK WITH THE SHARK

Celebrate your legacy at Nova Southeastern University. Honor the lasting memories that have shaped your college experience. This is your chance to leave your indelible mark on a personally engraved brick at the NSU Shark Fountain. Pick the exact spot for your brick and choose what you want to say. It's like leaving a permanent part of you in a place where you'll always be remembered.

Purchase your personalized brick at NSUBricks.nova.edu!

A brick at the NSU Shark Fountain is a perfect way to...

- Honor your degree.
- Show off your achievement.
- Commemorate athletic and academic achievements.
- Thank your parents, family, professors, and mentors.
- Remember your friends, colleagues, and loved ones.
- Recognize your fellow NSU students or your student organizations.

Along with your purchase, you will receive a certificate of ownership and a picture of your brick. For more information, please email NSUBricks@nova.edu.



NSU
Florida

Order **your personalized brick** at
nsubricks.nova.edu

For any questions, email nsubricks@nova.edu



CONVOCATION STOLE AND PIN

We encourage you to wear your Convocation Stole and Pin that you received during Convocation. If you did not receive this, you may purchase the stole and pin at [Convocation Marketplace](#).