Countdown to Vanderbilt Commencement 2017
May 10-12, 2017

Key Deadlines

April 7
Last day for students to order regalia (cap and gown)

April 14
Last day to order announcements for receipt before Commencement

April 25
Last day to pre-order Commodore Ballroom buffet lunch

May 9
Last day to purchase discounted tickets for The Party. Day of event ticket price: $25 (ages 12 and up).
Last day to reserve rooms for Accommodations at the Commons
May 10
Commencement **Open Houses** at The Ingram Commons

May 13
Residence halls close for all students at 1 p.m.

June 15
Deadline to [order video download](#) of main Commencement ceremony
Last day to [order](#) your Commodore Yearbook and Parent Congratulatory Message

June 30
Final day to [make your senior gift](#)

Commencement Open Houses — May 10, 2017

Reunite and celebrate graduation with your old housemates and faculty heads of house
will host open houses for seniors and their families. The event is sponsored by the Dean of The Ingram Commons and faculty Heads of House. See the Open House website for more information and to register.

Go to The Party!

Don’t miss one of Vanderbilt’s most exciting Commencement traditions. The Party on May 10, co-sponsored by the Parent & Family Programs, is an unforgettable event for graduates and their guests. New interactive additions, entertainment and food trucks make this a must-go event to kick off Commencement Week! Students MUST have a complimentary ticket to enter. Save time—redeem a ticket online to avoid lengthy lines. Reserved tables are sold out, but commemorative fruit, cheese and snack baskets for reserved table holders may be purchased until April 21.

Commencement Day Information
Indoor Viewing Sites
Because our Commencement ceremony is held in May, the weather may be hot, humid, rainy or all three. So, for some, it may be more comfortable to watch the event indoors. Multiple air-conditioned areas will be available to view the ceremony live. All sites are adjacent to Alumni Lawn for easy access to the event. These climate-controlled viewing environments are great for seniors, restless children or those who are sensitive to heat.

Sustainable Water
Help Vanderbilt go green! Refill your water bottle at one of many coolers found at each water tent.

Download the Commencement app!
Search for Vanderbilt Commencement to get:
- Event change alerts
- Personalized schedules
- Maps
- Parking information

Be Social About Commencement
Share your Vanderbilt Commencement 2017 experiences with your friends and followers! Tag your photos with #VU2017.

Commencement Receptions and Meal Options
If you haven’t yet confirmed your plans for lunch after graduation, there is still time to make a reservation. Avoid the mid-day crowds and the struggle to find an available off-campus restaurant—book your private commencement reception or enjoy an upscale buffet lunch in the Commodore Ballroom at the Student Life Center.

Private Receptions
Reservation deadline: Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Receptions are available for groups of up to 50 people. For more information, a price quote and/or to reserve, email Jordan Carnell, events manager.

Commodore Ballroom Buffet Lunch
Reservation deadline: Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Reservations will be accepted for Friday, May 12, 2017. You may choose to be seated at noon, 12:30 p.m., 1 p.m., 1:30 p.m. or 2 p.m.

**Price:**
Adults: $60 plus tax per person  
Children ages 6-12: $12 plus tax per person  
Children ages 5 and under: No charge

For more information or to reserve, email Jordan Carnell, events manager.

**Additional options:**
**Reservation deadline: Tuesday, April 25, 2017**

Cocktail packages or bottles of champagne for the tables may be added to any reservation.

**Price:**
Cocktail Package: $18 plus tax per person  
Bottle of Champagne: $20 plus tax per bottle

For more information and to order, email Jordan Carnell, events manager.

Please visit the [Commencement website](#) to see a detailed list of all requirements and deadlines, and the full [schedule of events](#).

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**Welcome to the VU Alumni Family—135,000 strong!**

[Alumni: Reach your career goals through Vanderbilt]

The [Vanderbilt Alumni Association](#) helps connect your student with Vanderbilt alumni worldwide. They may use our resources for help reaching their career goals and to network to establish Commodore relationships in new cities.

**Did you know?** Your student is an automatic lifetime member of the Alumni Association—we never have dues or a registration fee! As long as their address and email are updated in [VUconnect.com](#), they will receive invitations to VU events in their area.

**Optimize the Alumni Experience**
networks (especially G.O.L.D Young Alumni events)

- Explore Alumni Career Resources to hone job search skills and professional development
- Join 18,000+ alumni on the official Vanderbilt Alumni LinkedIn Group
- Sign up for VUconnect.com to network with alumni and gain career and graduate school advice
- Receive exclusive alumni discounts and benefits
- Come back to campus for Young Alumni Homecoming, October 5-7, 2017

Celebrate Commencement with a Vanderbilt Class Ring

Congratulations to parents of graduating seniors on achieving this important milestone! This May, your son or daughter will join our worldwide Vanderbilt alumni community.

In honor of this occasion, the Vanderbilt Alumni Association is proud to offer official Vanderbilt University class rings as an emblem of your student’s accomplishment. Class rings are reserved exclusively for students who have completed at least 60 credit hours and are in good standing with the university.

To choose your student’s ring, please consult the Balfour Class Ring Representative at the Vanderbilt Barnes & Noble Bookstore May 10-12. Ask how your student’s ring can spend the night in Kirkland Tower!

For more information, visit Vanderbilt’s Commencement website or contact Sarah Quinn, associate director, student alumni & young alumni, Alumni Relations, at (615) 343-8385 or by email.

Time and Space are Running Out to Congratulate your Senior

To ensure space for your ad, reserve your Parent Congratulatory Message in the 2017 Commodore Yearbook as soon as possible. You may order now and submit your text and photos by May 15, 2017. Messages may be purchased for seniors, as well as juniors, sophomores and freshmen.
Career Resources Available to Support Graduating Seniors

As graduation approaches, some seniors may begin to experience stress and anxiety. These feelings may stem from not yet having received a job offer or uncertainty about what to expect at their first professional job.

The Career Center’s trained coaches are available to work with seniors to help them learn new strategies for conducting a job search, how to effectively network to discover new opportunities, and share advice for being successful on the job from day one.

We fast-track seniors to ensure they receive immediate attention and the services necessary to successfully transition to life after Vanderbilt. Seniors should call or visit our office to schedule a one-on-one coaching appointment.

The Center also provides support and resources to Vanderbilt graduates for two years following graduation. Visit our Alumni page to learn more.