



**NORTH CENTRAL
COLLEGE 1861**
NAPERVILLE'S UNIVERSITY™

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

MAY 1-3, 2026



FOR THE CLASS OF
2026

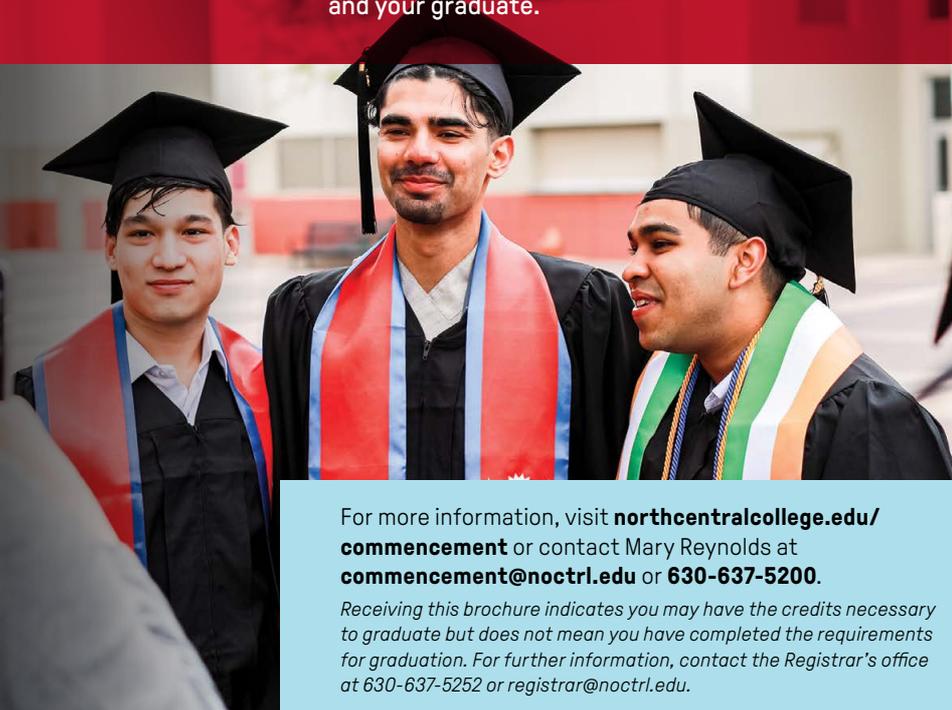
NORTHCENTRALCOLLEGE.EDU/COMMENCEMENT

Commencement Weekend is a time of joy, reflection and achievement, honoring the dedication and perseverance of our graduates.

We are thrilled to invite you to participate in the Commencement celebration, which begins with graduate portraits, a mandatory rehearsal, and President's Reception on Friday, May 1, and continues with a graduation breakfast and the Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, May 3. As we gather to celebrate this momentous occasion, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to you and your graduate.

REGISTER TODAY!

Register for Commencement Weekend activities by April 27. Go to northcentralcollege.edu/commencement or scan the QR code.



For more information, visit northcentralcollege.edu/commencement or contact Mary Reynolds at commencement@noctrl.edu or **630-637-5200**.

Receiving this brochure indicates you may have the credits necessary to graduate but does not mean you have completed the requirements for graduation. For further information, contact the Registrar's office at 630-637-5252 or registrar@noctrl.edu.

Schedule

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Countdown to Commencement 3 - 6 p.m.

Wentz Concert Hall Lobby

Countdown to Commencement is a one-stop destination to make the transition from student to graduate as smooth and exciting as possible! The event serves as an informative and celebratory occasion where graduates will complete essential tasks, visit with campus departments, pick up their caps and gowns, receive important details about Commencement, and engage with staff and peers while enjoying refreshments.

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Senior Night 7 - 10 p.m.

Seniors—this event is for you! Join your classmates for a fun evening of socializing and dancing.

FRIDAY, MAY 1

Student Portraits 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Old Main Lawn (rain location: Old Main, Smith Hall, 2nd floor)
GradImages will photograph individual and/or family portraits of graduates in their caps and gowns during this time. Meet on the Old Main lawn if you are interested. There are no preassigned times. Come anytime between 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Continued on next page.

Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 1 *(continued)*

College Scholars Cording Ceremony & Reception 2:30 p.m.

Theatre at Meiley-Swallow Hall & Lobby

The College Scholars Cording Ceremony is the culminating event for North Central's Honors Program where students who have completed program requirements receive their honors cords from their thesis directors. Parents and family members are invited to celebrate with the College Scholars Class of 2026 at this Commencement Weekend ceremony. The ceremony will begin at 2:30 p.m. with a dessert reception to follow at 3:30 p.m.

Cardinal First Pinning Ceremony 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Wentz Concert Hall

North Central Class of 2026 first-generation students and their families are invited to this celebration where each first-generation graduate will be presented with a Cardinal First pin by the faculty or staff member of their choosing. Details about the event will be emailed to first-generation students. RSVP required by April 24. If you have questions, contact the Office of First-Generation Programs at 630-637-5155 or cardinalfirst@noctrl.edu.

President's Reception 5:30 - 7 p.m.

Wentz Concert Hall & Madden Theatre Lobbies

All graduates, their families and members of the faculty and staff are cordially invited to attend the President's Reception honoring the Class of 2026. Hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. **To ensure we can accommodate everyone, reservations are required for all graduates and their families. Register online by April 27 using the "Register Today!" QR code in this brochure.**

Graduation Rehearsal – MANDATORY 7 - 8:15 p.m.

Wilde Res/Rec Center

This hour-long **MANDATORY REHEARSAL** will preview the processional, ceremony, recessional and other important details of the Commencement exercises. All graduates need to arrive at Wilde Res/Rec Center by 6:45 p.m. and rehearsal will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Doctorate of Occupational Therapy Pinning Ceremony

Master of Occupational Therapy Pinning Ceremony

9 - 10 a.m.

Wentz Concert Hall

This ceremony is a symbolic remembrance of the foundation students have obtained as occupational therapists as they take their next steps into the professional world.

Doctor of Physical Therapy Recognition Ceremony

1:30 p.m.

Wentz Concert Hall

This ceremony will honor the dedication and hard work of our new Doctor of Physical Therapy graduates.

SUNDAY, MAY 3

Commencement Breakfast 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Kaufman Dining Hall

Join other graduates, their families and friends for a Commencement breakfast. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 5 - 9. There is no charge for graduates. **Registration is required for all graduates and their families. Register online by April 27 using the "Register Today!" QR code in this brochure.**

Baccalaureate Service 8 a.m. (Graduate lineup at 7:45 a.m.)

Kiekhofler Hall, Koten Chapel

The Baccalaureate Service is a short and meaningful interfaith worship service appropriate for people of all faith backgrounds. The ceremony is planned and conducted by members of the graduating class of 2026 and the College Chaplain. We will celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates, share memories, and look forward to the future with hope. Students and family members are encouraged to attend. Graduates, please wear your cap and gown and **register online by April 27 using the "Register Today!" QR code in this brochure.**

Graduate Lineup 9 a.m.

Merner Field House

All graduates need to arrive dressed in cap and gown at Merner Field House by 9 a.m. Staff and student marshals will assist graduates with the lineup process. Cooperation of the graduates is essential for a smooth processional.

Processional 9:40 a.m.

Merner Field House and Wilde Res/Rec Center

Graduates will begin the processional from Merner Field House into the Wilde Res/Rec Center arena.

Commencement Ceremony 10 a.m. (Doors open 8:30 a.m.)

Wilde Res/Rec Center

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis, with **ticket required for entry**. The ceremony will last approximately two hours and can be viewed online at northcentralcollege.edu/commencement.

Center for Global Education Graduation Reception

1 - 3 p.m.

Wilde Res/Rec Center, Multipurpose Room, 2nd floor

All Graduating Global Cardinals, including international students and study abroad students, and their families are invited for a celebration reception! Appetizers and drinks will be served.

TICKETS

COMMENCEMENT TICKETS - PLEASE READ

Each participating graduate may request up to **six guest tickets** through the Commencement Participation Survey they receive from the Registrar's office on March 16. The graduates survey response is **due by Wednesday, April 1**. Graduates may also request up to four additional guest tickets, subject to availability. After the April 1 deadline, additional guest ticket requests will be reviewed and graduates will be notified by email the week of April 6.

Please visit the Commencement website for additional information on ticket requests and distribution details.



Tickets will be distributed at Countdown to Commencement on April 14, or they may be picked up afterward in the Registrar's Office in Old Main during regular business hours with photo ID. All guests over age 2 must have a ticket for entry, and seating is general admission on a first-come, first-served basis. Doors open at 8:30 a.m.

Important Information

COMMENCEMENT SEATING

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. We encourage family and friends to allow ample time to park and secure seating prior to the processional at 9:40 a.m. **Limited special needs seating will be available.** Upon entering the venue, ushers will assist with special needs seating.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF GRADUATES

A professional photograph with GradImages will capture the moment each graduate crosses the stage. Graduates will receive a passport-sized, full-color proof in the mail approximately one week after the ceremony. To view your graduation proof online, visit gradimages.com and select "Pre-event Registration." This will allow you to provide an email address and GradImages will send your proof electronically. For more information, visit gradimages.com or call 1-800-261-2576.

COMMENCEMENT RECORDING

Naperville Community Television (NCTV-17) will record the Commencement Ceremony. The recording will be available on the College's YouTube channel as well as northcentralcollege.edu/commencement for one week following the ceremony.

FLOWERS FOR COMMENCEMENT

The Commencement Group will offer congratulatory flower bouquets for purchase outside the ceremony. You can go to thecommencementgroup.com/noctrl to reserve bouquets in advance for pickup at the event. Product options include roses and mixed floral bouquets.

CAMPUS STORE HOURS

The North Central College Campus Store, located at 100 E. Jefferson Ave., will be open Friday from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Campus Store also will sell merchandise outside the Wilde Res/Rec Center on Sunday from 9 a.m. until after the Commencement Ceremony.

RESIDENCE HALL CHECKOUT REMINDER

Graduates must check out of their residence hall rooms by 8 p.m., Sunday, May 3.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

North Central has partnered with Naperville hotels to offer discounted rates to all family and friends of the College. Please call the hotels directly. When confirming your reservation, be sure to mention you will be in town for North Central College's Commencement Weekend.

For a complete listing of partner hotels, visit northcentralcollege.edu/commencement.

COMMENCEMENT PARKING

Parking near the Wilde Res/Rec Center for Commencement will be congested. Limited handicapped parking is available on the first level of the Parking Pavilion and is highlighted on the map in blue. We encourage Commencement guests to utilize the Parking Pavilion and adjacent campus parking lots. Street parking is also available—please follow all City of Naperville signage. Please allow ample time to find a valid parking space. Information and directional signs will be posted to assist the guests of our graduates. **Drop-off is available for guests who need accommodations for accessibility.**

To view a campus map, which highlights available parking lots, please visit our website at northcentralcollege.edu/commencement, or scan the QR code.



COMMENCEMENT PARKING MAP



COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

MAY 1 - 3, 2026

2026 COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND CHECK LIST

- Online Cap and Gown Ordering
DEADLINE MARCH 13
- Application for Student Speaker
DEADLINE MARCH 30
- Hotel Accommodations
STAY IN NAPERVILLE AT ONE OF
OUR PARTNER HOTELS
- Student Participation Survey
& Ticket Reservation
DEADLINE APRIL 1
- Notification of additional ticket request
WEEK OF APRIL 6
- Countdown to Commencement
(Tickets, and Cap and Gown pick-up)
APRIL 14
- Commencement Weekend Activities
Registration
DEADLINE APRIL 27
- Senior Social
APRIL 30
- Mandatory Graduation Rehearsal
MAY 1
- Commencement Ceremony
MAY 3
- Residence Hall Checkout
MAY 3 BY 8 P.M.



For more details, visit the
Commencement website:
[northcentralcollege.edu/
commencement](http://northcentralcollege.edu/commencement).



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