

Commencement 2025 Orientation

May 14, 2025

Meg Krudysz, PhD, Director of Admissions

James Warren, Student Life Coordinator

Lynn Roberts, PhD, Assoc Dean Student Affairs & Alumni Relations



CUNY SPH

TODAY'S EVENT IS BEING PHOTOGRAPHED AND/OR
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Some audience members may be recognizable in the photographs and/or video. Your presence in the audience grants consent to CUNY to record your likeness and appearance at this event and to use your image in photographs and/or video without compensation to you, to support CUNY's educational programs and mission, and releases CUNY from all liability related to the recording of your presence at this event.

Meg Krudysz, Director of Admissions

Important notes to get you oriented

- Venue
- Tickets
- What to wear
- Students in the platform party
- Arrival
- Guests
- Accommodations
- Preparing to Process
- Processional
- What if I am late?
- Receiving your “diploma”
- Receiving and returning your regalia

Venue

- Due to construction at the Apollo, graduates will robe and line up at the Victoria Theater located inside the Renaissance Hotel (233 W 125th St, New York, NY 10027)
- The ceremony will still be held at the Apollo Theater



Tickets

- YOU need a ticket to enter the Victoria Theater.
- YOUR guests need tickets to enter the Apollo Theater.
- Tickets will be distributed with caps and gowns.
- We will honor requests for additional tickets for those who RSVP'd by April 1. All other requests are on a first come first serve basis, as available.
- **You are responsible for getting tickets to your guest(s) and ensuring that they arrive with them.**

What to wear?



- Your regalia! Which you must pick up on campus
 - You may arrive at the Victoria Theater already robed, or you may choose to put on your regalia once you are there (if you're going to be robing at the Victoria Theater, it will be wise to come exactly at **1:00pm**). There are restrooms/dressing rooms available for your use.
 - Do not forget your regalia! You won't be permitted to march in commencement without it, and we won't have "spare" regalia available on the day of commencement.
 - Wear comfortable shoes. Seriously. You'll be walking up and down quite a few stairs.
 - Masks are optional

Graduates in the Platform Party

If you are receiving any of the following awards, you will follow separate instructions that will be emailed to you by the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Alumni Relations, Dr. Lynn Roberts

- Valedictorian & Achievement Award
- Dean's Merit Award for Commitment
- Dean's Merit Award for Research
- Dean's Merit Award for Service

Graduate Arrival

- Arrive at **1:00 pm** at the Victoria Theater
 - It's SO important not to be late – there's lots to accomplish before you actually process with your fellow grads into the Apollo's Main Stage. You will be checking in and receiving your name card.
- Don't forget your government issued photo ID (or CUNY SPH ID).
- Enter through the Victoria Theater's front door at 233 West 125th Street, between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd (7th Ave) and Frederick Douglass Boulevard (8th Ave).
- You will be directed to the 3rd floor, which we have reserved for graduates to prepare and assemble.

What about your stuff?

- The Apollo can't guarantee the safety of personal belongings left in the Victoria Theater during the ceremony.
- Do NOT leave anything in the Victoria Theater. Take all belongings with you to your seat in the Orchestra section of the Apollo Theater.
- Balloons are not permitted in the theater. Please inform your guests.

Guest Arrival

- Due to the construction, the front lobby of the Apollo Theater will be closed
- Guests enter the Apollo Theater through **Door 41** located at 126th street between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd (7th Ave) and Frederick Douglass Boulevard (8th Ave)
- Doors open to guests at 1pm
- There will be CUNY SPH staff available to guide guests to the proper entrance

Please inform your guests the following:

- No guest will be allowed into the Apollo without a ticket.
- Guests can enter the Apollo (via 126th street) starting at 1:00pm.
- Children must be supervised by an adult.
- Seating in the Apollo will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The holding of seats for other guests will not be permitted.
- Special seating accommodations must be requested in advance: accessibility@sph.cuny.edu
- Balloons are not permitted in the theater.

Remember, no balloons!



A note about parking: don't count on it!

- Grads and guests are strongly advised to use public transportation.
- The School is not able to provide parking, and street parking is very limited.
- Parking apps such as [Spot Hero](#) and [NYC Best Parking](#) may be helpful if public transportation is not an option.



Commencement chronology

- Processional (faculty then graduates)
- Welcome and Remarks
- Keynote address
- Awards
- Valedictory address
- **Doctoral Graduates**
- **Masters Graduates**
- **Roll call of Graduates attending remotely**
- Alumni Network welcome
- Public Health pledge
- Closing remarks

Preparing for the processional

- Once you are upstairs at the Victoria Theater, check in with CUNY SPH Staff to collect **your name card**.
- Keep your **name card** with you at all times! You will need it so that your name is read as you walk across the stage
- Assemble next to your designated marshal who will have a sign with the name of your degree program.
- DPH/PhD students will line **up in a specific order** directly behind their marshal.
- MPH/MS students will line up **in any order** but **directly behind their program's marshal**.
- Master's students receiving awards will process and will be seated with the Platform Party.

Processional

- 2:00pm processional begins.
- Stay in line behind your program marshal.
- Once downstairs, follow your marshal who will direct you to your designated seat according to your program.
- Don't forget your **name card!**

*This information is necessary so that your name can be read quickly
and correctly as you cross the stage to be recognized.*

**KEEP THIS CARD WITH YOU AND BRING IT TO THE
PLATFORM WITH YOU**

DO NOT FOLD

First, Last Name

Pronunciation

Degree/Dept.

ORIGHT										
18	13	11	8	7	6	3	1			
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
21	18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1
18	17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1	
17	16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1		
16	13	11	8	7	6	3	1			
13	11	8	7	6	3	1				
11	8	7	6	3	1					
8	7	6	3	1						
7	6	3	1							
6	3	1								

FACULTY

X11 = 188

ORCHESTRA CENTER										
U										
T										
S										
R	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
Q	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
P	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
O	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
N	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
M	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
L	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
K	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
J	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
I	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
H	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
G	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
F	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
E	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
D	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
C	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
B	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
A	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109

HPAM

EOHGS

DPH/PhD

X8 = 246

STAGE

OLEFT										
U	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16		
T	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
S	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
R	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
Q	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
P	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
O	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
N	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
M	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
L	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
K	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
J	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
I	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
H	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
G	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
F	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
E	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
D	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
C	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
B	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20
A	2	4	8	8	16	12	14	16	18	20

EPI/BIOS

CHSS

X10 = 188

What if I am late?

- You will not be seated until after the Procession and the National Anthem have been completed. There will be a wait of approximately 15-20 minutes before being seated.
- Late students will not be a part of the processional.
- Late guests will be ushered into the theater at an appropriate time, so as not to interrupt the ongoing ceremony. Theater doors will close at 2:00pm and re-open after the anthem.



Receiving your “diploma” (DPH/PhD)

- You will be prompted to move from your seat and follow your program marshal
- You will walk up a short flight of stairs to the platform
- When your name is called, walk across the stage and pause facing the audience to allow time to be hooded.
- Greet your department and dissertation chairs and Dean El-Mohandes and pause for a professional photo.
- You may rub the “Tree of Hope”
- Walk off the stage and return to your seat.

Receiving your “diploma” (MPH/MS)

- You will be prompted to get up and follow your program marshal
- Don't forget your **name card**!
- You will walk up a short flight of stairs to the platform, hand your name card to a staff member
- When your name is called, walk across the stage and greet your department chair and Dean El-Mohandes and pause for a professional photo.
- You may rub the “Tree of Hope”
- Walk off the stage and return to your seat



James Warren, Student Life Coordinator

How to get your regalia

- Regalia can be picked up between May 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29 and June 2, 3 between 10am and 7pm on the 5th floor.
- The School has purchased regalia for all graduates.
- The gowns you are picking up will be collected back from you to be dry-cleaned and stored for use by future graduating classes. **Please be mindful of the condition of the gown.**
- You will receive an acknowledgement memo at the time of gown distribution, which will allow you to collect your regalia

Returning your regalia

- Regalia must be returned **no later than June 30, 2025**. You may begin returning regalia as early as **June 9, 2025** to Student Affairs on the 5th floor between 10 am and 5pm Monday-Thursday
- Make sure that the bag in which you return your regalia has your name and EMPL ID on it somewhere.
- Master's grads:
 - Please return your gown and hood. The cap and tassel are yours to keep. This is your gift from Dean El-Mohandes.
- Doctoral grads:
 - Please return your gown. The doctoral tam, hood, and tassel are yours to keep. This is your gift from Dean El-Mohandes.

Lynn Roberts, Assoc Dean of Student Affairs & Alumni Relations

Apollo House Rules

Please share this information with your guests:

- Do not bring any large personal items with you (e.g., backpacks or large purses). They might be subject to search.
- No balloons, signs, posters, or anything that will disrupt the line of sight is allowed in the venue. Balloons, strollers etc. will be stored by the ushers as they are not allowed in the theater.
- Students are permitted to decorate their mortar boards and attach decorative items to their robes that are appropriate for the occasion (e.g., affinity stoles) and not harmful to others (e.g., foul language or language that incites violence towards any individual or group).
- Walkers and wheelchairs are allowed. Please submit a request to Accessibility@sph.cuny.edu for any special accommodations.

Virtual Commencement and Livestream

The names of all graduates' joining remotely will be called during the ceremony after all the in-person graduates have walked across the stage.

The Commencement will be livestreamed via YouTube. Everyone will receive the link on the day of the event to share with their guests, and it will be posted in the SPH YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/cunysph>

Special Guidance for Commencement 2025

We want our Commencement to be a safe and celebratory event in recognition of this most significant milestone that has been achieved by each of our graduates as they stand before their fellow graduates and the family, friends, faculty, and staff who have supported them during their time preparing for this singular moment.

~ and ~

We will protect the democratic right of all members of the University community (students, faculty and staff) to express their opinions and oppositions under the First Amendment to the Constitution and through the freedom of expression. We will safeguard criticism and lawful dissent while protecting against disruption and unlawful activity that will interfere with the celebratory aspects of this milestone occasion for our graduates and their guests.

Henderson Rules

1. A member of the academic community shall not intentionally obstruct and/or forcibly prevent others from the exercise of their rights. Nor shall s/he interfere with the institution's educational processes or facilities, or the rights of those who wish to avail themselves of any of the institution's instructional, personal, administrative, recreational, and community services.
2. Individuals are liable for failure to comply with lawful directions issued by representatives of the university/college when they are acting in their official capacities. Members of the academic community are required to show their identification cards when requested to do so by an official of the college.
3. Unauthorized occupancy of university/college facilities or blocking access to or from such areas is prohibited. Permission from appropriate college authorities must be obtained for removal, relocation and use of university/college equipment and/or supplies.

Henderson Rules, contd.

4. Theft from or damage to university/college premises or property, or theft of or damage to property of any person on university/college premises is prohibited.
5. Each member of the academic community or an invited guest has the right to advocate his/her position without having to fear abuse, physical, verbal, or otherwise, from others supporting conflicting points of view. Members of the academic community and other persons on the college grounds shall not use language or take actions reasonably likely to provoke or encourage physical violence by demonstrators, those demonstrated against, or spectators.

Henderson Rules, contd.

6. Action may be taken against any and all persons who have no legitimate reason for their presence on any campus within the university/college, or whose presence on any such campus obstructs and/or forcibly prevents others from the exercise of their rights or interferes with the institution's educational processes or facilities, or the rights of those who wish to avail themselves of any of the institution's instructional, personal, administrative, recreational, and community services.

7. Disorderly or indecent conduct on university/college-owned or -controlled property is prohibited.

Any questions?

See you at the Apollo or On-Line!

It's going to be awesome.

- Please keep tabs on your **SPH email account** for important updates.
- Send any questions you have to commencement@sph.cuny.edu

