

4-7-2020

## Important Commencement Information, April 7, 2020

University of Northern Iowa

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### Recommended Citation

University of Northern Iowa, "Important Commencement Information, April 7, 2020" (2020). *UNI Response to COVID-19*. 35.

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# University of Northern Iowa

## Important Commencement Information

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Graduating Panthers,

We want to congratulate you on your upcoming Graduation! With the [announcement on March 18](#) that the Spring 2020 Commencement Ceremonies were cancelled, we are sure there are many questions. Please read this email in its entirety as many of your questions and concerns may be answered.

### **Graduation vs. Commencement**

Graduation is attaining a degree, whereas Commencement is the event celebrating attaining that degree. The cancellation of Commencement does not impact your ability to graduate. If you haven't already, we recommend that you get in contact with your [Record Analyst](#) to verify your eligibility to graduate at the end of the term.

**In addition, all students planning to graduate at the end of Spring 2020 should still complete the [Application for Graduation](#) by the end of the term.** This application will initiate the evaluation of your degree for graduation and is used in degree conferral. It's available online through your MyUNIverse.

### **Diplomas**

Students who have applied for graduation and meet all degree requirements at the end of the term will typically receive their diplomas 4 - 6 weeks after the end of the term. The package that contains your diploma will include a diploma cover and recognition of any honors.

### **Academic Honors**

Students are still eligible to receive academic honors. If you receive academic honors, a letter will be included in your diploma package along with the related regalia. Academic honors require the completion of at least 55 credits from UNI and are awarded based on a percentage within each academic college. Your final honors designation will be reflected on your transcript.

### **Online Commencement Celebration**

Although we cannot hold a traditional commencement, we still want to celebrate and share your success. We are excited to invite you to participate in our Spring 2020 Online Commencement Celebration from home! Your momentous achievement will be recognized and shareable with your friends, family, and the UNI community. Please complete the [Commencement Reply](#) by **Wednesday, April 8** to participate. Then, watch your email for further information and next steps.

### **Commencement Activities**

In addition to our Online Commencement Celebration, you are invited to participate in

Fall 2020 Commencement. If you wish to do so, complete the Commencement RSVP for Fall 2020 before October 15. Your RSVP is necessary to make sure we allocate the appropriate space for our graduates and their guests and to have reader cards available for your participation. The Commencement RSVP is available online through your MyUNIverse. Please visit [this tutorial](#) on how to access the form.

### **UNI Bookstore**

The UNI Bookstore wants to congratulate you on your degree with a 25% discount on Diploma Frames and items from the Alumni Collection. Shop [online](#) through May 30, 2020, to receive the discount!

### **Cap & Gown Returns**

If you already purchased your commencement apparel you may return it for a full refund to the bookstore as long as it is in original packaging. If mailing, please include your name and phone number. The Bookstore will reach out to you to complete the return. If you plan to walk during the Fall 2020 Commencement, you may keep your apparel and use it at that time.

Please mail it to:

UNI Bookstore  
1009 West 23rd Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613

### **Graduation Photos**

If you participated in the Spring 2020 Grad Fair, you had the opportunity to have your photo professionally taken with a cap and gown. Flash Photography contacted you with next steps on printing those photos.

Students not planning to attend Fall 2020 Commencement who did not get their photo taken at the Spring 2020 Grad Fair are welcome to come to the Fall 2020 Grad Fair to have a graduation photo taken in their cap and gown. The date and times of the Fall 2020 Grad Fair will be announced on our [website](#) as soon as it's available.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at [commencement@uni.edu](mailto:commencement@uni.edu).

Thank you,  
Commencement Team  
Office of the Registrar  
University of Northern Iowa