

December 8, 2025

Hello!

I want to provide final guidance and other general reminders regarding the School of Nursing Reception on Friday December 12 and the Hooding and Recognition Ceremony on Saturday December 13. Please review the information below carefully as it includes [important information regarding the reception and ceremony for you and your guests](#).

Reception Final Information:

Award Ceremonies

- **MSN Ceremony**
 - Time: 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM
 - Location: Room 1014
 - Contact: stacy.zhao@duke.edu
- **DNP Ceremony**
 - Time: 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM
 - Location: Room 1026
 - Contact: angela.goss@duke.edu

Reception

- Location: Atrium
- Start Time: 4:00 PM
- ABSN graduates and guests arrive at 4:00 PM
- Dress: Come as you are
- Photobooth: Room 1009
- Dining Rooms: 1011, 1014, 1026, 1103

Note:

The food provided at the reception will be **small bites and light refreshments, not a full dinner**. This allows you the opportunity to make dinner reservations with your family after the event. There will be gluten free, dairy free, nut free, vegetarian, and vegan options available.

Hooding and Recognition Ceremony Final Information for Graduates:

Academic Regalia: Academic regalia (cap, gown, hood, tassel) are required for the School of Nursing Hooding and Recognition Ceremony.

- Sigma Theta Tau Beta Epsilon chapter members: Please wear your cords and/or stoles for the degree photos and during the ceremony. If you have questions about STTI cords, please contact [Melanie Allen](#).
- Military-Affiliated Students: Please contact Duke's Office of Student Veterans at veterans@studentaffairs.duke.edu to request your graduation cord.

Degree Photos at Duke Chapel:

- A staff member will lead you from Westbrook Hallway to the degree photo area.
- Please be on time for your degree photo session.

- **ABSN: 9:00am** – have on full academic apparel (cap, gown, hood).
- **MSN/Certificates: 9:15am** – have on full academic apparel (cap, gown, hood).
- **DNP: 9:30am** – have on cap, gown and drape hood over arm with the felt facing outward (please ensure the string and button on the back of the hood are NOT tied).

Graduate Check-In: Between 8:45-9:45am, graduates may check-in at the Duke Divinity Westbrook Building main hallway or, if weather permits, outside the Westbrook Building. You will be provided with your name card that will be used when you proceed across the chancel to have your name announced during the ceremony. Please check to be sure that your name on the card is correct (any updates to the name card can be made at the check-in table).

Graduate line-up: No later than 9:50am. Graduates should line up for the processional according to the information on your name card in the Duke Divinity Westbrook building main hallway. Please be sure to stay in line once you have found your place. Each name card will have a number and either “right side” or “left side” typed on it and graduates need to line up in right/left side and numerical order. This is very important for the flow of the ceremony.

Ceremony flow (processional, approaching the stage, recessional): Graduates will enter Duke Chapel in a double line after the faculty processional, and will be guided to the designated seating area. Please go ahead and be seated. Graduates will be led by row to the chancel (stage) area for recognition or hooding. There will be staff ushers who will make sure that you approach the stage at the appropriate time.

- **DNP Graduates:** At the appropriate time, you will be directed to the chancel. Keep your hood draped over your arm with the felt facing outwards (do not wear your hood). **Please ensure the string and button on the back of the hood are NOT tied or buttoned.** When you approach the front, you will hand your name card to a staff member and then proceed to be hooded by your DNP Program Assistant Dean and Scholarly Project Advisor (both will hood you). As you are hooded, please face the front for your photo. You will then be directed to receive a diploma cover from Dean Relf. You will then be directed back to your seat. The diploma cover is for you to keep and use when your degree arrives.
- **MSN/Certificate Graduates:** At the appropriate time, you will be directed the chancel. You should wear your full regalia. When you approach the front, you will hand your name card to a staff member. You will receive a pin from the MSN Program Assistant Dean and your Director. Please face the front for your photo. You will then be directed to receive a diploma cover from Dean Relf. You will then be directed back to your seat. The diploma cover is for you to keep and use when your degree arrives.
- **BSN Graduates:** At the appropriate time, you will be directed to the chancel. You should wear your full regalia. When you approach the front, you will hand your name card to a staff member. You will be pinned by Dr. Stephanie Gedzyk-Nieman, ABSN Program Assistant Dean. Once you are pinned, please face the front and pose for your photo. You will then be directed to receive a diploma cover from Dean Relf. You will then be directed back to your seat. The diploma cover is for you to keep and use when your degree arrives.

After all graduates have been recognized, Dean Relf will give closing remarks. Please stand and join the DUSON Nightingales in singing the Duke University alma mater. Remain standing. At the end of the ceremony, you will follow the faculty out of the Chapel in double lines, according to your row.

Celebratory Items: Balloons, confetti, and glitter are strictly prohibited for graduates and guests. Please keep these celebratory items outside of the Chapel and Page Auditorium.

Individual Photos: We will have professional photographers staffing the Hooding and Recognition Ceremony. Instructions for downloading the free images will be emailed in late-December 2025.

Diplomas/Certificates: All official December 2025 graduates will have their diplomas and/or certificates mailed to the degree address on file in DukeHub. Diplomas should arrive at the degree address we have on file for you by February 1, 2026. The diploma cover you receive during the ceremony is yours to keep. You can place your diploma or certificate in it once it is received.

Hooding and Recognition Ceremony Final Information for Guests:

Ceremony Parking: There will be free parking available at the Bryan Center parking garage (125 Science Drive). Additional free parking is located in the Chemistry lot (enter from Circuit Drive).

ADA Parking: Graduates and Guests with state-issued ADA parking placards may park in the Bryan Center surface lot (first come availability). There are ADA spaces in the Bryan Center parking garage (first come availability).

Please note that no traffic or drop-offs will be allowed in front of the Chapel quad.

Map to parking, Duke Chapel, Page Auditorium:

https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1qkkyZqr_V3gUKufxRcUnrt4WQoPW2xc&usp=sharing

Tickets: Tickets are required for guests. Guests must present a ticket for the Chapel to be seated in the Chapel; likewise, guests must present a ticket for Page Auditorium to be seated in that location. Please make sure that your guests have tickets in hand, and that they know if they have Chapel or Page tickets. There will not be additional or replacement tickets at the ceremony. If guests arrive without their tickets, and if space is available, they will be permitted to be seated in Page Auditorium, regardless of their original ticket location.

Children and Tickets: Children of all ages are welcome as guests in the Chapel or in Page Auditorium. If the child will sit in a lap for the entire ceremony, they do not need a ticket. If the child may need their own seat, they do need a ticket for the venue.

Guests with Accommodations: It is important for us to know in advance if you or your guest(s) require special accommodations. Please email the Duke School of Nursing Registrar office at DUSONregistrar@dm.duke.edu.

There is a ramp entrance to the Chapel located on the right-hand side (next to the Westbrook building/Divinity School). There is an ADA entrance on the orchestra level of Page Auditorium (closer to the Bryan Center); there is not an elevator in Page Auditorium between the orchestra and balcony

levels. There will be ushers outside of the Chapel and Page Auditorium who can direct where these entrances are. Tickets must be presented at the ADA-accessible entrances for that specific location.

Doors Open for Guests: Approximately 9:15am. Guests will need to wait outside in the plaza before the doors open. We will do our best to finish all sound checks, etc., so that we can open the Chapel and Page Auditorium doors by 9:15am for guest seating.

Ceremony Timing: The processional will begin at approximately 9:55am and we anticipate the ceremony ending by 11:45am. We do our best to keep all remarks to a minimum, but please keep in mind that we do have a large number of graduates participating.

Celebratory Items: Balloons, confetti, and glitter are strictly prohibited for graduates and guests. Please keep these celebratory items outside Chapel and Page Auditorium.

Live Stream: The School of Nursing Hooding and Recognition will be streamed live, and the link will be posted on the School of Nursing website on Saturday, December 13: <http://nursing.duke.edu/>.

Please reply to this email with any questions.

We look forward to celebrating your accomplishments on Saturday!



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