

Frequently Asked Questions about Graduation

1. Where and when is graduation?

The ceremony will take place at the University of Arizona Student Union Memorial Center - Grand Ballroom, located on the 3rd floor of the student union on Wednesday, May 10th from 2-3:30pm. Graduates should arrive **no later than 1:15 PM at the Tucson Room (next to the South Ballroom – west side).** We will prepare there prior to entering the ballroom at 2 pm.

2. Department Open House: NSSLHA invites you and your guests to the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences Open House prior to graduation - from 12:00 to 1:00pm.

Faculty will be available to meet your family and guests, and you are welcome to tour the building. Light refreshments will be served on the fourth floor in room 409.

3. Where should my family park for graduation?

Parking is available in the **2nd Street Garage** (southeast corner of Mountain and 2nd Street). Parking is free, simply take a ticket when entering and push the button when you leave to let the attendant know you attended a graduation ceremony.

4. Where do we go for the class pictures?

Class pictures will be taken starting at **12:45 pm** on the brick patio of the SLHS building. Please arrive promptly **WEARING YOUR CAP AND GOWN**. Graduate students should wear their hoods. The photographer will line you up. Group photos should only take a few minutes; please listen to the photographer for directions.

- **Undergraduates** should wear the tassel on the **right side** of your cap before graduating; you will move it to the left once graduated (and for the photo).
- **PhD, AuD, and MS students** should wear your tassel on the **left side (because you already have an undergraduate degree)**. **Wear your hood for the photo, but you will carry it during the processional, and you will be “hooded” during the ceremony.**

5. Where do we go before the ceremony?

After your group photo, you and your guests should walk over to the Student Union Memorial to the Grand Ballroom (**North Entrance in the Diamond Atrium**). Please leave all personal belongings with your family members/guests because there is not a secure place for them during the ceremony.

Doors will open for guest seating at 1:30 but graduating students need to be in the Tucson Room by 1:15. Staff members will be located at the ballroom entrance to greet your guests. They can help identify wheelchair seating. It is open seating (other than reserved spots). If your guest is going to hood you (for graduate students), they can sit in any location; they will simply come up to join you when instructed. Guests will get programs at the door; students/faculty will have programs on their reserved seats. You might want to make a plan for where to connect with your family after the ceremony.

Students: We have reserved the Tucson Room (next to the South Ballroom – on the west end) for students to congregate before graduation. Arrive **no later than 1:15pm to check in with SLHS staff to get your “announcer’s card.”** KEEP THE CARD with you because you will give it to the announcer just before you cross the stage during the ceremony.

At about 1:40, you will line up for the processional with the help of SLHS staff. Line up in alphabetical order within each degree as follows: PhD, AuD, MS, then BS. There are about 90 of you graduating, so help the staff by finding your place. Keep in mind that there are other events going on, so we need to keep the noise down.

6. The Graduation Ceremony will promptly begin at 2:00pm.

Faculty will enter the ballroom first (from the west doors of South Ballroom) and staff will coordinate so that students enter immediately following from the east doors. **This is a formal processional** with accompaniment by the string quartet. Faculty proceed to the stage, while students follow the procession to reserved seating in the front of the ballroom. Following the lead student, walk in a single-file line in a quiet, formal manner. **Simply follow the person in front of you, stay in alphabetical order, and fill every seat in the designated student rows.** SLHS staff will help to guide you. Remain standing at your seat until the processional music ends and Dr. Alt directs you to sit down.

Programs will be on individual seats for students and faculty, so you can see the order of events. When it is time to announce the degrees, graduates will be instructed from the podium and staff will help guide you. **All students are recognized individually on stage.** When your group is called, follow the lead student to the stage (it will be the left side). Hooders will be instructed to join the graduate students. Give your hood to person who will be hooding you. When it is your turn, hand your announcement card to the faculty member announcing names, and walk to the center of the stage.

- **Graduate students:** Walk to centerstage and stand facing the audience **in front of the hooding step (not on the step)**. Your hooder will walk behind you, carrying your hood, and will step up on the hooding step (so that they are taller than you) and put the hood over your head and lay it on your shoulders. They should NOT take time to button the hood. The hooder will step down and stand beside you, facing the audience for a quick photograph. Then proceed off the stage on the side opposite your entrance.
- **Undergraduate students:** Walk centerstage to receive a certificate from the department head. Face the audience for a photograph.

Once off the stage, hooders return to seats, and **students proceed to a photo booth in back of ballroom for a picture**, then return to your seat. SLHS staff will help direct you.

The ceremony will end with congratulations to all graduates and a formal recessional of students followed by the faculty. Again, graduates will follow the lead student, with each row filing out in order to join the line. You will go down the middle aisle to the north ballroom entrance doors. Faculty will formally recess after the graduates. **Guests will remain seated until all graduates and faculty members have left the ballroom.**