



# School of Science Advanced Degree Ceremony

Wednesday, May 29, 2024 | 3 pm | Kresge Auditorium  
Instructions for graduates



---

## Before May 29

- Pick up your [regalia](#)
- Obtain your [guest tickets](#)
- Review arrival information for grads and guests
- Point out ceremony venues on the [campus map](#) and talk with your guests about getting to and around MIT (see [shuttle info](#)), [security](#), your plan for the day, and staying in touch with updates

## Regalia

Academic regalia is required for participating graduates. If you ordered regalia via the MIT Atlas app, you may now pick it up in **Lobby 13 (13-1143)** using your MIT ID (either physical or mobile). If a representative is picking up your pre-reserved regalia, please provide them with your MIT ID. For returns of rented Doctoral regalia, see the [Commencement website](#).

Regalia may be picked up in Lobby 13 during the following times:

- May 21–22: noon to 5 pm
- May 23–24: 9 am to 5 pm
- May 28: 9 am to 5 pm
- May 29: 8 am to 7 pm

## Guest tickets

Participating graduates may obtain School of Science Advanced Degree Ceremony tickets using the desktop or mobile version of the MIT Atlas app. Once in the MIT Atlas app, click on the Commencement tile then tap “Add tickets” for the School of Science Advanced Degree Ceremony and you will be presented with the option to claim up to four (4) guest tickets. Before obtaining your electronic tickets, *make sure you have the latest version of the MIT Atlas app installed on your desktop or mobile device*. The [MIT App Store](#) has links to download or update the app from the Apple, Google, and Windows app stores.

Other things to note:

- Remember to forward electronic tickets to your guests. If your guest loses the email, you may always return to the MIT Atlas app to forward the same tickets again.
- Tickets will be scanned on arrival. Attendees may present the electronic ticket or a printed PDF.
- Tickets are transferable: if you have an extra ticket, you may share it with a friend.
- Tickets are required for attendees three (3) years of age and older. Babies and children ages two (2) years and younger do not need tickets.
- If you are on the degree list and participating, you will get your tickets. Do not worry about tickets “selling out.”
- General queries about tickets may be directed to [commencement@mit.edu](mailto:commencement@mit.edu). Questions about the MIT Atlas app should be directed to [atlas-app@mit.edu](mailto:atlas-app@mit.edu).

→ Tickets for MIT Commencement ceremonies may not be bought or sold under any circumstances.

## Photos

[GradImages](#) will photograph each graduate while they cross the stage and again as they return to their seat. PhDs will also be photographed receiving their Doctoral hood, in addition to the other two images. Visit the [GradImages website](#) to view and purchase custom photo products like prints, plaques, specialty gifts, and more. You may [pre-register for your graduation pictures](#) and receive 20% off on orders of \$50 or more until the day before your individual ceremony. If you have any questions regarding photos, please contact GradImages Customer Service at (800) 261-2576, [online](#), or email [ecc.giservice@gradimages.net](mailto:ecc.giservice@gradimages.net).

## Digital diplomas

All graduating students are eligible to receive a [digital version of their diploma](#) at no cost. Watch for an email from the Registrar's Office inviting you to download the Blockcerts Wallet app on your mobile device and add MIT as an issuer. You must complete these steps before Thursday, May 30 to ensure that you receive your digital diploma for Commencement.

Note: *digital diplomas are not a replacement for MIT's traditional paper diploma*. Everyone will also receive a physical diploma.

## Arrival for Ceremony on Wednesday, May 29

### Guest arrival

Doors to [Kresge Auditorium](#) open for guests at 2 pm.

### Graduate arrival

Students should proceed to the ice rink in the [Johnson Athletics Center](#) to check in at your station by 2 pm.

### What to bring

At the ceremony, you need **only your MIT ID and regalia**. You may carry your phone in your pocket. SMALL cross-body personal bags worn under regalia are also ok.

### What NOT to bring

The following items are not permitted: glass containers of any type, backpacks, poles and sticks (including selfie sticks), noisemakers, balloons, and drones of any size. Remember to share and review [all security information](#) with your guests.

### Check in **BY 2 pm for the assembly**

- Check with the station aide to verify that your name appears on the graduates list.
- The station aide will give you a NameCoach card. You will need this card when you get to the stage. Please do not lose it.
- The station aides will assign you to a station and verify you are in the correct order.
- Graduates not in place by the final attendance check will not be allowed to participate in the procession.

### Procession

- Do not leave your station until you are instructed by a station aide or marshal.
- Follow the person in front of you and stay in a straight line.
- While en route, please stay to the center of the aisles and **do not** shake hands or greet spectators. The integrity of this line is critical to ensuring the ceremony proceeds smoothly.

### Degree conferral

- When you arrive at the foot of the stage, a staff person will scan your NameCoach card to confirm it is correct. If it is not correct, they will assist you.

- You will then walk to a lectern on stage. A staff person will scan your NameCoach card, and your name will be read over the sound system.
- **For Masters candidates:** You will then proceed across the stage and accept your diploma case from the Dean.
- **For Doctoral candidates:** You will walk onto the stage, where a department representative will place your Doctoral hood on you. Please face the audience as they do this. You will then proceed across the stage and accept your diploma case from the Dean.
- **Note: diploma case distribution *does not include a handshake; please accept your diploma case with both hands.***
- If you expect to have difficulty with the procession or accepting your diploma case, please advise Dean Elizabeth Young ([ecy@mit.edu](mailto:ecy@mit.edu) or 617-253-6786).
- Please stay in your seat throughout the ceremony except for diploma case distribution or to use the restroom facilities for graduates.

### Special notes

- Only graduates and designated faculty and staff will be allowed into the robing and assembly area. **Parents and significant others may not enter the assembly area.**
- **Turn cell phones off until you are seated! Do not talk on phones while marching into the ceremony; keep in silent mode.**
- Please direct your attention to the stage—and not to your phone—during the ceremony.
- As advanced degree recipients, please wear your tassel on the left side of your hat or mortarboard.
- Out of respect for all graduates and their guests, please return to your assigned seating area after you have received your diploma case and remain seated until the end of the ceremony.
- Do not bring your children or other family members to the stage. They will be stopped and not allowed to cross with you. There is no exception to **no children on stage**.
- When the ceremony ends, the faculty on stage will recess out of the ceremony space. Graduates may join their guests in the audience after this.
- Take time to discuss plans and expectations for the day with your families ahead of time. You may want to review the [campus map](#) with them, pointing out event location(s). Review arrival information for guests to ensure that they know what [security measures and restrictions](#) to expect.

### After the ceremony

The School of Science would like to invite you and your guests to a reception in [Kresge Oval](#) following the ceremony. The event will be catered and have beer and wine available to those with governmental ID for purchase via cash or credit card.

### Diploma pick-up

Advanced degree recipients may pick up their diplomas in the [Stata Center](#), room 32-124, during the following times:

- Thursday, May 30: 10 am to 6 pm
- Friday, May 31: 10 am to 3 pm

## Security

Attendees are advised to pack lightly for the day because all items taken into all ceremony venues are subject to search—the less they are carrying, the more quickly the party will be able to proceed through security.

The following items are **PERMITTED** in the ceremony venue:

- Cameras
- Phones
- Diaper bags and related items (formula, juice boxes, wipes, creams, diapers, toys, etc)
- Purses or similar, personal small bags, including tote bags and briefcases. Personal bags of this nature should be no larger than 16x16x6 inches (or approximately 40x40x15 centimeters)
- Reading material, whether printed or electronic (Nook, Kindle, iPad, etc)
- Laptops and tablets
- Keys
- Personal medical supplies
- Closed umbrellas

The following items are **PROHIBITED** in the ceremony venue:

- Bags with wheels
- Bags whose size exceeds 16x16x6 inches (or approximately 40x40x15 centimeters)
- Wrapped gifts
- Glass bottles and containers
- Firearms, knives (including pocketknives), and other weapons
- Scissors and other sharp objects
- Mace, pepper spray, or similar substances
- Drones
- Large objects
- Noisemakers
- Poles or sticks (including selfie sticks)

Please note that prohibited items will be confiscated and not returned.

*Obstructing others' views is not permitted. While a guest may choose to carry balloons, a "congrats!" sign, or similar, these items may NOT be out/open/blocking others during the ceremony. Staff will be quick to preserve sight lines for grads, family, and friends.*

Guests are asked to consider the appearance of some objects, such as key ring tools/accessories, and leave anything that could be perceived as dangerous at home or in the hotel room. Service animals are welcome at Commencement ceremonies, but no other pets of any size will be permitted inside ceremony venues. Further, we discourage balloons or anything else that would block others' view of the ceremony.

Guests are advised to carry government-issued ID (such as driver's licenses, state ID cards, or passports).