College of Nursing  
2019 Commencement Ceremony Information

**Mandatory Commencement Rehearsal:** Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 9:00am-10:00am at Thompson Boling Arena. You will receive important information regarding commencement registration, seating, photography, and other ceremony proceedings. Commencement practice will last approximately one hour. A BSN group photo will be taken immediately after rehearsal at the torch. Please bring your cap and gown for the group photo (we will provide masks and gloves!).

**Commencement:** Friday, May 10th at 7:30pm

Thompson Boling Assembly Center and Arena  
1600 Phillip Fulmer Way  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37996

**Arrival Time**  
Graduates must arrive at the Thompson Boling Arena and be fully gowned no later than 7:00 p.m. Please allow sufficient travel time. The College of Nursing may not be able to accommodate students arriving after 7:00 p.m. The ceremony will begin at 7:30 p.m. and will last approximately sixty minutes.

**Location**  
Commencement will be held in the Thompson Boling Arena. Students will register and assemble in the Ray Mears Room which is located on the Arena floor level just behind the stage. The closest Arena entrances to the Ray Mears Room are located under Pratt Pavilion.

**Personal Items**  
Personal items and/or valuables should not be brought to or left unattended at the commencement ceremony. All cell phones must be turned off or set to silent mode as soon as you enter the seating area. Please refrain from cell phone use before and during the ceremony.

**Guest Seating**  
The facilities will open one hour before the ceremony begins. Guest seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign language for hearing impaired guests will be available. General wheelchair-accessible seating will be available throughout the arena. Please note that neither the College nor the University supply wheelchairs to guests. No tickets are required for the ceremony and guests do not need to register.
Clear Bag Policy

Guests will be allowed to enter the arena with one clear plastic bag no larger than 12 inches by 6 inches by 12 inches.

The only other items **ALLOWED** in the arena are: small clutch purses no larger than 4.5 inches by 6.5 inches, mobile phones, binoculars, cameras and video cameras (without cases), diapers and non-medically necessary items for babies and young children (must be carried in a clear bag), medically necessary items that must be carried in a specific bag. The non-clear bag will need to sized proportionately to the size of the medical need, Umbrella strollers.

The following items **ARE PROHIBITED** inside the arena: non-clear bags of any size, diaper bags, backpacks (of any size), alcoholic beverages, cans, bottles, coolers, outside food, snacks, beverages, open umbrellas, selfie sticks, unmanned aircraft, large bags or parcels, including backpacks and purses, weapons, including pocket knives, hover boards, segways, artificial noisemakers, large travel strollers.

Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is prohibited in and on all university property including smoking in private vehicles when parked or operated on university property.

Walk through metal detectors will be in place and operational at all arena entrances. Please allow additional time for entry.

For more information on the security policy and Thompson-Boiling Arena building policies, contact the Thompson-Boiling Arena management office at 865-974-0953.

**RSVP**

All graduates must complete the RSVP form before April 30th. The information obtained will be used for name pronunciation at the ceremony and for ordering refreshments.

**Graduate Check-In**

All graduates must register at the table located just outside of the Ray Mears Room. You will receive an index card with your name. Do not lose this card. You must give the card to the designated reader who will announce your name as you cross the stage.

**Graduate Processional**

After registering and receiving your index card, you will be directed to be seated on the arena floor. Once inside the Arena, ushers will prompt you when you should rise and move toward the stage.

**Staging**

Once on stage, hand your index card to the reader and proceed to accept congratulations from your department head and dean of the college.

**Photography**

As a courtesy to all in attendance, please have your guests refrain from advancing to the front of the stage to take photos as you are walking across. A professional photographer will be taking photos as you shake hands with the dean on stage. There will be another photographer as you leave the stage that will take your photograph alone.

**Adjournment**
After you have your photograph taken, return to your designated seating area and remain seated until the conclusion of the ceremony. Do not leave any personal items or valuables unattended at any time during the ceremony.

**Reception Information**
A reception for nursing graduates and their guests will be held following the commencement ceremony from approximately 8:30 – 9:30 pm in Thompson-Boling Arena. Refreshments will be served.

**Directions & Parking**
Located on the main UT-Knoxville campus, Thompson Boling Arena is easily accessible from any direction. The arena is located at the corner of Philip Fulmer Way and Lake Loudon Boulevard.

**From McGhee Tyson Airport:** Turn north on U.S. Highway 129 leaving airport. After crossing the Tennessee River bridge just outside of Knoxville, exit onto Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153). Turn left (south) at the bottom of the exit ramp and follow road until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn left onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn right at stoplight. Follow Phillip Fulmer Way to parking garage.

**From I-40 east (from Nashville) and I-75 north (from Chattanooga):** Follow I-40 and I-75 to I-40/I-75 junction in west Knoxville. Continue on I-40 east to U.S. Highway 129 south. Follow 129 south to the exit for Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153). Turn left (south) at the bottom of the exit ramp and follow the road until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn left onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn right at stoplight. Follow Phillip Fulmer Way to parking garage.

**From I-40 west (from Asheville, N.C.):** Follow I-40 west to the James White Parkway exit and exit to the left. Follow Parkway to Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153) until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn right onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn right at stoplight. Follow Phillip Fulmer Way to parking garage.

**From I-75 south (from Lexington, Ky.):** Follow I-75 south to I-275 south just past Merchants Road. Follow I-275 to I-40 east. Exit I-40 east onto James White Parkway and follow Parkway to Neyland Drive (Tennessee Highway 153) until Thompson-Boling Arena is visible. Turn right onto Lake Loudoun Boulevard. Turn right at stoplight. Follow Phillip Fulmer Way to parking garage.

Free parking is available at UT’s Neyland Parking Garage G-10, next door to Thompson Boling Arena.

Please note that Thompson Boling Arena is quite large, and the distances and inclines between parking and the building entrance may be impediments to persons who have difficulty walking. Please plan on additional time to walk these distances.

**Disability Accommodations**
The University of Tennessee encourages persons with disabilities to participate in its programs and activities. If you are a graduating student with a disability, please fill in the appropriate section on the RSVP link when submitting, to make arrangements prior to the ceremony. For more information for graduates and guests, please visit the Disability Accommodations webpage through the University’s Registrar.
Regalia
Cap & Gown (All graduates)
Graduates are responsible for purchasing caps and gowns through the VolShop, located in the University Center.

Master and Doctoral Hood (MSN, PhD, DNP)
MSN, PhD, and DNP graduates are responsible for purchasing hoods through the VolShop.

Nursing Pin (BSN)
Nursing pins will be available for purchase through the VolShop. Please note that purchasing a UT nursing pin is optional. Should you wish to be “pinned” during the commencement ceremony, you will need to have purchased this official nursing pin. The Nursing pin will be affixed to a white ribbon and will be “pinned” to your robe with a straight pin. If you have a Nursing pin, you will show it to the attendant at check-in and she will provide the ribbon and straight pin to you.

If you do not wish to be “pinned” and do not have the official nursing pin, you will not receive a white ribbon and straight pin and will still receive a handshake when crossing the stage from the Dean of the College of Nursing.

Stole & Honor Cord (BSN)
Stoles can be worn by any BSN graduate, regardless of GPA. Students with a GPA of 3.5 or higher are eligible to wear honor cords through the College of Nursing.

Stoles and cords will be available to BSN students free of charge. You may pick up your stole and cords in Student Services beginning Thursday, April 18th, 2019.

FAQ's

How can my commencement guest(s) enter Thompson-Boling Arena if they are mobility impaired?
Graduates and guests with disabilities who enter the arena from Phillip Fulmer Way may use an elevator located inside the double-door entrance of the Arena Café. Guests should take the elevator to the third floor to access the concourse level seating area; graduating students should take the elevator to the ground floor to access the reserved seating area for graduates.

Where can my commencement guest(s) park near Thompson-Boling Arena if they are mobility impaired?
Graduates and guests with disabilities who wish to park near the arena would be best accommodated in the following areas: The Neyland Parking Garage (G-10) has 40 spaces reserved for disabled parking and is adjacent to the arena. Persons requiring the use of a wheelchair or those with mobility concerns may best access the arena via a bridge on the top level of the garage (accessible by an elevator to guests parked on other levels). Graduates with a physical disability who access the arena via this bridge should take the elevator by Section 110 to access the reserved seating area for graduates on the ground floor.

I made a mistake on my RSVP form—how can I correct it?
If you made any errors in your RSVP form, you can resubmit it. Please resubmit all information again and contact Student Services (conadvising@utk.edu or 865-974-7606) to let them know.
Additional Information
For more information regarding graduation, commencement, and travel, please visit:

- Office of the University Registrar - General information about graduation and commencement, including frequently asked questions.
- Visit Knoxville - Knoxville accommodations, restaurants, and events.

Contact Information
For more information, please contact:

Student Services
865-974-7606
conadvising@utk.edu