Thanks everyone for joining us for this year's Senior Meetings. As you join the Zoom, we ask that you please keep your microphones muted and your cameras off for the duration of this presentation.

Hello, my name is Stephen Britt, and I am an Assistant Director of Undergraduate Advising here in CCAS. Thank you for taking time to join me for this presentation for prospective Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 graduates. CCAS Advising congratulates all of you for your hard work getting you to this point! But it's not time to let your foot off the gas just yet. We wanted to make sure you have some information as you continue with your last term before graduation. Be sure to note any important dates, deadlines, and resources as you watch this presentation. Let's go ahead and get started!

Overview

- Graduation Requirements
- Timeline / Important Dates
- Commencement vs. Celebration
- Reminders/Resources

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, DC

Here's an overview of what this presentation will cover. We'll start with a review of the graduation requirements all students are responsible for satisfying in order to earn their degree from GW. Then we'll cover a timeline and some important dates. We'll talk about the difference between Commencement and Celebration. Then we'll finish up with some reminders and resources for you in your final semester.

Overview of Graduation Requirements

- **120 Credit Hours / 2.0 GPA**
  - No credit for repeated courses, only one HLWL counts
  - LSPA courses do not apply to the credit total UNLESS taken for a letter grade in Fall 2020 or thereafter (max of 3)
- **Completion of General Education Requirements (GPACs)**
- **Completion of Major Requirements**
  - Minimum C- in all courses 2000 level and above
- **Completion of Double Major, Minor, or other secondary fields of study (if applicable)**
- **Residency**
  - 60 credits completed at GW
  - 30 upper-level (2000 or above) credits completed at GW
  - 12 upper-level credits for major; 6 for minor

Let's review your graduation requirements. All students must satisfy these requirements in order to earn a degree from GW.

First, all students must complete a minimum of 120 credits with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.0. As a reminder, you cannot earn duplicate credit for courses that you have repeated. Only 3 credits of HLWL classes can count toward your 120 credits. Additionally, a maximum of 3 LSPA courses taken Fall 2020 or after can count towards your 120. LSPA courses taken Pass/No Pass prior to the Fall 2020 semester cannot count.

Second, students must complete all General Education or GPAC requirements. This includes UW 1020 and 2 WID courses taken in separate semesters for a total of 6 credits AFTER successful completion of UW 1020.

Students must complete all requirements for their primary major. Remember that all upper level courses at the 2000-level and above must be passed with a C- or better.

If applicable, students must complete all requirements for secondary majors, minors or other fields of study, such as micro-minors.

Finally, students must satisfy the residency requirement. That is, 60 credits must be completed at GW. Additionally, 30 credits must be at the 2000-level or above at GW. Majors must have a minimum of 12 upper-level credits, and minors must have a

minimum of 6 upper-level credits.

Part-time in your Final Semester

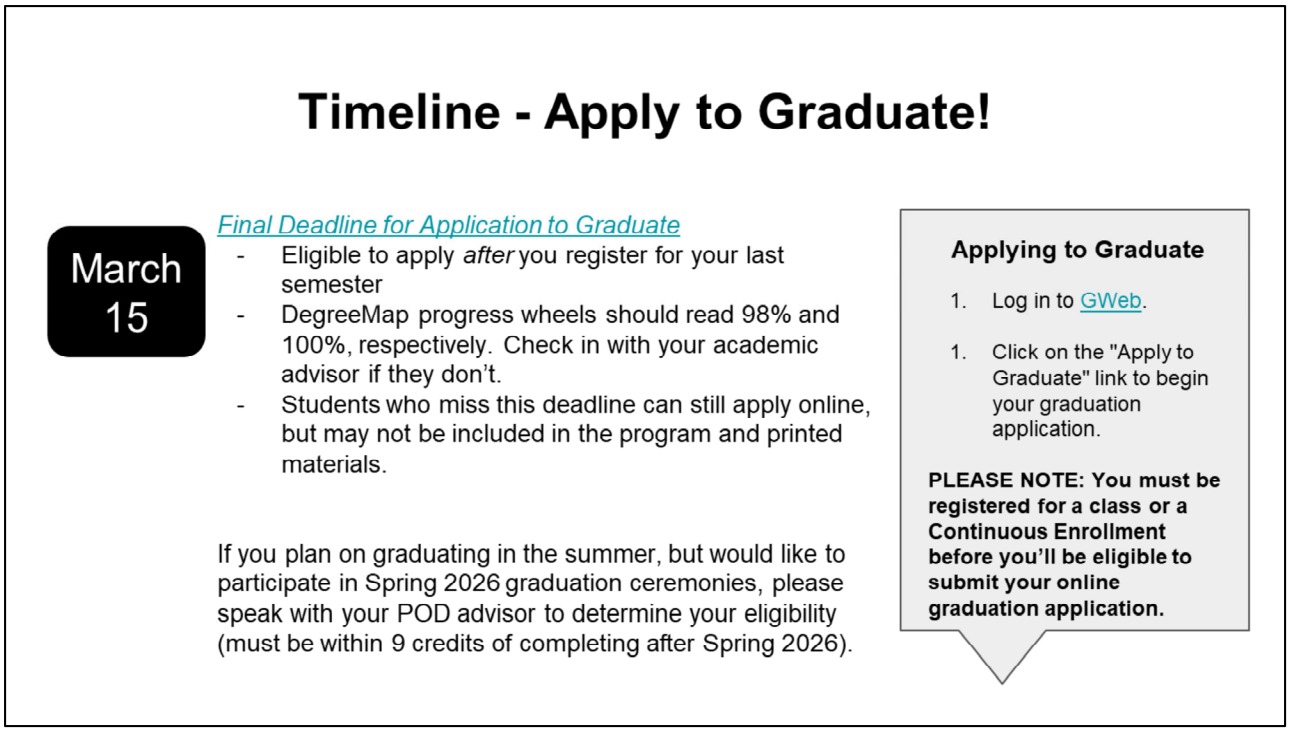
- **Institutional Financial Aid** can be prorated for seniors (minimum 6 credits). Check with Student Financial Assistance to verify impact on your scholarship / institutional aid
- **International students** - must take at least one course on campus and must submit application for reduced course load if taking less than 12 credits
- **Athletes** who plan to enroll part-time in their final semester must get certification signed by CCAS Advising

As a reminder, students generally need to be registered in 12 credits for full-time student status. However, there may be some exceptions if you are in your final semester and don't necessarily need all 12 credits to satisfy all the remaining requirements of your degree.

If you are on scholarships or financial aid of any kind, it may be possible to prorate your award as long as you are in at least 6 credits. Please check with the Office of Student Financial Assistance to verify the impact on your aid package.

If you are an international student, you must take at least one course in person on campus and must submit an application for a reduced course load if you plan to take less than 12 credits.

If you are a student-athlete, please check with your athletics advisors for the certification form that must be signed by CCAS Advising if you plan to go part-time in your final term.



The main deadline we want you to remember is March 15th. You can submit your graduation application (https://registrar.gwu.edu/online-graduation-application-instructions) once you are registered for your Spring 2026 classes. So go ahead and take care of this so you don't forget! You don't have to wait!

As you look at your DegreeMap after you register for your final semester's classes, make sure the progress wheels read 98% and 100%, respectively. That generally means you're in the right classes you need to complete your degree. If the progress wheels have anything other than 98% and 100%, please check in with your advising POD.

Again, March 15th is the deadline to have submitted your graduation application. If you happen to miss this date, you can still apply online, but we cannot guarantee that your name will be included in any printed materials for graduation. The only way to ensure your name is in the graduation program is to apply before the March 15th deadline.

To apply to graduate, just login to Gweb (https://it.gwu.edu/gweb) and click the "Apply to Graduate" link to begin your application.

Finally, if you are anticipating being a Summer 2026 graduate but would like to see if you're eligible to participate in Spring 2026 graduation ceremonies, please speak with your POD advisor as soon as possible.

Don’t forget!

April

29

LAST DAY OF SPRING CLASSES

Please be aware that April 29, 2026, is the last day of classes for the Spring 2026 semester. This will be the final deadline to withdraw from any courses for the Spring. Please be aware that should you not successfully and satisfactorily complete your final coursework, it’s possible you may not be cleared for graduation.

Commencement and Celebration

Celebration: This ceremony is specifically for CCAS graduates.

Commencement: This is the large, university-wide ceremony that takes place on the National Mall.

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND: May 14-17, 2026!

As we get closer to graduation weekend, you'll hear mention of Commencement and Celebration. We know it can be confusing. So let's take a moment to break it down.

Celebration is the ceremony specifically for CCAS graduates. Celebration will be in the Smith Center on the Saturday of Commencement Weekend. This is where you'll get to walk across the stage, hear your name announced, and shake all the hands.

Commencement is the university-wide ceremony that will be on Sunday on the National Mall.

Mark your calendars now for Commencement Weekend: May 14-17, 2026!

Awards and Honors

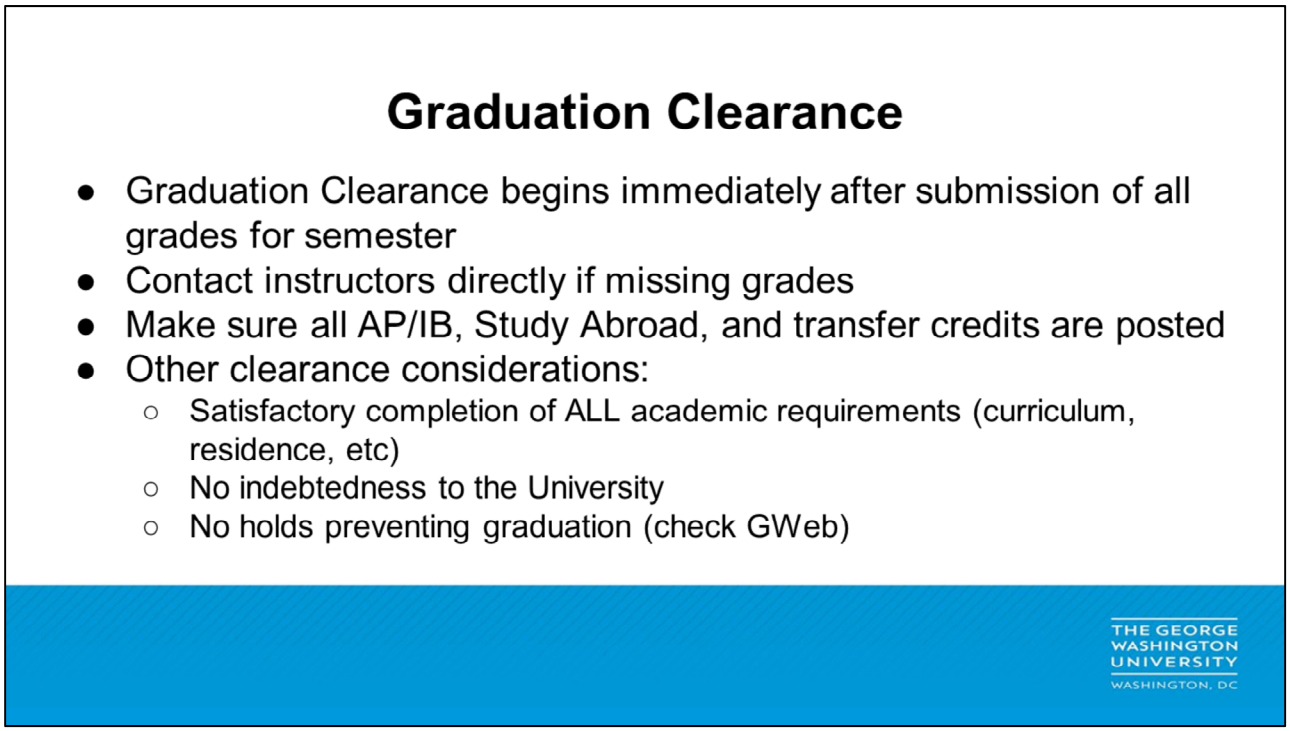
The Columbian College of Arts and Sciences understands the importance of recognizing students for their work and service to the University and the College. The following awards and honors are available to graduating seniors:

- **Distinguished Scholar and Undergraduate Studies Awards**
- **Latin Honors** - *You must have completed sixty graded credits at GW to be eligible for Latin Honors. Courses taken Pass/No Pass in Spring 2020, Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 will apply to this total.*
  - Cum Laude: overall GPA of 3.4-3.59.
  - Magna Cum Laude: overall GPA of a 3.6-3.79.
  - Summa Cum Laude: overall GPA of a 3.8 or higher.
- **Department Honors** (check with your department for more information)

Over your time at GW, you've worked hard. And we understand how important it is to recognize your work and service to CCAS and GW. The CCAS Distinguished Scholar and Undergraduate Studies Awards are both nomination-based. You can read more about eligibility criteria and nomination information for both awards on the CCAS website (https://columbian.gwu.edu/undergraduate-student-awards). The deadline for nominations is February 6th, 2026.

Latin Honors are based solely on student's GPA and a minimum 60 graded credits in residence at GW to be eligible.

Finally, some academic departments award Departmental Honors. You can check with your department for information on requirements.



As a general note, I want to reiterate that students' participation in Commencement and Celebration ceremonies does not necessarily mean they have officially graduated and been awarded their degree. Before a student's degree can be awarded, they must first be academically cleared for graduation. The graduation clearance process begins once all grades are posted and are due 4 weeks after the end of final exams. Please be sure that you resolve any Incomplete or missing grades. Also make sure that all pre- and post-matriculation transfer credits have posted. This includes Study Abroad credits. You will not be cleared for graduation until all grades and credits have posted. Students must also have satisfied all degree requirements in order to be cleared. Please keep in mind, though, that overdue balances or holds can delay delivery of your diploma and access to final transcripts, even if you are cleared for graduation. So please be sure to check your holds and resolve them as soon as possible.

Reminders

- **Check with your department on grade requirements for major/minor courses**. Most upper-level courses only fulfill requirements if you make a C- or higher
- **After you register for your final semester, your DegreeMap should reflect that 98% of your requirements are done (it will move to 100% after your grades are in**)
- Resolve any incomplete grades as soon as possible
- Check to make sure all your AP/IB, Study Abroad, and transfer credits are posted to your transcript

Please also remember that for major and minor requirements, upper-level courses at the 2000-level and above must be completed with a C- or better.

Once registered for your final courses, your DegreeMap progress wheels should read 98% and 100% if you are registered in courses that would satisfy your final requirements. Both wheels won't read 100% until your Spring grades are in. If the wheels read anything other than 98% and 100%, please check with your POD advisors.

Please be sure to resolve any Incomplete grades as soon as you can. Be sure to touch base with your instructors if you haven't done so.

Please also make sure that all AP/IB, Study Abroad, and Transfer credits are posted to your record.

Also...

- **LSPA courses do not apply to the credit total UNLESS taken Fall 2020 or thereafter (max of 3)**
- All coursework must be completed no later than the last day of final exams for the semester you intend to graduate. This means no Incompletes can be taken your final semester. Please speak with your POD advisors to discuss changing your graduation timeline if you do need to take an Incomplete.
- If you need to submit an Exception Request please do so prior to the last day of classes in the Spring 2026 semester.
- If you are pursuing grade changes, **please let us know by Friday, May 15,** so we don't clear you for graduation with an incorrect grade on your transcript.
- Changes to your academic record cannot be made once your degree is conferred.

Other things to remember include:

LSPA courses do not apply towards your total credits unless they were taken for a letter grade in Fall 2020 or after. The maximum is 3 credits of LSPA

Once again, all Study Abroad credit must be posted to your transcript. We cannot clear you for graduation without these credits. For those of you studying abroad in your final semester, be aware that it can take a long time for these credits to transfer back, and awarding of your degree may be delayed.

Any and all Exception Requests should be submitted prior to the last day of classes in the Spring 2026 semester.

If you will be pursuing any grade changes, please notify your POD advisors by May 15th so we don't clear you with an incorrect grade on your transcript. Once your degree is awarded, your transcript is locked and changes cannot be made to your record.

Academic Resources

- Course Overload - for students who need to take 19 or more credits
- Add a Credit - to add an additional credit hour to an upper level CCAS course
- Academic Forgiveness - students are eligible to repeat up to three courses taken during their time at GW in which they received a D+ or less for credit if no subsequent course for which the initial course was a prerequisite

Academic Resources we want to make sure you are aware of include:

- Course Overload if you need or want to take 19 or more credits.
- Add a Credit to add an additional credit hour to a 2000-level or above class within CCAS.
- And Academic Forgiveness where you can repeat a course in which you earned a D+ or below so long as you have not yet taken a subsequent course that requires the initial course as a prerequisite. This can be done up to 3 times.

Interested in regalia, announcements, etc.?

Bookmark the Commencement website for updates:

https://commencement.gwu.edu

Be sure to check the Commencement website at https://commencement.gwu.edu and come back to it often as more announcements and updates are made regarding regalia, announcements, and tickets.

Other Resources

- CCAS Advising Website - Information for Seniors Page has FAQs
- Applying for Awards - to apply for CCAS Awards, visit the CCAS Website.

You can also check out Frequently Asked Questions on the Seniors Page on the CCAS Advising Website (https://advising.columbian.gwu.edu/seniors). And once again, don't forget about the CCAS Distinguished Scholar and Undergraduate Studies Awards on the CCAS website (https://columbian.gwu.edu/undergraduate-student-awards).

Contact your POD with any Questions

A-G: pod1@gwu.edu
H-N: pod2@gwu.edu
O-Z: pod3@gwu.edu

Thank you so much for taking time to view this presentation. If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact your POD advisors. Thank you again, and we hope you have a great day!